

## **“Calling on the name of the Lord”**

*“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.”* (Matthew 7:21) Jesus revealed that there will be many people who will do many good things in His name, but they will not enter the heavenly kingdom because they are workers of iniquity, practicing beliefs and religion which are not according to God’s law (vs. 22, 23). These people may call on the Lord’s name, but they will not be delivered. To some this may appear to contradict the words of Joel when he prophesied, *“And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be delivered”* (Joel 2:32).

Misunderstandings have risen today among denominations over this subject because people have failed to learn what it means to call on the name of the Lord. God defines this teaching for us in the specific applications of this action in His revealed Word. Peter’s preaching on the day of Pentecost put Joel’s prophecy in the proper time frame (Acts 2:14-21). He explained that the promise has reference to the salvation of sinners in Jesus upon hearing the gospel of Christ. There is no other person unto whom sinful man may turn because *“there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved”* (Acts 4:12). When a person turns to the Lord’s name for salvation, he must invoke the authority of the Lord Jesus to save him. On the road to Damascus, Saul became a believer in Jesus Christ, God’s Son, and for three days he called upon God through fasting and prayer, but his calling still had not saved him because he was still in his sins. Ananias finally arrived and said to Saul, *“And why do you delay? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.”* (Acts 22:16) To invoke the Lord’s authority means to appeal unto God on the basis of what He has spoken in His word, knowing He will do what He has promised when an individual submits in obedience unto His will. On Pentecost the apostles, who exhorted Jews to be saved, told them what they must do to call on the Lord’s name to be saved. *“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”* (Acts 2:38)