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God's people in the Old Testament were warned against having such an attitude. **Amos 6:1** pronounced woe upon those who were "at ease in Zion." **Jeremiah 48:10** says, "A curse on him who is lax in doing the Lord's work!" (NIV).

Diligence is required of Christians—God's people today. They are to give diligence to grow in Christ (**2 Pet. 1:5**); to abound in diligence (**2 Cor. 8:7**); and to be diligent, never becoming sluggish (**Heb. 6:9-12**).

Diligence is a product of commitment. The Corinthians' commitment to the Lord was demonstrated by doing what needed to be done in reference to the sinner they had in their midst (**1 Cor. 5:9-13**). **2 Corinthians 7:11** says, "For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter."

"Fervent in Spirit"

The word translated "fervent in spirit" means to boil with heat, be hot. It is used of boiling anger, love and zeal for what is good or bad. As used in our text, it means to have a burning zeal to do the will of God.

An example of this attitude is Jesus Christ. **John 2:17**,

in speaking of Him, says, "Then His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up'." Apollos is also an example of zeal. **Acts 18:24-25** states, "Now a certain Jew named Apollos...came to Ephesus...and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord..." Both Jesus and Apollos were successful in accomplishing their God-given tasks.

Fervor and enthusiasm are the keys to success in the Lord's work. The church at Laodicea was chastised because of their lukewarmness (**Rev. 3:14-16**). Barclay says, "The one man whom the Risen Christ could not stand was the man who was neither hot nor cold" (Ibid.). He added, "The Christian may burn out, but he cannot rust out."

Sadly, though, this spirit is lacking in some who claim to be God's people. There are those who put off, sidestep, maneuver out of, or procrastinate with respect to that which needs to be done in the kingdom of the Lord. It seems impossible to move some "Christians" into action. The fire and enthusiasm of the first century church is missing from their lives. They may have restored the truth, but they seem to have forgotten the spirit.

Conclusion

Ephesians 6:6 counsels us to be, "doing the will of God from the heart." May none of us drag our feet but instead give ourselves enthusiastically to doing the work of the Lord. Such a life of service will grant us the best life here and in the hereafter. *Credit: www.padfield.com* ♦

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

- Hear and Learn - Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3
- Believe - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24
- Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30
- Confess the Lord - Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21
- Be Baptized - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27
- Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17

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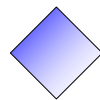


Schedule of Assembly

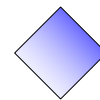
Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*

*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month

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The Voice of Truth



March 11, 2012

How Do You Call On the Name of the Lord?

By Jimmy Pettigrew

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

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This is how one calls on the name of the Lord; no other confession, but by repentance and baptism so that sins way but this! • could be forgiven (Acts 2:38).

"That Which Saves Men"

By Jarrod Jacobs

There is much religious confusion today. One way in which men have been fooled is in the teaching which says that one thing (specifically, faith) alone saves a man. Many wish to tell men that once they have faith, then they are saved from their sins. Is this what the Bible teaches? Consider the verses below. The Bible teaches that:

- 1) People saw salvation when John preached (Lk. 1:77, 3:6).
- 2) Salvation came through Christ (Matt. 1:21; Lk. 2:30, 19:9-10; Jn. 3:17, 10:9, 12:47; Acts 4:12; I Tim. 1:15; Heb. 7:25; Jas. 4:12; Rom. 4:25).
- 3) Paul and Barnabas showed people "the way of salvation" (Acts 16:17).
- 4) The Gospel is God's power to salvation (Rom. 1:16; Eph. 1:13; Jas. 1:21; I Cor. 15:1-2; Gal. 2:16).
- 5) Man must believe and confess Christ in order to be saved (Rom. 10:9-10).
- 6) "Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation" (II Cor. 7:10). Repentance of sins saves man (Acts 2:38).
- 7) God's grace saves us (Tit. 2:11, 3:7; Acts 15:11; Eph. 2:5, 8; II Tim. 1:9; Rom. 3:24).
- 8) Obedience to Christ saves us (Heb. 5:8-9; Rom. 2:13; Matt. 7:21; Jas. 2:24).
- 9) Faith saves us (Mk. 16:16; I Pet. 1:9-10; I Cor. 1:21; Heb. 10:39; Lk. 8:12; Acts 10:43, 13:39, 16:11; Eph. 2:8; Rom. 3:25, 28, 30, 5:1; Gal. 3:8).
- 10) Salvation is seen in God's longsuffering (II Pet. 3:15; Rom. 3:25).
- 11) People were commanded to "save themselves." Therefore, they were expected to do something (Acts 2:40; I Tim. 4:16).
- 12) The preaching of the Gospel saves (I Cor. 1:21).
- 13) Baptism saves us (I Pet. 3:21; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38, 22:16; Tit. 3:5; I Cor. 6:11; Jn. 3:3-5; Eph. 5:26).
- 14) The one who endures to the end will be saved (Matt. 24:13; Mk. 13:13).
- 15) The word of God/Christ saves (Jn. 5:34; II Tim. 3:15; Acts 11:14).
- 16) "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Acts 2:21; Rom. 10:13).
- 17) The blood of Christ saves us (Rom. 3:25, 5:9; Matt. 26:28; Heb. 9:22; Rev. 1:5).

