

Eternity Daily Bible Study - No. 350
Series: The Primal Church - Acts Chapters 1-8
Verses: Acts 2:21
Topic: All Who Call On The Lord Are Saved
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Please note – the following article and diagrams of the Ascension of Jesus Christ will be a big help as we study Acts 1-8 - <http://aibi.gospelcom.net/aibi/ascension.htm>

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Acts 2:21 MKJV And it shall be that everyone who shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

This promise of Joel about abundant salvation was not an accidental statement of Peter's and was no isolated text, in fact it became a cornerstone of Paul's basic gospel outlined in Romans 10:

Romans 10:9-13 MKJV Because if you confess the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved. (10) For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth one confesses unto salvation. (11) For the Scripture says, "Everyone believing on Him shall not be put to shame." (12) For there is no difference both of Jew and of Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call on Him. (13) For everyone, "whoever shall call on the name of the Lord will be saved."

This verse tells us that salvation is abundant, easy, free and instantaneous. This is confirmed a few verses later on where it says: Acts 2:41 MKJV Then those who gladly received his word were baptized. And the same day there were added about three thousand souls.

Thus Christian salvation is not some long arduous costly penance in sackcloth and ashes. Neither does Christian salvation involve saying hundreds of Masses or thousands of rosaries and prayers to dead saints.

Salvation in the Day of Pentecost involved: repenting, believing/gladly receiving his word, calling on Jesus and being baptized in His Name and receiving the Holy Spirit. This all happened without any formality, without any sacrifices, or any money being exchanged, or any priestly rituals by men in long robes. It was free, it was abundant, it was instantaneous, it was powerful and it was informal lay preaching by a Spirit-filled fisherman.

Christian salvation does not involve an eight-fold path or a long course in theology. Christian salvation is as simple as: "And it shall be that everyone who shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Salvation is very simple: I have a cousin who was saved at eighteen months when he kept putting a gospel tract in the washing machine (a wordless book with black,

red, and white pictures of the heart) and when his mother (my aunt is a child evangelist) asked Jeremy why he kept doing this he replied “I want a clean heart”. He called on the name of the Lord and was saved! I have seen people who could not read saved, and people with no education saved, and tribal people in remote areas of the world saved.

In Muslim lands new believers cannot ever attend a church – but they are still saved. Some of them have never seen a bible but have met Christ in dreams and visions and perhaps through preaching – and yet they have called on Him and been saved.

Such a person knows little about the historical Jesus and nothing about the Trinity. Such a person is saved because their human spirit calls out to God and desires relationship, and asks forgiveness and wants to receive God’s love through Christ, in the name of Jesus.

Salvation does not require money, knowledge or rituals. It does require repentance and faith and a calling on the powerful name of Jesus and a reception of the Holy Spirit.

The name of Jesus has real power. You can test the incredible power of the name of Jesus by using it to rebuke a demon – the demon obeys. The name of Jesus has power and authority and brings healing and salvation and deliverance. The name of Jesus is the doorway to the presence and power and healing and salvation and love of God. John 10:9 MKJV I am the door. If anyone enters in by Me, he shall be saved and shall go in and out and find pasture.

The abundant, free, easy and instantaneous salvation of Acts has been made out to be narrow, costly, hard and gradual in many quarters. It is not in the interest of ecclesiastical power to have salvation too freely available! But this is what Jesus says about the nature of salvation: Matthew 11:28-30 MKJV Come to Me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (29) Take My yoke on you and learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you shall find rest to your souls. (30) For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.

The apostle John confirms this lack of complexity: 1 John 5:3 MKJV For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments, and His commandments are not burdensome.

People are saved simply by calling on the name of Jesus – and not by adhering to any ecclesiastical system. There is a very common notion that salvation comes from joining a spiritual organization, then agreeing to its tenets, then conforming to its practices and receiving the approval of the priest or guru or senior pastor, which may or may not be dependent on paying a tithe. The person receives spiritual approval and emotional assurance of heaven in return for what the organization deems to be “good behaviour”. This is a travesty of the gospel!

Salvation is not the same as approval by clergy. Salvation is approval by God because you have called on the name of His beloved Son who died for you to reconcile you to God.

Salvation is abundant, easy, free and instantaneous and is offered through believing the preaching of the gospel. Baptism is your way of saying that you have repented and believed and now wish to be immersed in God and have called on the name of Jesus into which you are baptized. And all the aspects of salvation – healing, deliverance, emotional restoration, breaking of habits, healing of memories and so forth are in the same mold – that is they are abundant, easy, free and instantaneous and are obtained by calling on the name of Jesus. You probably find that last sentence to be quite outrageous – you may have had a habit or an illness for years. You may have often “prayed about it” and it has not moved.

Try this: Call out earnestly and personally to Jesus as earnestly and personally as the blind men on the road to Jericho, then be still and silent and wait for Jesus to turn up, and command this habit/illness/problem to be gone in His name. I have often seen amazing things happen on the spot when this is done.

Blessings,

John Edmiston

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