

Call On The Name Of The Lord

by

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November 5, 2011

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Acts 2:21, “*And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.*”

Much has been said concerning this scripture and many opinions have been given. Many and numerous are the doctrines advanced, purporting to be the truth. Most concise down to one thought however: that this merely means to *call out aloud* the name of Jesus. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

To *call* in this context means to *invoke* the name of the Lord. To *invoke* means “to call on God for blessing, help, inspiration, support, etc.” Obviously, more is involved here than to merely cry aloud the name of Jesus.

The same principle is involved when we “call in the name of the law (civil).” If we *invoke* the law, we do so by *complying* with the law. None in his right mind would *invoke* the name of the law without *complying* with the terms of the law.

When Men First Began To “Call On The Name Of The Lord”

At the birth of Enos, son of Seth, grandson of Adam, we are told, “...*then began men to call upon the name of the Lord.*” (Gen. 4:26).

The Hebrew word used here is *qara* and is defined, “cry unto, preach, proclaim(ation), pronounce, publish”. The meaning is apparent: men began to invoke the Lord, and to proclaim his name abroad.

Other uses of this expression are contained in Psa. 105:1, “...*call upon his name: make known his deeds...*”. Isa. 12:4, “*Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings...*”. Also, see Joel 2:32; Zeph. 3:9.

This brings us back to our text and leads us to that which logically follows: what is the result of *calling on the name of the Lord*?

In Rom. 10:13, we are told, Jew or Gentile, “*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*”

In 1 Cor. 1:2, we read, “...*to the church of God, ...to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, (make holy, purify, consecrate), called to be saints (Christians, holy), with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord...*”.

Since *calling on the name of the Lord* results in salvation and entry into Christ's body results in salvation and entry into Christ's body, it follows that whatsoever the scriptures reveal to be necessary to salvation constitutes *calling on the name of the Lord*.

Things By Which We Are Saved — God's Part

- John 3:17, "...God sent (Christ) into the world...that the world through him might be saved."
- Titus 3:5, "...according to his mercy he (God) saved us..."
- Acts 15:11, "...through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved..."
- Acts 4:12, "...there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."
- Rom. 5:10, "...being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life."

God has made provisions for mankind to achieve salvation. This is his part of his plan. Mankind didn't deserve it; neither had mankind earned it by any works they had done. Paul expressed God's part in the plan of salvation very well in Eph. 2:8-9, "*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*"

Things By Which We Are Saved — Man's Part

Jesus, the focus of God's grace, from the beginning, taught that man has to comply with the terms of God's grace, the gospel. John 14:15, "*If ye love me, keep my commandments.*" No one could say it better. It is by our obedience to the commandments of Christ and his apostles that we demonstrate our love for him.

This, then, is man's part in God's plan of salvation:

Faith.

- Rom. 10:9, “*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”*
- Heb. 11:6, “*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*”

Repentance.

- Matt. 9:13, “*...I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”*
- 2 Pet. 3:9, “*...(God is) not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”*

Confession.

- Luke 12:8, “*Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God.”*
- Rom. 10:10, “*...with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*”

Baptism.

- 1 Pet. 3:21, “*The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”*
- Mark 16:16, “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved;...”*

Summary

All these are, as the gospel writers have indicated, things by which we are saved. I do not suggest that this is the whole duty of man: indeed it is really only the beginning, the “first principles”, (Heb. 6:1).

Salvation is a condition of completeness, as we read in Rev. 2:26, “*And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations.*”.

Not one act of obedience by itself will achieve salvation but only in conjunction with all other acts of obedience.

WE CONCLUDE, THEREFORE, THAT “*CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD*” CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY FOLLOWING AND OBEYING ALL OF COMMANDS OF OUR LORD AND HIS APOSTLES.

In love of the truth,
Your brother in Christ,
JD Logan

