

Why "Calling on the Name of the Lord" Is for the Saved, not the Unsaved

1. Because of how "call" is used in the OT (880x in 825 verses)

a. Illustrated by how it is used in Joel (5x)

1:19 O LORD, to You I cry out; For fire has devoured the open pastures, And a flame has burned all the trees of the field.

1:14 Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assembly; Gather the elders And all the inhabitants of the land Into the house of the LORD your God, And cry out to the LORD.

b. Illustrated by how it is used in the Psalms (55x)

3:4 I cried to the LORD with my voice, And He heard me from His holy hill. Selah

4:1 ... Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have relieved me in my distress; Have mercy on me, and hear my prayer.

4:3 But know that the LORD has set apart for Himself him who is godly; The LORD will hear when I call to Him.

14:4 Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge, Who eat up my people as they eat bread, And do not call on the LORD?

17:6 I have called upon You, for You will hear me, O God; Incline Your ear to me, and hear my speech.

18:3 I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies.

18:6 In my distress I called upon the LORD, And cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry came before Him, even to His ears.

20:9 Save, LORD! May the King answer us when we call.

22:2 O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear; And in the night season, and am not silent.

27:7 Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice! Have mercy also upon me, and answer me.

28:1 ... To You I will cry, O LORD my Rock: Do not be silent to me, Lest, if You are silent to me, I become like those who go down to the pit.

30:8 I cried out to You, O LORD; And to the LORD I made supplication:

31:17 Do not let me be ashamed, O LORD, for I have called upon You; Let the wicked be ashamed; Let them be silent in the grave.

34:6 This poor man cried out, and the LORD heard him, And saved him out of all his troubles.

35:3 Also draw out the spear, And stop those who pursue me. Say to my soul, "I am your salvation."

42:7 Deep calls unto deep at the noise of Your waterfalls; All Your waves and billows have gone over me.

49:14 Their inner thought is that their houses will last forever, Their dwelling places to all generations; They call their lands after their own names.

50:1 ... The Mighty One, God the LORD, Has spoken and called the earth From the rising of the sun to its going down.

50:4 He shall call to the heavens from above, And to the earth, that He may judge His people:

50:15 Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."

53:4 Have the workers of iniquity no knowledge, Who eat up my people as they eat bread, And do not call upon God?

55:16 As for me, I will call upon God, And the LORD shall save me.

56:9 When I cry out to You, Then my enemies will turn back; This I know, because God is for me.

57:2 I will cry out to God Most High, To God who performs all things for me.

59:4 They run and prepare themselves through no fault of mine. Awake to help me, and behold!

61:2 From the end of the earth I will cry to You, When my heart is overwhelmed; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

2:15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assembly; 2:32 And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the LORD has said, Among the remnant whom the LORD calls.

66:17 I cried to Him with my mouth, And He was extolled with my tongue. 69:3 I am weary with my crying; My throat is dry; My eyes fail while I wait for my God.

79:6 Pour out Your wrath on the nations that do not know You, And on the kingdoms that do not call on Your name.

80:18 Then we will not turn back from You; Revive us, and we will call upon Your name.

81:7 You called in trouble, and I delivered you; I answered you in the secret place of thunder; I tested you at the waters of Meribah. Selah

86:3 Be merciful to me, O Lord, For I cry to You all day long.

86:5 For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.

86:7 In the day of my trouble I will call upon You, For You will answer me.

88:9 My eye wastes away because of affliction. LORD, I have called daily upon You; I have stretched out my hands to You.

89:26 He shall cry to Me, 'You are my Father, My God, and the rock of my salvation.'

91:15 He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him.

99:6 Moses and Aaron were among His priests, And Samuel was among those who called upon His name; They called upon the LORD, and He answered them.

102:2 Do not hide Your face from me in the day of my trouble; Incline Your ear to me; In the day that I call, answer me speedily.

105:1 Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples!

105:16 Moreover He called for a famine in the land; He destroyed all the provision of bread.

116:2 Because He has inclined His ear to me, Therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live.

116:4 Then I called upon the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I implore You, deliver my soul!"

116:13 I will take up the cup of salvation, And call upon the name of the LORD.

116:17 I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving, And will call upon the name of the LORD.

118:5 I called on the LORD in distress; The LORD answered me and set me in a broad place.

119:145 QOPH. I cry out with my whole heart; Hear me, O LORD! I will keep Your statutes.

119:146 I cry out to You; Save me, and I will keep Your testimonies.

120:1 ... In my distress I cried to the LORD, And He heard me.

130:1 ... Out of the depths I have cried to You, O LORD;

138:3 In the day when I cried out, You answered me, And made me bold with strength in my soul.

141:1 ... LORD, I cry out to You; Make haste to me! Give ear to my voice when I cry out to You.

145:18 The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth.

147:4 He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name.

147:9 He gives to the beast its food, And to the young ravens that cry.

2. Because of the context in which Joel 2:32 sits

- a. It involves a specific PROPHECY*
- b. It involves a specific PLACE*
- c. It involves a specific PEOPLE*
- d. It involves a specific POINT in time*
- e. It involves a specific PRAYER*
- f. It involves a specific PHYSICAL rescue*

3. Because of the purpose of the quote of Joel 2:32 in Romans 10:13

10:11-13 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³ For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

4. Because of the logic and sequential order presented in Romans 10:13-14

10:13-14 For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved." ¹⁴ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

- a. Belief comes before calling on the name of the LORD*
- b. Calling, therefore, is an action of one who already believes*

5. Because of the broader context of Romans 10, and all of Romans

a. If Romans 10:13 is the formula for salvation, it contradicts what is stated elsewhere in Romans 10

10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who **believes**.

10:6 But the righteousness of **faith** speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down from above)

10:9-10 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.

¹⁰ For with the heart one **believes** unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

10:11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever **believes** on Him will not be put to shame." (Quoted from Is 28:16)

10:14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not **believed**? And how shall they **believe** in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

10:17 So then **faith** comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

b. If Romans 10:13 is the formula for salvation, it contradicts what is stated elsewhere in the Book Romans

1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who **believes**, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from **faith** to **faith**; as it is written, "The just shall live by **faith**."

3:21-22 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through **faith** in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who **believe**. For there is no difference

3:24-26 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through **faith**, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, ²⁶ to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has **faith** in Jesus.

4:3-5 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham **believed** God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." ⁴ Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. ⁵ But to him who does not work but **believes** on Him who justifies the ungodly, his **faith** is accounted for righteousness

9:33 As it is written: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, And whoever **believes** on Him will not be put to shame."

13:11 And *do* this, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation *is* nearer than when we *first* **believed**.

6. Because of the multitude of passages that declare spiritual salvation as being through belief in God's work alone.

Gen 15:5-6 Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he **believed** in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

John 3:18 "He who **believes** in Him is not condemned; but he who does not **believe** is condemned already, because he has not **believed** in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 3:36 "He who **believes** in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not **believe** the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

John 5:24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and **believes** in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

John 20:31 but these are written that you may **believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that **believing** you may have life in His name.

Acts 4:4 However, many of those who heard the word **believed**; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.

Acts 16:30-31 And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ So they said, "**Believe** on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."