

# Calling On HIS Name!

It's time for another brief summary of Paul's letter thus far:

Paul's not ashamed of a saving message. All need to be saved because all sinned. Jesus saved people who could not save themselves. Therefore, one should not boast in their moral performance but lean on Him and put their trust in Jesus. All have gone the way of Adam and know what that brings. Praise Jesus for His grace that reigns through all our sins. That doesn't mean one should sin, so grace abounds. Nor does it mean that one should sin because they're under grace and not law. All should be obedient slaves of righteousness. And all need Jesus because law proves to be death for all. No, Paul's audience was obligated to be led by the Spirit so they could please God. And praise God for being with His people through their suffering. The Spirit intercedes, God has called and justified, and such people have the Love and security of Jesus. Paul then discussed his love for the Jews, but the reality was that the nation as a whole was lost. The fact that God chose the nation to be His servant did not guarantee their salvation. God has made many promises in the past to a people who did not deserve or earn His favor. Being a Jew wouldn't save them. Having faith in Jesus would. However, they rejected Jesus. That was the problem!

## Understanding the Text:

### **Vs.1-4**

- Paul confirmed their condemnation (as a whole).
- He wasn't saying they lacked knowledge. He was saying they ignored righteousness that could only be established through Christ.
- They were zealous about what they wanted to know and recognize. They were zealous about paving their own way into eternal life (though they didn't see it that way).
  - We should pay close attention and avoid falling into the same trap. You cannot pick and choose what part of God's revelation fits you. You cannot always choose the road of least resistance. It will cost everything to follow Jesus, but it will cost everything to not follow Him.

### **Vs. 5-8**

- Paul capitalized on what their Old Covenant confirmed: there was law and grace.
- Vs.5: Leviticus 18:1-5; Galatians 3:12; Romans 7:10. If you want to "live," do.
- Vs.6-8: Deuteronomy 30:11-14. Yet, Moses encouraged them that God wasn't asking for too much. See, God has always been merciful. He's always given grace. He wanted their hearts. He wanted their belief and trust.
  - Christ already came down to His people. Christ was raised from the dead. God doesn't need them to do the heavy lifting. Nor did He make it too difficult for those in Paul's day. "It's been given to you, so believe!"

### **Vs. 9-13**

- Vs.11: Isaiah 28:16 (Again, those who trust in themselves, or those who trust in God).
- Vs.13: Acts 2:21; Cited from Joel 2:32. Also Acts 22:16

- Take note. What was associated with "calling on His name?"

### **Vs. 14-17**

- Vs.15: Isaiah 52:7. During these days, in the shadow of Assyria and the threat of Babylon, he proclaimed the good news of God's deliverance.
- Vs.16: Isaiah 53:1. Nothing new. The same problem Israel of old had. It's essential to understand the context. The thrust is a rebuke.
- Vs.17: They didn't believe, not because they didn't hear, but because they refused to believe what they were being told by the prophets. And the current Jewish nation was, as a whole, refusing to believe what they heard from prophets and apostles. They did not have faith in Christ. They did not, in fact, have faith in God. They rejected Jesus' words. They demanded signs, but as we saw in Jesus' life . . . that didn't really help them either.
  - People aren't hearing about Christ. They're hearing Christ when they hear His word. They are being called by God. "A sermon is an act wherein the crucified, risen Lord personally confronts men either to save or to judge them. Ruskin's famous saying that a sermon is 'thirty minutes to raise the dead' was not far wide off the mark. Preachers cannot raise the dead; only the living Christ can do that. In a real sermon, then, Christ is the Preacher. The Preacher speaks through the preacher." Don Miller (***Fire In Thy Mouth***, page 17).
  - Paul taught that men came to Christ through the proclamation of the gospel. God has sent evangelists (not all are - Ephesians 4:11). You may desire to be a bishop, but there's more to it. We may have prepared many for the pulpit, which the Lord has not blessed with such an ability.

### **Take Jesus Home**

- What was Paul striving to accomplish?
  - A rebuttal to those who think the Holy Spirit talks to them?
  - A reminder to study God's word?
  - A subtle reminder of the necessity of baptism?
  - No. He was encouraging a lost nation to believe in Jesus. He was pointing out how God had made salvation available to them. He reminded them it had gone to Israel, but they rejected the message. Nay, they rejected Jesus (and they had no excuse). His desire for them was to call on the name of the Lord to be saved!
- What does it mean to call on His name? Practically?
  - This is to call on Him. To beg Him for aid and salvation. Who are we calling on? Isaiah 9:6-7.
  - Brethren, we need to call on Jesus' name continually. We don't call on Him once and then cease doing so. We need to call on Him in the following ways:
    - Our marriages, parenting, temptations, growing pains, doubts, decision making, bible study, the local body, etc. You name it . . . we need Him.