

CALLING UPON THE LORD

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Rom. 10:13).

Many believe all that is required for salvation is contained in this scripture. They will also add that the “obedience to the gospel” in verse 16, emanating from the word of God in verse 17, is nothing more than the “believing and confessing” found in verses 9 and 10. So they conclude that when you believe and confess you are indeed calling upon the Lord and will be saved. They believe there is nothing else needed for salvation. That is why they call these verses the “sinner’s prayer.”

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Rom. 10:9-10).

First of all, Romans 10:9-10 says to “confess,” not pray. Confess and pray are two different words with different meanings. Both words are found in James 5:16, proving they are not the same. Confess means to “acknowledge.” Verse 9 specifically says to confess or acknowledge “Jesus,” not what many who misuse this passage do, confess sins. “Christians” confess sin (1 Jn. 1:9; Js. 5:16; Acts 7:22), “alien sinners” must confess “Me” (Jesus) (Mt. 10:32-33). And this is exactly what the eunuch did in Acts 8:37 when he said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

Next, belief and confession brings one “unto” salvation, not “into.” This is because salvation is only “in Christ Jesus” (2 Tim. 2:10; Jn. 8:24; Acts 4:12). And there is not one Bible verse which says that belief, repentance, or confession (things in the salvation process which one must do) will put one “into Christ.” However, the Bible does teach that the culmination of baptism following belief,

repentance, and confession will put one “into Christ” where salvation is (Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27).

Next, a verbal plea is not “calling upon the Lord.” Reflect again on Romans 10:13-17 and observe how the “calling upon the name (authority) of the Lord” is to do what God wants us to do! It originates from Him, not us. Thus, obey - verse 16, My word - verse 17. God calls (Acts 2:39; 2 Thess. 2:14) and we respond with an attitude of, “What will thou have me to do?” (Acts 9:6; 2:37; 16:30).

Romans 10:9-10 is found in example in Acts 8:35-39. Phillip preached “Jesus” to the eunuch—the gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-4), which also encompasses salvation requirements, since it saves (Rom. 1:16) and must be obeyed (Rom. 10:16). After being preached to, the eunuch knew he needed to be baptized. Phillip said, “If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest.”

This is the “belief” of Romans 10:9-10 which leads one “unto” righteousness. The eunuch then “acknowledged” Jesus as the Son of God. This is the “confession” of Romans 10:9-10 which leads “unto” salvation. After the eunuch’s belief and confession Phillip didn’t welcome him to God’s family, but proceeded to “baptize” him “into Christ” (Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3) where salvation is (Mk. 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:21) for the remission of his sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16). And the eunuch’s rejoicing didn’t take place until he was “come up out of the water” (v. 39), signifying “when” “the newness of life” began (Rom. 6:4-5).

Richard Stevens III from *Eastside Edifier*

WHAT IS A CHURCH BUDGET?

1. It is a goal. We take stock of what we are both willing and able to do. It is an orderly approach to the Lord’s work.

2. It is a plan. The church needs to plan its work and work its plan, A budget is a blueprint of what we want to do for the Lord in the forthcoming year.

3. It is a map. The leaders of the congregation do not want to over-commit or under-commit the church in 2008. With a budget based on what the members are willing to do, sensible plans can be made.

4. It is a picture. Having a budget provides us a concrete image of precisely where our money is going: local work, missionary work, benevolence, education, upkeep, etc.

5. It is a ladder. Step by step we can climb upward as we grow in faith, planning, giving, and doing. We need a challenging program (Is anything ever really accomplished without a challenge?). We must realize, however, that even the best laid-out program of work is futile without the means (money) to do it.

6. It is a scriptural operation. It puts the financial burden of the Lord’s work where it belongs— on the members. Thus, it eliminates the need of unscriptural money-raising schemes such as are practiced in the denominational world.

7. It is a satisfaction. The progress we make can be charted as we proceed, giving us a sense of accomplishment

8. It is an opportunity. We enjoy the privilege of watching the church grow in grace, faith, knowledge, spirit, and liberality as we share our worldly goods (entrusted to us by God) more and more with the Master in His cause. Each man, woman, and child can see where his “gifts of love” are going. Each member can know he or she is a vital part— no matter how small that part may be (as long as it is his best)—of the Christ’s labors.

A **budget** is a way of doing God’s work in an **orderly** manner.

Author Unknown

“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”
2 Cor. 9:7

ILL

Sunday: Melissa Cole (AM), Jessica Carter (AM), Louise Dodson (PM). **Wednesday:** Steve, Lauren, and Lindsey Brown.

Cleo Stone continues his treatment at Olathe Medical Center.

Those battling cancer: Jamal Abyad, David Cole, Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Robin Brown was away on business Wednesday night.

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

The monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held this Sunday, January 13 following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

SATURDAY SEMINAR

The 39th Street congregation in Independence will hold a Saturday Seminar on Saturday, January 19 starting at 9:30 AM. See the flyer in the foyer for details about the lessons and speakers.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 50; Sunday PM, 35; Wednesday PM, 29.

God's Plan of Salvation

Believe in Jesus Christ..... Mark 16:16
Repent of your sins..... Acts 2:38
Confess the Lord Jesus Romans 10:9-10
Be baptized and wash away your sins Acts 22:16
Be faithful unto death Revelation 2:10

Those To Serve

January 13, 2008

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Thrasher

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson
SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher
OPENING PRAYER Jeff Nemecek
PRESIDE..... John Cody Carter
ASSIST..... Steve Brown
ASSIST..... John James
CLOSING PRAYER..... John Dodson

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Chris Edwards
CLOSING PRAYER..... George Thomas
LORD'S SUPPER..... John Cody Carter

WEDNESDAY 16th

SONG LEADER..... Steve Brown
INVITATION Trent Thrasher

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher
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