

# “WHOSOEVER SHALL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED”

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This quotation is found in Acts 2:21 and Romans 10:13. Many people quote these verses in an attempt to “prove” that all one has to do to be saved is simply say “Lord save me.” But there is far more involved in being saved than simply saying these words. **Obedience** to the Lord is involved!

To “*call upon the name of the Lord*” is to call upon him by doing — obeying — what he commands. The phrase is a figure of speech (synecdoche) implying all that one must do to be a child of God.

When those on Pentecost cried out “*what shall we do?*” (Acts 2:37), they in effect were asking, “how shall we call upon the name of the Lord and be saved?” Peter describes what is involved in calling on the Lord’s name in Acts 2:38, “*Repent, and be baptized every one of you **in the name of Jesus Christ** for the remission of sins.*” Both repenting and being baptized are done “*in the name of Jesus Christ*” i.e., by his authority. This is what Saul of Tarsus was commanded to do in order to have forgiveness of sins. He was told, “*Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, **calling on the name of the Lord***” (Acts 22:16). He was to obey the Gospel by repent-

ing of his sins and being immersed into water for the forgiveness of his sins — “calling on the name of the Lord.” Obeying was the process by which he called upon the name of the Lord. Acts 8:16, Acts 10:48, and Acts 19:5 also connect baptism with the name of the Lord.

The context of Romans 10:13 makes it plain that in order to “call upon the name of the Lord,” both “hearing” the Gospel and “obeying the Gospel” are involved. “*But they have not all obeyed the gospel*” (v.16), i.e., they have not all “*called upon the name of the Lord.*” Can you see the urgency of preaching the Gospel to a lost and dying world?

Every act of obedience: **faith** (John 8:24), **repentance** (Acts 2:38), **confession** (Rom. 10:10), and **water baptism** (Mark 16:16), is to be performed “calling on the name of the Lord.” From the very moment we believe until the day we depart this earth, we must be calling upon the name of the Lord (1 Cor. 1:2; 2 Tim. 2:19). We must, by faith, obey his word. His name is to be recognized in every act we perform (Col. 3:17). In so doing, we are “calling upon his name.”

Are you calling upon the name of the Lord?