**CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD (TV 4-18-05) (OR 5-19-13, Part 2)**

Many say that all one must do is to **“call on the name of the Lord.”** Some have said this calling means that one acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God; some say it is a warm feeling they get when one has received Jesus into their heart; some say it is when one simply says that they accept Jesus into their heart; or some say that it is a reference to what many call saying the sinner’s prayer. Last time we studied what the Bible says **“calling on the name of the Lord”** really involves, focusing on the book of Acts. This morning I would like to continue Part 2 of our study.

**1 Corinthians 1:2** – “to those who are sanctified (set apart) in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place ***call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord***”. In **1 Corinthians 6:11**, the scripture says of the Corinthians “but you were washed, but you were sanctified (set apart), but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God”. This sanctification and washing had come about because the Corinthians had turned from their evil deeds to obey God. This included belief (**1 Corinthians 3:5**), repentance (**2 Corinthians 7:9-10**), and baptism (**1 Corinthians 12:13**).

**2 Timothy 2:22** – Paul tells Timothy, “Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who ***call on the Lord*** out of a pure heart.” This call included fleeing youthful lusts, maintaining a pure heart (**Romans 12:1-2**), and pursuing godly virtues. Paul tells the Galatians that this pursuit includes all the good things of God along with crucifying the flesh, its passions and desires, and walking in the Spirit (**Galatians 5:22-25**).

**1 Peter 1:17-23** – Peter says in **verse 17**, “And if you ***call on the Father***”. He goes on to tell them what is involved in calling on the Father; conducting themselves in fear, remembering they were redeemed with the blood of Christ by believing and putting their faith and hope in Him, having purified their souls in obeying the truth, and having been born again through the Word.

**2 Peter 1:1-11** – Peter in **verse 3**, “through the knowledge of ***Him who called us*** by glory and virtue.” These called individuals had “obtained like precious faith” in **verse 1**. In **verses 5-7** Peter lists out virtues that these called individuals need to pursue with zeal [all diligence, faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance (or patience), godliness, and brotherly kindness]. He tells them if they do this they will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of Jesus (**verse 8**). He encourages them in **verse 10** to “be even more diligent to ***make your call and election sure***”. Then he says in **verse 11**, “for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

**Philippians 3:8-4:1, 9** – Paul says in **verse 14**, “I press toward the goal of the upward ***call of God in Christ Jesus***”. This calling included being mature (**verse 15**), walking by the same rule (**verse 16** - living by the same standard NAS), standing fast (**4:1**), and doing the things which they had learned and received and heard and saw (**4:9**). God calls all people through the gospel, but only those with pure hearts will respond by calling on the name of the Lord.

From these passages we all can see that ***“calling on the name of the Lord”*** is much more than simply saying a prayer, accepting Jesus into your heart, or just acknowledging that He is the Son of God. Calling on the name of the Lord means that we call on Him as our authority and we will do whatever he says we must to do be saved (**1 Corinthians 11:1**).

Paul sums up what calling on the name of the Lord means when he said in **Galatians 2:20**, “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

For those of us who are Christians: ***Do we take our calling seriously?*** We have so many who are lost in their sins all around us. ***Are we doing our best to encourage and teach our lost friends to call on the name of the Lord?***

For those here this morning who are not Christians: ***Why not truly call on the name of the Lord, before it is too late?***

This calling requires faith *and* action. You must **Believe** that Jesus is the Son of God and be willing to **Confess** that before men, **Repent** of your sins (turn away from our sins and desire to walk in the path God wants us to take), and then be **Baptized** in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to have your sins washed away. Then you have called on the name of the Lord and become a Christian. Without obeying the pattern given in the scriptures, you will not have the hope of being in Heaven for eternity!

***Why not come forward and obey the Lord now?***