**Calling on the Name of the Lord**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. “And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved” (Joel 2:32).
   1. This passage is quoted in Romans 10:13 and Acts 2:21, and in both instances applied to our salvation in Christ.
2. It is obvious, then, that we must call on the name of the LORD to be saved.
   1. Who else could we possibly call on for salvation? “And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12, ESV).
3. But what exactly does calling on the name of the Lord mean, and what are the specifics involved in doing so?

**BODY:**

1. Let’s start with the obvious—it’s more than just a verbal plea, or a verbal profession of faith.
   1. Matthew 7:21-23
      1. Earnest pleas or cries to the Lord mean nothing unless accompanied by submission to His will, or to put it another way, unless we DO what our Lord says.
   2. And that same point is reinforced in Luke 6:46.
      1. “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?”
2. And it is **not** a one time act; it is **not** something we do one time and never have to do again.
   1. Note carefully the wording in the following passages, especially how continual action is indicated.
      1. Ananias, when speaking to the Lord about his reluctance to go to Saul: “And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind **all who call on your name**” (Acts 9:14).
      2. “To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place **call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord**…” (1 Corinthians 1:2).
      3. “Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with **those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart**” (2 Timothy 2:22).
   2. To better understand this whole idea of calling on the Lord, let’s think about how we use similar terminology.
      1. Suppose I have a plumbing problem, one I’m unable to fix. I may say something like, “I’m going to have to call on a plumber.” In other words, I don’t trust myself to do the job, I’m going to have to put my trust in the plumber.
      2. Think, too, about Israel in the Old Testament. Too often they would call on anyone/anything but the Lord (idols, their own military strength, the military strength of other nations, etc.).
         1. “Though the pride of Israel testifies against him, yet they have not returned to the LORD their God, nor have they sought Him, for all this. So Ephraim has become like a silly dove, without sense; **they call to Egypt**, they go to Assyria” (Hosea 7:10-11).
      3. Here is the language of someone who was always trusting in the Lord, always calling upon Him: “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).
3. But how exactly do we call on the name of the Lord in becoming a Christian, in receiving the forgiveness of our sins?
   1. Romans 10:8-16 (v. 13 is one of the verses where Joel 2:32 is quoted)
      1. See the different elements involved in calling on the name of the Lord?
         1. Someone to preach the gospel (if we don’t read it ourselves).
         2. Hearing and believing the gospel.
         3. Obedience to the gospel, which includes confession and baptism (Romans 6:17).
   2. Acts 2:21, together with Acts 2:36-41
      1. Acts 2:21 is the other passage where Joel 2:32 is quoted.
      2. Acts 2:36-41.
      3. In order to call on the Lord, they had to…
         1. Believe the truth concerning the Christ.
         2. Repent of their sins.
         3. Be baptized in the name of Christ for the remission of sins.
      4. Using verse 39, we can say that calling on the Lord means that we hear and obey His call.
   3. Acts 22:16
      1. Jesus to Saul: “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you MUST DO” (Acts 9:6).
      2. “Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, **calling on the name of the Lord**” (Acts 22:16).
      3. Saul put complete trust in His Savior by 1) doing exactly what He said to do to be saved; and 2) trusting Him (calling upon Him) to take away his sins.
         1. “Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but **an appeal to God for a good conscience**—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 3:21).

**CONCLUSION:**

1. It’s no wonder then why Jesus said what He did in Matthew 7:21: “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven” (Matthew 7:21).