

What Must Do to Be Saved?



Acts 16:30

A Good Question

- When I recognize that I have sinned against God, the question “What shall I do?” is entirely appropriate (Luke 3:10, 12, 14a; Acts 2:37; 16:30).
- The biblical answers differs in vocabulary but not in substance (Luke 3:11, 13, 14b; Acts 2:38, 40; 16:31).
- Though many “Christians” disagree regarding what people must do to be saved, the NT is clear: we must call on the name of the Lord (Acts 2:21; Rom 10:13; cf. Joel 2:32a).



Calling on His Name

- **Nearly all professed Christians affirm the necessity of calling on the name of the Lord for salvation, but many equate it with the “Sinner’s Prayer.”**
- **The OT defines the meaning of calling on the name of the Lord for salvation (“complete dependence on and submission to God”; Isa 55:6–7; Jer 29:12–13).**
- **Joel predicted a time when salvation would be available to anyone who called on the name of the Lord (= “Yahweh”; Joel 2:32a; cf. vv. 28–31).**



An Inspired Explanation

- The NT quotes Joel's prophecy twice and interprets it through the lens of Christ (Acts 2:21; Rom 10:13).
- According to Rom 10, calling on the name of the Lord includes *hearing* and *believing* the gospel and *confessing* the Lordship of Christ (vv. 8–17; cf. v. 1).



13 For “WHOEVER CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.”

14 How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? 15 How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, “HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!” 16 However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, “LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?” 17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. (Rom 10:13–17 NASB)

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8 But what does it say? “THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART”— that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, 9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, “WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; 13 for “WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.” (Rom 10:8–13 NASB)

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- **According to Acts 2, calling on the name of the Lord also includes *repenting* and *being baptized* in (lit. “upon”) the name of Jesus (Acts 2:21, 38; cf. vv. 14–36; 22:16; 1 Pet 3:21; Rom 6:3–4).**



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.” (Acts 2:38 NASB)

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What Must I Do to Be Saved?



I must call on the name of the Lord by *hearing, believing, confessing, repenting, and being baptized.* Why delay? Arise!

