

Let Us Call upon the Lord in Truth

(Psalm 145:18)

Introduction:

1. In our lesson we are studying an important subject that is mentioned twice in Psalm 145:18 -- "calling upon the Lord."
2. Before we examine several passages that deal with "calling upon the Lord," let us first make 2 observations from this verse.
 - a. First, this verse supplies motivation for calling upon the Lord -- "He is near to all who call upon Him."
 - b. Second, this verse emphasizes the necessity of calling upon the Lord "*in truth.*"
 - 1) This implies that it possible to call upon the Lord in a way that is not in truth.
 - 2) Since this is the case we need to study this subject carefully so we can comply with the Scriptures when we call upon the Lord.
3. Let us begin our study by determining . . .

Discussion:

- I. WHEN MEN BEGAN TO CALL UPON THE LORD
 - A. To learn when this practice was begun, see Genesis 4:26b.
 - B. Prior to this,:
 1. (vs.1-8) Cain and Abel presented offerings to God, and Cain killed Abel
 2. (vs.25) Adam and Eve had another son named Seth
 3. (vs.26a) Seth had a son named Enos.
 - C. At this point men began to call upon the name of the Lord.
 - D. For our second point we need to show how . . .
- II. THE LORD IS TO BE CALLED UPON AT DIFFERENT TIMES AND FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS
 - A. The Lord's people are to call upon Him during times of trouble, asking Him for assistance (Psalm 18:3, 6; 116:1-4; Hebrews 4:16).
 - B. The Lord's people are to call upon Him for salvation from sin (Psalm 116:13).
 - C. The Lord's people are to call upon Him while worshiping and offering thanks to Him (Psalm 116:17).
 - D. The Bible associates calling upon the Lord with "worship," "asking the Lord for assistance during times of trouble," and "being saved from sin."
 - E. While all of these are important, let us concentrate on . . .
- III. WHAT IS INVOLVED IN CALLING UPON THE LORD TO BE SAVED
 - A. Jesus taught that calling on Him includes obedience to His will.

1. Jesus made this very clear in Matthew 7:21; Luke 6:46.
 2. To call upon the Lord to be saved we must comply with His instructions.
- B. In Acts 2:16-21, Peter connected salvation with calling on the name of the Lord.
1. Peter was quoting a prophecy made many years earlier in Joel 2:28-32.
 2. Joel's prophecy was finally being fulfilled on Pentecost.
 3. What did Peter tell the people on Pentecost to do? (see Acts 2:37-38)
 4. The good news is that salvation from sin is still available to those who call upon the Lord in this way.
- C. In Romans 10:12-13, Paul showed that everyone must call upon the Lord's name to be saved.
1. Joel, Peter, and Paul used the word "*whosoever*."
 2. This includes everyone, regardless of ethnic or racial background.
 3. We learn further from vs.14 that we must be taught about the Lord before we can call upon Him for salvation.
- D. In Acts 22:10-16, Ananias taught Saul how to call on the Lord's name so he could be saved [this is exactly what he did -- Acts 9:18b].

Conclusion:

1. Calling upon the Lord for salvation includes believing that Jesus is God's Son, repenting, confessing faith in Christ, and being baptized in water.
2. Those who are saved can call upon the Lord when:
 - a. worshiping Him
 - b. assistance is needed during times of trouble.