

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

Calling on The Name of God

Acts 22:16

Keywords:, Baptism, Salvation, Repentance,

PowerPoint Presentation included: none

SermonAudio Blurb: In Paul's recounting of his conversions to Jesus Christ we come across a verse that has caused a lot of confusion by some. In verse 16 we see Ananias tell Paul to get and an be baptized and wash away his sins. This verse and a few others are often pointed to as proof that baptism is how sins are cleansed and forgiven. In this sermon we examine this more closely and see what it is really saying. We find that because one has called upon the name of the Lord that they should be baptized. First the expression of faith and then the expression of obedience.

I. Introduction.

- A. Read Acts 22:14-16.
- B. I want to focus on vs 16 and from there, help you understand the relationship between being forgiven of your sins and baptism.
- C. Today, I want to explain this verse and to do that I will need to explain what it means to call on the name of the Lord. Then, I can show you how baptism is used in the New Testament.

II. What Does Acts 22:16 mean?

- A. Two commands, be baptized and wash away your sins.
- B. So, this leads to the question, if Paul did not get baptized would his sins still be present? Would he be still under God's judgment and not forgiven?
 - 1. First, we need to learn a bit about this idea of calling on the name of the Lord.
 - 2. Second, the nature of baptism in Acts and the epistles.
- C. First, the idea of calling on His name.
 - 1. Whose name?
 - 2. Now, what does it mean to "call on His name?" Literally, what would that look like? Is it just saying "Jesus!" or something more?
 - a. 1 Corinthians 12:3 where Paul says, *"therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, 'Jesus is*

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

accursed"; and no one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit."

3. This idea is very Jewish and finds its roots in the Old Testament.
4. Joel 2:32 is key, because this shows up in the NT in various places.
 - a. This is a passage speaking of the coming day called the "day of the Lord/YHWH.
 - b. Vs 13 is important for it speaks to the need for Israel to repent and return to YHWH.
 - (1) Meanwhile, most of the Jews would skip that and go to the last part of Joel 2 about how God restores the nation and save her.
 - (2) But that does not occur without vs 13 happening first. And this remains to this day.
 - c. V32 you find the phrase. The context is seeing the great day of the Lord when He returns and the impending judgment is upon them.
 - d. The grand promise for the Jew is if they will not run from or resist in pride, rather, they cry out to be saved from His wrath, they will be saved. It is a recognition that the only way to be rescued by God's judgment is turning to God alone.
5. Jeremiah 10:25, Pour out Your wrath on the nations that do not know You And on the families that do not call Your name, For they have devoured Jacob; They have devoured him and consumed him And have made desolate his abode.
6. Zephaniah 3:9, *"For then I will change them to peoples with purified lips, That all of them may call on the name of Yahweh, To serve Him shoulder to shoulder."*

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

7. Zechariah 13:9, *"And I will bring the third part through the fire And refine them as silver is refined And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them; I will say, 'They are My people,' And they will say, 'Yahweh is my God.'"*

8. Now we can go to Romans to see how Paul refers to this same idea.
 - a. Romans 10:12-14.

9. And this is what is happening here in Acts 22 as Paul is relating how he became a follower of Jesus.
 - a. Hear this in his own words: *"although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless."* (Philippians 3:4-6).

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

- b. And all of this was swept away in an all-consuming moment when he was miraculously confronted by Jesus while traveling to persecute more Christians.
- c. So, when did he "call" upon the Lord?
- d. Genesis 4:26.
- e. 2 Samuel 22:1-4.
- f. 1 Chronicles 16:8, here David calls upon Asaph to lead the people in thanksgiving to God
 - (1) And songs that call upon God. To beckon God to hear and attend to us.
 - (2) The hymn, Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise:

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish—but nought changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render: O help us to see
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

g. Then in Psalm 14:4 you have the opposite idea portrayed.

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

10. To sum this whole thing up, Calling upon the Name of the Lord is a way to express, define a life of belief.

D. Second, the nature of baptism in Acts and the Epistles.

1. First, in the book of Acts, baptism was tightly connected to repentance and faith. These all were used interchangeably to speak about how to have forgiveness of sins.
 - a. Repentance: So Peter says in 3:19, *"Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away. . . ."*
 - b. Belief/faith: In 10:43, Peter says it this way. *"Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."*
 - c. Now notice how baptism comes into this picture.
 - (1) First, in 2:38, "And Peter said to them, *"Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*
 - (2) And here in 22:16, when Ananias sees that Paul has called upon the Lord, then show it, display it in going and getting baptized. And in this showing his sins are washed away.
 - d. This is a public event and it is seen with a declaration of Jesus as Lord.
2. One more passage to read and then we can sum this all up. 1 Corinthians 1:13-17.

III. Conclusion.

- A. There are two major errors that people often commit in thinking about baptism. The first is to ignore it as a suggestion. And the second is to think that in the act of

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

baptism that you find salvation and forgiveness. Both are serious and are not acceptable.

- B. If you claim Jesus to be the only way of salvation, through His death and resurrection. If you claim to follow and love Him. And yet you actively reject baptism, then there is no reason for anyone to think you actually love, follow or believe in Jesus Christ.
- C. And if you think that a person who believes in Jesus has to go get baptized immediately because only then does sin get forgiven, you also are in serious danger of your soul. You have shifted the act and work of forgiveness off of God through Jesus His Son and onto water.

Benediction

May you go in the love of the Father resting in the fulness of His grace. May you walk in hope through the rich calling in which you have in Jesus Christ our Lord. May your power not be found in you but through the presence of the Holy Spirit. And may we all continue to grow together in true unity.