

## ***“Whoever Calls Upon The Name Of The Lord Shall Be Saved”***

This quotation in **Romans 10:13** is not the first place it is said in the Bible. Peter had said it on the day of Pentecost (**Acts 2:21**), and the prophet Joel had written it hundreds of years before that.

An important question is, “**Does that statement tell the whole story regarding what a person must do to be saved?**” Notice that Romans 10 doesn’t mention **repentance**. Wouldn’t you agree that **repentance** is *necessary*?

- Jesus said, “Unless you repent, you will ... perish” (**Luke 13:3**).
- Paul preached, “God ... now commands all men everywhere to repent” (**Acts 17:30**).
- See also **2 Peter 3:9** – “The Lord is ... not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”
- In fact, when God addressed His backsliding, unrepentant people, He said through His prophet, “The Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear ....” (**Isaiah 59:1-2**).

So repentance *is necessary*, and **Romans 10** does not give the whole picture.

### **Is the “Sinner’s Prayer” for us?**

When sinners pray, we understand the need and the emotion. The tax-collector expressed it well. He stood “afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’” (**Luke 18:13**)

We must embody that humility and feel that deep guilt for our sins in order to pray like that!

But notice *the timing* of when that tax collector prayed. While his attitudes are *timeless*, his prayer was made *before* the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. The timing changes things, because a New Covenant took effect at the death of Jesus (**Hebrews 9:16-28**). *After* the resurrection of Jesus, **non-Christians are never told to pray** for salvation. Non-Christians are told to take *other* actions. For example, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins” (**Acts 2:38**) and “Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins” (**Acts 22:16**).

**That last quotation** is from the **example of Saul** (who later became the apostle Paul). He had been persecuting Christians as an unbeliever. When he spoke to the resurrected Jesus, his world view changed! He then prayed *with fasting* for three days. *God knew* he was praying, but notice how God answered: God sent a preacher! The preacher came and told Saul -- *not to pray more* -- but to “arise and be baptized and wash away [his] sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” (**Acts 22:16; 9:1-19**)

Only after becoming a Christian are we instructed to *repent and pray* for forgiveness (**Acts 8:9-24; 1 John 1:8 – 2:2**).

### ***What does it mean to “call upon the name of the Lord”?***

It could obviously involve our pleading to Him to save us, but it is *not simply a prayer that we utter*.

Let the contexts of Acts 2 and Romans 10 explain.

Notice in **Acts 2**, that Peter **quotes** this promise, **then preaches** Jesus as Lord and Christ. When the believers ask *what to do* to be saved, we understand them to be asking *how to call* upon the name of the Lord. Peter *does not tell them to pray*, but tells them to “repent and be baptized for the remission of sins” (**Acts 2:38**). Notice that the preacher, Ananias, gave Paul the *exact same instruction* – “arise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord” – in **Acts 22:16; 9:1-19**.

Now let’s look at **Romans 10**. Verse 17 mentions *hearing* the word of God, verses 9-10 mention *faith* and *confession* of faith, and verse 16 mentions *obeying* the gospel. “Obeying the gospel” is going through a death (to sin), burial (in water) and resurrection, like Jesus did (see **1 Corinthians 15:1-3**) and which **Romans 6:3-4** says happens in water baptism. This all helps explain “calling upon the name of the Lord” in verse 13.

We appeal to God for salvation, not so much by our words, but by our *obedience*.