



The Voice Of Truth

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How Do You Call On the Name of the Lord?

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And it shall be, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved (Acts 2:21). For, whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved

(Romans 10:13).

Some preachers, like Billy Graham, affirm that calling on the name of the Lord only involves *accepting Christ as your personal Savior*. God's power to save is contained in the gospel (**Romans 1:16; James 1:21**). The Scripture says we are called by the gospel (**2 Thessalonians 2:14**). There can be no calling without faith. *How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him whom they have not heard? (Romans 10:14)*. This was a very significant fact so far as concerned the Jews who were rejecting the Christ. They could not call upon Him until they came to believe upon Him. There could be no faith without hearing the word of God (**Romans 10:17**). There could be no calling without faith. There could be no faith without hearing. Faith does not come miraculously and directly from God, as so many so falsely claim. Rather, faith comes by hearing the word of God.

What does calling involve? It is clear that calling follows faith (**Romans 10:14**). It is also clear that

calling precedes salvation. *Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (Romans 10:13)*. Calling therefore stands between faith and salvation. The order is: faith, calling salvation. All will agree.

When we study the New Testament concerning God's plan of salvation, we learn that one must (1) believe (**Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6**); (2) repent (**Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; 17:30**); (3) confess his faith in Christ (**Matthew 10:32; Romans 10:10**); and (4) be baptized for the remission of sins (**Acts 2:38; 22:16**). According to the Bible, standing after faith and preceding salvation: repentance, confession, and baptism. If *calling* follows after faith and precedes salvation, then it is clear that *calling on the Lord* and repentance, confession, and baptism **ARE THE SAME!**

Is repentance essential to salvation? Jesus said, *I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all in like manner perish (Luke 13:3)*. *The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked; but now he commandeth men that they should all everywhere repent (Acts 17:30)*. Does **Acts 2:21** and **Romans 10:13** mean that repentance is unnecessary just because it is unmentioned in the text? Then why assume baptism

is to be non-essential simply because it is unmentioned with in this particular text? If God says, *faith saves* (**Romans 5:1**), let's accept that; if God says *baptism saves* (**1 Peter 3:21**), let's accept that, too!

Acts 2:21 and **Romans 10:13** are not saying that salvation can be acquired by mere verbal confession alone (*I accept Jesus into my heart as my personal Savior*). Nowhere is the statement *Accept Jesus as your personal Savior* found in Scripture. The opposite is true. Jesus destroyed such understanding of salvation by mental acceptance/verbal profession alone in **Matthew 7:21** and **Luke 6:46**. Read carefully, *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? If faith is not coupled with the appropriate obedient action (like baptism), then such faith is unable to justify; read carefully James 2:17, 20, 26.*

The phrase *call on the name of the Lord* is another way of saying, *Do what He tells you to do*. **Isaiah 55:6** tells the Jews of Isaiah's day to call on God. *Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near. Verse 7* explains how: *Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon (Isaiah 55:7).* (1) Forsake wicked ways; (2) Forsake wicked thoughts, and (3) Return to the Lord. To obey these three stipulations constituted *calling on God*. Likewise, those in Jerusalem who *called on the Lord's name* (**Acts 2:21**) had done so, not by verbal confession, but by repentance and baptism so that sins could be forgiven (**Acts 2:38**).

This is how one calls on the name of the Lord; no other way but this!

Now

Norman Midgette

No, we are not talking about the National Organization of Women, but about 2 Corinthians 6:1, 2. Paul wrote, "And working together with him we entreat also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain (for he saith, At an acceptable time I harkened unto thee, and in a day of salvation did I succor thee: behold, now is the acceptable time; behold now is the day of salvation)... "

This quote is from Isaiah 49:8 and the context shows this to be the message. A time, acceptable to God, would come when the Gentiles would be brought into the fold and there would be, ". . . salvation unto the end of the earth" (Isa. 49:6). At that acceptable time and day of salvation God promised to do five things. That time, Paul says, is now. So what are these five promises of God in Isaiah 49?

God would give help to his people (49:8). And do we need it! There is not a thing we can do about our guilt and sin but live with them unless God will help us. That is what he promises here and now. If we are in Christ, we have this help.

God will preserve his people (49:8). No one will be able to snatch us out of his hand if we want to stay there (John 10:28). Security is so important to peace of mind and contentment. We need it and with God we have it.

God will feed us and remove our hunger and thirst (49:9, 10). We are filled when we have Christ for he is the fulness of God and we are complete in him (Col. 2:8-10). According to verse 12, we enter Christ by baptism.

God will lead us and guide us (49:10, 11). Sounds like the good shepherd to me. Psalm 23 comes to mind and the little wayward lamb in the arms of the Savior paints a graphic picture (Matt. 18.12). The Bible contains it all (2 Tim. 3:16, 17; 2 Pet. 1:3; Jude 3). God promises to lead us and show us the way and has done that through the Bible.

Finally he will comfort and have compassion on us (49:13). After a hard day, the comfort of home and family is so important and helpful. After a hard life battling evil and sin, the rest and comfort of a home and family in heaven will be wonderful (Heb. 4:1-11). But, that comfort and compassion begins now. That is what God is saying in 2 Corinthians 6:2. Now is the day of salvation when this can begin for you.

But, you know what the problem is? People want to wait. They want a better day or time. They think up every excuse under the sun to keep from coming to God, now. Why? Just give credit where credit is due: it is the Devil.

God says now is the day, now is the time, now is the moment. Seize it! Make it your time. If you have been saying, "later," stop it! Repent and be baptized for the re-mission of your sins today (Acts 2:38). There was a time when you could not. What a privilege to live at a time now when you can.

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