

Calling on the Name of the Lord

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- Call upon the Name of the Lord

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Introduction

A. A Common Phrase of Eternal Consequence

I. Opening Illustration

- The depth of a movie revealed the more times you rewatch it

II. The Bible

- So often we are only scratching the surface of the depths of Gods Word

III. The Context of Our Study

- **Genesis 4:25-26 - 25 And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, "God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him." 26 To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time people began to call upon the name of the LORD.**
- **Joel 2:28-32 - 28 "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. 29 Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit. 30 "And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. 32 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.**
- **Matthew 7:21-23 - 21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' 23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'**
- **Acts 22:16 - And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'**

B. Purpose of Our Study:

- I. Let us look to this phrase throughout the Bible and have a fuller understanding of what it means here and how we can learn to call on the Name of the Lord to be saved.

Lesson

A. Calling on the Name of the Lord Requires...

I. Sacrifice

- The idea of calling on the name of the Lord goes all the way back to the beginning
- **Genesis 12:6-9 - 6 Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. 7 Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. 8 From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. 9 And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.**
- **Genesis 13:2-4 - 2 Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. 3 And he journeyed on from the Negeb as far as Bethel to the place where his tent had been at the**

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beginning, between Bethel and Ai, 4 to the place where he had made an altar at the first. And there Abram called upon the name of the LORD.

- Calling on the name of the Lord has always involved sacrifice
 - **Genesis 26:23-25 - 23** From there he went up to Beersheba. **24** And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God of Abraham your father. Fear not, for I am with you and will bless you and multiply your offspring for my servant Abraham's sake." **25** So he built an altar there and called upon the name of the LORD and pitched his tent there. And there Isaac's servants dug a well.
- If we are to arise and be baptized and wash away our sins, what sacrifice to we bring?
 - **Romans 6:3-4 - [3]** Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **[4]** We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. (ESV)
- Have you sacrificed anything in your daily walk as a Christian? If not, can you say that you have called on the Name of the Lord?
 - **Romans 12:1 - I** appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.
 - **Galatians 2:20 - I** have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

II. Exclusive Faith

- Calling on the Name of the Lord is vital for salvation and we can call on no other and be saved
 - **1 Kings 18:20-24 - 20** So Ahab sent to all the people of Israel and gathered the prophets together at Mount Carmel. **21** And Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." And the people did not answer him a word. **22** Then Elijah said to the people, "I, even I only, am left a prophet of the LORD, but Baal's prophets are 450 men. **23** Let two bulls be given to us, and let them choose one bull for themselves and cut it in pieces and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. And I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood and put no fire to it. **24** And you call upon the name of your god, and I will call upon the name of the LORD, and the God who answers by fire, he is God." And all the people answered, "It is well spoken."
- Dig into verse 21 - our faith, devotion and trust cannot be divided if we are calling upon the Name of the Lord for salvation
- Illustration - When all else fails, pray? Is God our last resort?
 - **Psalms 116:1-6 - 1** I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. **2** Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. **3** The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish. **4** Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!" **5** Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful. **6** The LORD preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.
 - **Psalms 116:12-19 - 12** What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits to me? **13** I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD, **14** I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people. **15** Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of

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his saints. **16 O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds. 17 I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD. 18 I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people, 19 in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!**

- Only God can save us, so we must put our faith exclusively in him
- Are we will to sacrifice and call on His name and His name only?
 - **Zephaniah 3:9 - 9 "For at that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech, that all of them may call upon the name of the LORD and serve him with one accord.**
- We turn back to God realizing that he is all that matters. We no longer do the things that we desire but live to serve him.
- Have you come to Jesus putting your faith exclusively in him knowing that life can be found in no other?
 - **Ephesians 2:12-16 - 12 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.**

III. Lifelong Commitment

- Is this a one and done deal and we call on the Name of the Lord the day we have our sins washed away and never have to worry ourselves again, or is it something far more involved to Call on the Name of the Lord?
 - **Psalms 105:1-4 - 1 Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! 3 Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice! 4 Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!**
- Calling upon the name of the lord is not a one time occurrence but a lifelong commitment.
 - **Deuteronomy 28:1-2 - 1 "And if you faithfully obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. 2 And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the LORD your God.**
 - **Deuteronomy 28:7-10 - 7 "The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you. They shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways. 8 The LORD will command the blessing on you in your barns and in all that you undertake. And he will bless you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. 9 The LORD will establish you as a people holy to himself, as he has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in his ways. 10 And all the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they shall be afraid of you.**
- Illustration - Wife taking her husband's name upon marriage
- When we call on the Name of the Lord the nations of the earth will see that we are called by the name of the lord.
- Are you living each day as a new man in service to you God?

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- **Romans 6:12-14 - 12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. 13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. 14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.**
- If we sacrifice, have faith, and commit our lives to God, others will see that we are called by his name

Conclusion

A. How is it that the Lord knows those that are his?

I. Zechariah 13:7-9 - 7 "Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who stands next to me," declares the LORD of hosts. "Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; I will turn my hand against the little ones. 8 In the whole land, declares the LORD, two thirds shall be cut off and perish, and one third shall be left alive. 9 And I will put this third into the fire, and refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested. They will call upon my name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'They are my people'; and they will say, 'The LORD is my God.'"

- Do you pass the test today?
- God looked out on Israel and saw their sinfulness and idolatry and is seeking to refine them.
- The only way out of the fire is to call on the Name of the Lord!
- Do you want to escape the fire?

II. Acts 22:16 - And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'