

A Look at Romans 10, verses 12-21

By Leon King

Romans 10:12-21 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. **13** For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. **14** How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? **15** And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! **16** But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? **17** So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. **18** But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world. **19** But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by *them that are* no people, *and* by a foolish nation I will anger you. **20** But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me. **21** But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.

- **Verse 12:** – There is no difference between the Jew and the Greek (Gentile): Why? Because the same LORD over all is rich unto all that call upon him. Amen and amen!
- **Verse 13:** – For whosoever shall call upon the name of the LORD shall be saved. Blessedly true! This is a quote from the OT. Let us look at it:
 - **Joel 2:32** *And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.*

It is said, that in order to be saved it is necessary to call on the Lord, and that whoever does so shall be saved. Here, as in other places of

Scripture, *the name of the Lord* signifies the Lord Himself. By calling on the name of the Lord, all the parts of godly and true worship which we render to God are meant. Calling on the name of the Lord means a full and entire communion with God. He who calls on the name of the Lord, profoundly humbles himself before God, recognizes God's power, adores His majesty, believes His promises, confides in His goodness, hopes in His mercy, honors Him as his God, and loves Him as his Savior. To call on the name of the Lord, is to place ourselves under His protection, and to continually turn to Him for His aid.

No one ever called upon the Lord, in the Scripture sense of this phrase, without being saved. It is here as expressly said, 'Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved,' as it is, 'Whoever believeth shall be saved.' When the Apostle here speaks of calling upon the Lord, he refers to the Lord Jesus Christ, whom he had named in Rom. 10:9.

Romans 10:9 *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.*

In the same way he addresses the church at Corinth, 'With all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.' In thus calling upon the Lord, a believer, like Enoch, walks with God. It is not only that he prays to God at stated seasons; his life is a life of prayer.

- **Is there a reason a person calls on the name of the Lord? Let us notice the next verse:**
- **Verse 14:** - How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? Three things

precede a person having the desire and ability to call on the LORD and be saved. They are explained in this verse.

- (1) They must believe. Believe what? That Jesus Christ is the only begotten son of the living God and that he came to save his people from their sins. He did that when he died on the cross.
- (2) They must hear. But not everyone has “ears to hear” the scripture says again and again. Before he can believe (have faith), he must have spiritual ears to hear. Only an act of God can provide a man with spiritual ears to hear. He must be quickened – or made alive from his dead state, for he is naturally “dead in trespasses and in sins.” Then he can hear. How often have we seen scores of people sit under a gospel sermon and are never affected by it? They heard it – but didn’t hear it!
- (3) They hear the gospel by use of a preacher. Preachers are sent to preach the glorious gospel of Christ promiscuously. They sow the seed, God’s word. But the ground must be prepared of God. Only the good ground can produce fruit, that is, show life from the implanted seed. (See Matthew 13:1-23).
- As we consider the remaining verses, we are reminded of the context of Romans 10. The entire chapter is an explanation of Paul’s heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel, that they might be saved (verse 1).
 - **Verse 15:** - Preachers preach because they are sent of God.
 - **Verse 16:** - But the hearers have not all obeyed the gospel – Isaiah proves that in Isaiah 53:1.
 - **Verse 17:** - Faith comes by hearing. That is, it become active by a true hearing of the gospel. But again, one must have ears to hear. He must be made alive before he can hear. In short, he must be born from above before he can hear or perceive the kingdom of God.

- **Verse 18:** - Have not they all heard? Absolutely, because the sound has gone into all the earth – even to ends of it. Many have heard with their natural ears, but...
 - **Verse 19:** - God provokes Israel to Jealousy by them that are no people (the gentiles).
 - **Verse 20:** - Isaiah prophesied that the LORD was found of them that sought him not and was made manifest unto them that asked not after him. (The gentiles)
 - **Verse 21:** - Shows the longsuffering of God toward Israel.
- It is blessedly true that all who call on the name of the LORD in this manner shall be saved. There is a LOT behind the calling on the LORD!