

CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD

Introduction

- 1) **Romans 10:1-13** – the need of the Jewish people for the salvation of the gospel
- 2) Verse 13 – “*Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved*”
 - a) “Call” [*epikaleo*] – to appeal, invoke, request, demand
- 3) What does it mean to “call upon the name of the Lord”? How is this involved in our salvation?

I) **When Men of Old Called on the Name of the Lord**

- A) **Genesis 4:26** – men “began to call on the name of the Lord” – giving greater attention to spiritual matters and seeking God (prayer, knowing God’s will)
- B) **Genesis 12:8; 13:4; 21:33; 26:25** – practice of Abraham and others when faithfully worshipping, praising, and petitioning God
- C) **1 Kings 18:24** – petitioning God for help in the struggle against false religions of man

II) **Prophesies of the Messianic Age**

- A) **Joel 2:28-32** – In the latter days, salvation shall come to *whoever* calls on the name of the Lord – salvation will be available to *all* men
- B) **Zephaniah 3:9** – Pure language restored to call on the name of the Lord = *serve* Lord
- C) **Zechariah 13:9** – God’s people will call on His name and He will answer them
 - 1) Appeal to God for help, comfort, authority, salvation, security

III) **Salvation in Christ and “Calling on the Name of the Lord”**

- A) **Acts 2:16-21, 36-41** – calling on the name of the Lord = receiving the gospel in obedience
- B) **Acts 22:16** – Saul of Tarsus would be “calling on the name of the Lord” when he would “arise and be baptized” – humble obedience to God’s will is a call for His salvation
 - 1) **1 Peter 3:21** – baptism is the “*answer* of a good conscience toward God” (KJV, NKJV)
 - a) Answer [*eperotema*] = earnest seeking, desire, appeal (“an appeal to God...” ESV, NASV)
 - b) One seeks/requests the cleansing of a guilty conscience in baptism (cf. Heb. 10:22 – hearts sprinkled from evil conscience and bodies washed with pure water = baptism)
 - c) “It is with regard to God that one is baptized and *this act is an appeal to him* for a good conscience.” (Clinton Hamilton, *1 Peter*, p. 197, emp. mine)
- C) **Romans 10:13-17** – men will call upon the Lord when they have heard the word of the Lord and believe, and “whoever calls” will seek to obey and be saved (6:17)
 - 1) One cannot call on the name of the Lord unless he is willing to hear, believe, and obey
- D) **Acts 9:14** – the saved are those who continue to “call” on the name of the Lord
 - 1) Continue to manifest faithful submission and obedience to God’s will (2 Tim. 2:22)

IV) **“Calling on the Name of the Lord” Is NOT...**

- A) Just saying “Lord, Lord” and expecting full salvation and blessings (Matt. 7:21; Lk. 6:46)
- B) “Praying through” to salvation – never commanded in scripture (Acts 9:11; 22:16)
- C) An emotional outburst with a better-felt-than-told spiritual “experience” (Acts 8:35-39)

Conclusion

We “**call on the name of the Lord**” when we, as believers in God, appeal to the mercy and grace of God in our obedience to His authoritative word for salvation from sin and to remain pleasing to Him. By faith we appeal to our Lord’s name (love, authority, salvation) as we obey His will. Let us all call on the name of the Lord!! “The same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him (Rom. 10:12).

The Two “Calls”

Acts 2:39 God Calls...

- Through the preaching of the gospel of Christ
- His love, mercy, grace, longsuffering, forgiveness
- Man must obey the gospel of Christ

Acts 2:21 Man Calls...

- Through the obedience to the gospel of Christ
- Faith, repentance, baptism, godly living
- Acts 22:16 – arise, and be baptized, calling on name of Lord