

Calling on the Name of the Lord

In Romans 10:13, the Bible says,

For “Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

What does it mean to call on the name of the Lord?

In the original language of the New Testament, to “call on” means to “invoke” or to “appeal to.” The same word is used in Acts 25:11 when Paul appealed to Caesar for a judgment. In other words, he appealed his case to a higher court in the same way appeals are made in modern courts of law.

Therefore, calling on the name of the Lord is not merely crying out His name, but rather it is appealing to His authority to grant salvation. For an example of how this is done, we again look to Paul, who was given this instruction while he was still in his sins:

Acts 22:16 – “Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.”

Paul called on the name of the Lord for salvation when he obeyed this instruction and was baptized for forgiveness of sins. Indeed, the act of baptism is itself an appeal to God for forgiveness. Notice 1 Peter 3:21:

Corresponding to [Noah’s salvation on the ark], 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.

A good conscience is one that is washed clean of the guilt and shame of sin. That can be obtained only by appealing to God for forgiveness through Jesus.

Have you called on the name of the Lord for salvation? Did you merely speak His name in prayer, or did you make your appeal by being baptized in the name of Christ for forgiveness of sins?

Acts 2:38 – Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”