“What Must I Do to be Saved?”

*by Jeremiah Cox*

An important concern in the religious world is what a person must do to be saved. Saul asked the Lord what he must do on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:6), and the Philippian jailer asked Paul the same question (Acts 16:30). Often, the text of Romans 10:13 *(*“*whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved”)* is used to answer this question.

Romans 10:13 is indeed a scripture that rightly states what action is to be taken in order to be saved. It might be asked however, “What does it mean to call on the name of the Lord?” Some believe it means to pray to God, and use Romans 10:9 *(“that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved”)* to show what should be included in the prayer. However, there is not an account in scripture of someone being saved by simply saying a prayer. There must be an awareness of all scripture to discover the plan of salvation. Mark 16:16 says, *“He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”* The sentence structure of this passage is often ignored, making baptism unnecessary. The full text must be read and taken into consideration. Baptism and belief are two ingredients to salvation that cannot be separated. Without one, the other is useless.

What does it mean to call on the name of the Lord? The phrase “calls on” in Romans 10:13 comes from the Greek word *epikaleomai*, meaning appeal. In order to be saved there must be an appeal to the Lord. This means that any requisites given by the Lord must be carried out. A Christian is to obey the commandments of the Lord. “*And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him”* (Colossians 3:17).To call on the name of the Lord is to obey His commands. It is not specific to one action. “*For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, that they all may call on the name of the LORD, to serve Him with one accord”* (Zephaniah 3:9).Calling on the name of the Lord means submitting to the Lord and serving Him in obedience.

Regarding the question - *“What must I do to be saved?”* - consider the text of Acts 22. Paul is re-telling the account of his conversion. Ananias was sent by the Lord to Paul to tell him what he must do. Ananias, in Acts 22:16, tells Paul what he must do. “*And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”* Notice the phrase at the end of the text, *“calling on the name of the Lord.”* What was Paul to do in order to obey God's commands and to call on the name of the Lord? He was to *“arise and be baptized*!”

**What must I do to be saved?** If, like Paul, you are a penitent believer in Jesus Christ the answer is simple, *“arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”* However, baptism is not the end of the journey. Do not *“continue in sin that grace may abound”* (Romans 6:1).A child of God is not exempt from the dangers of sin and can still die in sin. *“Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live”* (Romans 8:12-13). A child of God is to turn away from the past life that was filled with sinful acts and live a new life, a faithful life. In order to obtain the crown that is promised, a faithful life must be lived. *“Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life”* (Revelation 2:10).

**Fear God**

*by Jim McDonald*

When Abraham excused his lie for telling Abimilech that Sarah was his sister instead of his wife, his grounds for doing so was that "surely the fear of God is not in this place" (Gen. 20:11). He did not believe the people had any respect for either God or His will. Paul addressed certain worshippers in a synagogue in Antioch thus: "Men of Israel and ye that fear God" (Acts 13:16).

The Psalmist wrote, "Blessed is the man that feareth Jehovah" (Ps. 12:1). Among those blessings is that God’s mercy is great toward those that fear Him and that He pitieth them (Ps. 103:11, 13). God takes pleasure in those who fear Him, and the fear of Jehovah can bring strong comfort (Ps. 147:11; Prov. 14:26). The fear of Jehovah is something we ought and should learn (Deut. 14:23).

First, the "fear of Jehovah" involves the respect and awe we have for Him. The Hebrew writer urged: "Let us serve God with reverence and awe…" (Heb. 12:28). The Psalmist wrote: "Stand in awe and sin not. Commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still" (Ps. 4:4). Sometimes one may say, "I have a healthy fear of electricity," by which that one means that he knows its power and respects it and acts accordingly. When God smote Ananias and Saphira for their sin "great fear came upon the whole church, and upon all that heard these things" (Acts 5:11).

Second, the "fear of Jehovah" is to live a life pleasing in His sight. "The fear of Jehovah is to hate evil, pride and arrogance and the evil way and perverse mouth" (Prov. 8:13). When Jews of Nehemiah’s day were adding suffering to fellow Jews through their charging usury (a violation of their law), Nehemiah rebuked them and told them they ought to walk "in the fear of Jehovah" and not exact from fellow Jews (Neh. 5:9). One of Judah’s good kings urged judges to walk in the fear of the Lord and not accept bribes. They were to judge righteous judgment (2 Chron. 19:9). When man cleanses himself from the defilements of flesh and spirit, he thereby perfects holiness in the "fear of the Lord" (2 Cor. 7:1). Man’s whole duty is to "fear God and keep His commandments" (Eccl. 12:13).

Man is commanded to fear God (1 Peter 2:13). Such is the beginning of wisdom, knowledge and understanding (Prov. 9:10, 1:7f). We have God’s assurance that "God is no respecter of persons but in every nation he that feareth him and worketh righteousness is acceptable with him" (Acts 10:35).

When the penitent thief rebuked the other who mocked Jesus in his suffering, he asked, "Dost thou not fear God?" (Luke 23:40). This is a good question we would do well to ask ourselves.

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