

# Calling On The Name Of The Lord

Rom 10:13 reads “[For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.](#)” So “Calling On The Name Of The Lord” is clearly necessary to salvation. But how does one call on the name of the Lord? We better know what it means if it is necessary to salvation.

Before we answer that question let’s prove from this text that salvation does not come at the point of faith as most denominational preachers teach. Let’s continue reading in verse 14 “[How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?](#)” Do you see how this verse makes it clear that one can’t call on the name of the Lord until after they have believed? It says “[How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?](#)” Since verse 13 makes this calling on God necessary to salvation, and since verse 14 says we have to believe first before we call, then that proves one is not saved until after they believe, when they call on God. See what I mean?

But just what does it mean to call on the name of the Lord? Many think it means we ask God to save us, and it does in a sense, just not verbally, but instead with our obedience. Illustrations:

- Num 21:4-9 how did the Israelites ask (call upon) God to heal them of their snake bite?
- II King 5:1,9-14 how did Naaman call upon (ask) God to heal him of his leprosy?
- Josh 6:2-5 how would the Israelites call on (ask) God to knock the Jericho walls down?

Similarly, we call on God to save us by doing what God said to do to be saved. To prove this let’s first turn & read Acts 22:16 “[And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.](#)” Do you see how Paul was told to call on the name of the Lord by being baptized? If God says - if you do A, I will give you B, then the way to ask God for B is by doing A. You see if God has told us what to do to be saved (and He has - Mark 16:16 reads “[He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved ...](#)”), then if we were to ask God verbally to save us, His response would be - “I’ve already told you what to do to be saved; do that, and I will save you.” Make sense? And so if we want to ask God to save us from our sins, we ask Him to do so by doing what He said to do to be saved - believe and be baptized.

We can also prove this from Acts 2. Acts 2:21 has our same phrase “[And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.](#)” And then verse 38 of the same chapter reads “[Then Peter said ... Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.](#)” So Peter said they needed to call on the name of the Lord to be saved in verse 21, and then told them exactly how to do that in verse 38 “[Repent, and be baptized ... for the remission of sins.](#)”

Have you ever repented and been baptized for the remission of sins? I was immersed when I was a youngster, but not for the remission of sins. So when I learned better, I was immersed again when I was an adult, this time “for the remission of sins.” If a divorce is unscriptural

(unapproved of by God) when it is done for the wrong reason (not "for fornication" - Matt 19:9), then likewise a baptism is unscriptural (unapproved of by God) when it is done for the wrong reason (not "for the remission of sins" - Acts 2:38). And so if we are not baptized "for the remission of sins," then of course we wouldn't get the remission of sins, would we?

A phrase equivalent in meaning to "Calling On The Name Of The Lord" is "Obey The Gospel." We can see that by comparing Rom 10:13 with verse 16. We also find that same phrase in II Thess 1:8-9 "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power." That passage makes obeying the gospel necessary to salvation just like Rom 10:13 and Acts 2:21 make calling on the Lord necessary to salvation. And notice that knowing God (believing in and understanding God) is not enough. Don't let any preacher tell you - all you have to do to be saved is "accept Jesus Christ as your personal savior." You also have to obey your personal savior. Heb 5:9 confirms this by saying "he (Jesus) became the author (source) of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him."

But just how do we "obey the gospel"? How do we obey the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (I Cor 15:1-4)? Rom 6:17 reads "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you." So we must obey the "form of doctrine" according to Paul. But what was Paul talking about "form of doctrine"? Well a strong possibility (I am not 100% sure) is found earlier in the same chapter. Verses 3-5 tell us that water baptism was a form or likeness of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Here is how Rom 6:3-5 reads "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection." What that text is saying is that we are baptized into Christ, into His death - that is into salvation. And that baptism is a likeness of the burial and resurrection of Christ. If we've ever seen someone immersed in water, then we can see just how it does look like Jesus' burial and resurrection from the grave. And so when we obey that form of doctrine (water baptism), we are obeying the gospel, we are saved by Christ, saved by His death.

Here are some other equivalents:

- Acts 6:7 "a great company of the priests were **obedient to the faith**." (also Rom 1:5, 16:26)
- I Pet 1:22 "Seeing ye have purified your souls in **obeying the truth**" (also Rom 2:8, Gal 5:7)

Obedience is obviously required, but what about the claim Eph 2:8-9 would prove that is a "works salvation"? Consider our three OT illustrations – the Israelites didn't heal themselves of their snake bites, Naaman didn't heal himself of leprosy, the Israelites didn't knock down the Jericho walls themselves. But they still had to meet the conditions specified by God to receive the benefit God had promised. See the parallel to our salvation?

"Call on the Lord to be saved" means do what God said to do to be saved. Have you done that?