

Calling on the Name of the Lord

Joe Slater

Two passages in Acts speak of “calling on the name of the Lord” relative to salvation from sin. *“Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved”* (Acts 2:21); *“Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord”* (Acts 22:16).

Many “Evangelical” groups assert that this means praying some form of the “sinner’s prayer,” “inviting Jesus into your heart.” Such a prayer, however, is conspicuously absent from the inspired record. What are we to make of this?

Two questions present themselves:

- 1) Who is “the Lord” upon whose name we are to call in order to be saved?
- 2) How does one “call on the name of the Lord?”

The bulk of Peter’s sermon in Acts 2 answered the first question, concluding that *“God has made **this Jesus**, whom you crucified, both **Lord** and Christ”* (2:36). Convicted of their guilt, the crowd cried out in anguish, *“Men and brethren, what shall we do?”* (2:37).

Peter had already told them that they could be saved by calling on the name of the Lord. But they needed to know specifically what that involved. Significantly, he didn’t tell them to “invite Jesus into their hearts” through prayer. Instead, he commanded, *“repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins”* (2:38).

This matches perfectly with what Ananias told Paul in Acts 22:16 (see above). Paul had been praying for three days, yet his sins were not yet washed away. He obviously believed and repented. Now he needed to be baptized (immersed) in order to be forgiven. That’s what “calling on the name of the Lord” is.

Honesty: The Only Policy

A professor at Harvard Business School, who specializes in studying ethical behavior, has completed a research project on honesty. She found herself in hot water when she faced allegations of falsifying results. According to a report from National Public Radio, the instructor was accused in June 2023 of changing data in her honesty study. As investigators dug deeper into her work, they reportedly found a disturbing trend reaching back over ten years of her career.

Even in a dishonest world, where people expect to lie and be lied to, they react in shocked amazement when someone in a position of authority is caught up in dishonesty. The driving instructor caught driving under the influence. The marriage counselor getting a divorce. The truancy officer skipping work. Sometimes you wonder, “Who can you really trust?”

Honesty is a basic trait of God (Numbers 23:19; Titus 1:2). You can trust God. He is **always** truthful. He always keeps His promises; His word is always found reliable.

Christians always ought to be honest too. Even a cursory reading of the Bible reveals that God wants His people to be honest (Ephesians 4:25; Colossians 3:9; Revelation 21:8). The old saying is true: honesty is the best policy. In fact, it is the only policy that really works. It will keep us true to God and at peace with others. To be holy is to be honest; only then will we be ready for eternity.

--David Bragg (via *Bulletin Gold*)

Put Your Phone Down!

Your cell phone has already replaced your watch, camera, calendar, and alarm clock.

Don’t let it replace your family!

READY FOR WORSHIP

At worship, I am given the opportunity to...

...revere my Maker. *“God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be held in reverence by all those around Him”* (Psalm 89:7).

...rejoice in my salvation. *“And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD; It shall rejoice in His salvation”* (Psalm 35:9).

...refresh my spirit. *“Revive me according to Your lovingkindness, so that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth”* (Psalm 119:88).

I can’t wait to come and worship, praise and pay homage to the One who created me, delivered me, and awakens me. How about you?

“Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations” (Psalm 100).

--Edd Sterchi (Campbellsville, KY)

The “Trans” Issue

I don’t know of a more pressing issue facing America and the world right now that the “Trans” issue – the sexual-psychological destruction of children. I would gladly write about anything else. But don’t we have an obligation to speak out against this evil? The sexual transmutation of children destroys their lives. Even if they later come to regret the changes, their health, mind, and capacity to have children and form a healthy family are destroyed. This is what Satan wants. Every assault on the family is an effort to corrupt and destroy human souls.

--Jarod Jackson (adapted) via *Fortify Your Faith*