

Steve Clem's TSOM Internship Journal

Date: 3.12.2010

Scripture: Romans 10:1:13; with emphasis on verse 13, which is the last verse for the Romans Road method of sharing Christ with non-believers.

More in-depth reading: Leviticus 18:5; Deuteronomy 30:12-14; Isaiah 28:16; Joel 2:30-32

Insight: For, "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." It is very clear that throughout the New Testament, and in Romans 10, that salvation from the Lord is for "all", regardless of whether Jew or Gentile. Point blank, verse 13, Paul is quoting the prophet Joel concerning the promise of God that there is provision for deliverance for the remnant whom "the Lord calls". Romans 12:3 indicates that ".....as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith." So, we see that there is a reciprocal call and an answer when it comes to salvation.

So what does it really mean to call upon the Lord? Is it a matter of just saying the words and invoking some religious rite? Of course, not. However, I have heard modern Christians discuss how evangelistic literature misguides people into a false sense of security as to what actually constitutes salvation. We see from Joel that it is the Lord who calls. And from Paul, in Romans 10:1-13 that salvation is a matter of belief manifested in heartfelt verbal communication. To invoke the Lord is to call upon Him for one's self, on one's behalf for help and to appeal to. It's a realization that there is One who is larger than life, larger than us, and larger than our issues. To confess with our mouths is a manifestation that we agree with scripture about the Lord Jesus Christ's testimony and concede. Our declaration of the heart tells that we are guilty in the eye's of God and through praise & thanksgiving, we celebrate that Jesus Christ did in fact die on the cross for our sins. He was resurrected from the dead by God. Everything about our future rests on our belief, for if we cannot believe this, then we cannot believe that God will fulfill His promise to bring us home or that the rest of scripture is true. The reason why those who fight Jesus have such a hard time, is because they are calling Him a liar in their hearts. You cannot receive the salvation blessing from God and call Him a liar at the same time. The heart believes in Christ's righteousness and the mouth confessing leads to salvation.

I would reason, that if anyone is merely questioning and doubting, then there is still hope that by God's grace, the truth can spring forth into the heart. The result of true belief in Christ is measured in our confidence as we credit God with the honor and respect due Him. This belief is an intellectual faith in a moral sense, yet the other side of the coin is that saving faith is what we need. Saving faith encompasses restorative healing from suffering, sickness, and disease. It preserves and rescues one who is in danger of destruction. It delivers from the perils of Messianic judgment and the evils that obstruct the reception of Messianic deliverance.

Prayer Request(s): Lord, knowledge is great, but transferring knowledge and understanding in a meaningful way to others is a challenge for me. I have a lot to learn about relating to someone and focusing on what they need for the moment. My mind needs to be able to change gears without getting lost and going down a path that is not helpful to someone who needs just enough information to take the steps they need.

Answered Prayer: Lord, thank you for sending me down this path. Thank you for providing the online research tools that are helping me get back to basics. Thank you for focusing me on what matters for today and on the needs of those who cannot see what I see or hear what I hear.

Insights into non-biblical reading: none.

Personal reflection: Lord Jesus, I believe You were crucified on the cross for my sins, that You were raised from the dead on the 3rd day, and that You ascended into heaven to the right hand of God, The Father. I believe You are there now and that You sent the Holy Spirit into my heart to remind me of You and my need for You. I believe that You have a work for me to do on earth. I believe that I need Your help to fulfill this work and that I leave much to be desired. I believe You will not leave me or forsake me. I believe if I stumble that You will pick me up. I believe that if I fight You, You will win me over. I believe that I do not want to be separated from You for all of eternity. I believe that Your love is powerful enough to persuade me to finish the race. I believe that when I see You, I will fall at Your feet with fear and trembling, and my crown will be at Your feet. I believe You are the only One who is worthy to receive Glory, Honor, and Praise.