- 18) We are saved by the life of Christ (Rom. 5:10).
- 19) We are saved by hope (Rom. 8:24).
- 20) We must love the truth to be saved (II Thess. 2:10).
- 21) God's mercy saves us (Tit. 3:5).
- 22) God saves us (Rom. 3:25, 30, 8:33; Gal. 3:8).
- 23) Our own words can save or condemn us (Matt. 12:36-37).
- 24) Those whom God saves have been called by the gospel (Rom. 8:30; II Thess. 2:14).
- 25) Finally, the Bible says that God wants all men to be saved (I Tim. 2:4).

After reading these 25 things that the Bible says saves us, how could anyone dare say that one thing "alone" saves us? Where is the passage that says anything "alone" does anything? Some may balk and say that we are "mixing categories." That is to say, there are things that God does to bring about salvation, and then things man must do. No one denies this. I believe and teach that there are things God does in order to bring about man's salvation. For man to try to "do it on his own," would result in nothing but dying in his sins. Dear reader, just go back through the things we have listed, take a sheet of paper, draw a line dividing the sheet in two, and on one side of the line write at the top of the page, "What God does." Then, on the other side of the line write, "What man does." Go back through your Bible and write down what God has done to bring about salvation for man and then what man must do in response. I can assure you that you will not have a "lop-sided" list; nor will there be many things which God does, and only one thing that man does for salvation!

In fact, if we can look into the Bible and find anything besides faith that man must do in order to be saved (ex. repent, confess Christ, etc.), then man isn't saved by faith "alone" is he? Friend, we are not denying the importance of faith in Christ in any way. It is absolutely necessary, for without it, we will die in our sins (Jn. 8:24; Heb. 11:6). However, we must not get caught up in the false teaching that says that faith "alone" will save us, and we have nothing to do after that!

The salvation of man's eternal soul is the most

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important thing in this world (Matt. 16:26). Jesus came to die for us and save us (I Tim. 1:15). God has given us His word (II Tim. 3:16-17). Now, it is up to us to read, study, and obey this precious word (Eph. 3:4; II Tim. 2:15; Jas.

1:22-25; Matt. 7:21-23). When we do all he said to do, we are unprofitable servants (Lk. 17:10). Yet, for all of this, God loves us and has provided a plan we can follow and upon doing such, can be saved. Are you saved from your sins? Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com •

WHAT IF IT'S NOT IN THE SCRIPTURES?

By David J. Riggs

On several occasions, after I had stated that a certain religious belief or practice was not in the Scriptures, I received the reply, "Does that make it wrong?" Let me affirm plainly and emphatically in words which cannot be misunderstood that **it most certainly does make it wrong!** When one believes or practices something in religion which is not in the Scriptures, all of the following divine principles immediately apply:

1. It is not a good work - 2 Tim. 3:16-17
2. It does not pertain to life and godliness - 2 Pet. 1:3
3. It causes one to not have God - 2 John 9
4. It is not authorized by Christ - Col. 3:17
5. It cannot be done by faith - 2 Cor. 5:7; Rom. 10:17; 14:23
6. It is going beyond what is written - 1 Cor. 4:6
7. It is not as the oracles of God - 1 Pet. 4:11
8. It is not according to the pattern - Heb. 8:5
9. It does not pertain to the seed of the kingdom - Luke 8:11; Matt. 13:18-19
10. It is not of righteousness - Rom. 1:16-17; 10:1-4
11. It is of "no such commandment" - Acts 15:24
12. It is iniquity - Matt. 7:22-23
13. It is of men - Matt. 21:25; 15:9
14. It is not of truth - John 4:24
15. It is another gospel - Gal. 1:6-9
16. It is adding to the Word of God - Rev. 22:18-19; Deut. 4:2; Prov. 30:5-6

In effort to justify their practice, people often argue,

"Fervent in Spirit"

By Gene Taylor

As Christians we have work to do. We were created in Christ for good works (Eph. 2:10) and to be zealous for them (Tit. 2:14). Albert Barnes said, "An idle man and a Christian are names which do not harmonize."

The above text points out two basic attitudes the Christian can have in relation to the work of the Lord. One can be either "lagging in diligence" or "fervent in spirit." Of course, if one is going to please the Lord the latter is preferred.

"The Bible doesn't say not to." The Bible doesn't need to condemn a practice to make it sinful and wrong. It is wrong when it is not in the Scriptures for it violates the above principles. Similarly, many use the time worn reply, "Isn't our practice a good work; look at the good we're doing." If it's not in the Scriptures, if cannot be a good work because, again, it is condemned by the above principles.

What should we say, therefore, about the many things which are practiced in religions today that are not in the Scriptures? For example, what about baptizing infants, sprinkling for baptism, christening, calling a man Reverend, instrumental music in worship, taking money out of the church treasury and sending it to human institutions, etc.? Aren't all of the above sixteen principles violated by such additions?

How can people claim to be followers of Christ when they have no respect whatsoever for the things which Christ said? How can they claim love and respect for Christ when they continue to do things in religion which have been introduced solely by man? Spending time and effort to learn the Word of Christ and continuing steadfastly therein, demonstrates genuine love and respect for Christ. Similarly, a rejection of all traditions and doctrines of men confirms true love and respect for Christ. Those who are doing things not authorized by Christ have no love and respect for Him. Credit: http://oakridgechurch.com/riggs •

"Lagging in Diligence"

The King James Version translates this phrase as "lothful in business." To be slothful is to be lazy or indolent. William Barclay stated, "There is a certain intensity in the Christian life. There is no room for lethargy in it" (The Daily Study Bible Series, Romans, p. 178).

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