

“Christianity Explained: How Do You Become A Christian? (Part 6)

[Call Upon the Name of the Lord]”

Here’s today’s emphasis: *a person becomes a Christian by calling on the name of the Lord.* Both Peter (in Acts 2:21) and Paul (in Romans 10:13) quote part of Joel’s prophesy of the Day of the Lord (see Joel 2:32). Here’s how Paul recorded it in Romans 10:13: “*For ‘whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’*” In this passage Paul emphasizes the importance of being a Christian witness (not keeping the Gospel to ourselves but sharing it with others). He reminds us that no one could become a Christian if those who are Christians don’t share this Good News with those who are not yet Christians. But, as Christians do speak to others about the Christian Gospel and explain Christianity, unbelievers will hear the Good News and believe and call upon the name of the Lord and get saved!

This great verse (repeated three times in Scripture) tells us **how a person becomes a Christian.** If a person does what this verse talks about, they *shall be saved.* We should embrace every verse (like this one) which gives us such great assurance of salvation. But we should also approach the final judgment with holy fear, recognizing that God is the ultimate Judge, and the One who knows all things, and the only One who admits people into His heaven. We also learn from this great verse that **God’s gift of salvation is available to all!** God’s covenant started with the Jews, but through Christ, His New Covenant also extends to the Gentiles. Anyone and everyone who does what this great verse talks about shall be saved. God doesn’t want anyone to perish; He wants everyone to come to repentance. He will leave ninety-nine saved ones to seek and to save one who is lost. But just because God wants everyone to be saved doesn’t mean that everyone ends up in heaven when they die. Truthfully, the redeemed citizens of heaven will be more like a remnant than the whole of humanity. This is because every individual must choose to meet God’s requirements for salvation, or they will remain lost.

This great verse teaches us that to become a Christian a person must **call for help.** If we’re not able to handle an emergency ourselves, we call 911 to request help from the experts. In order to be saved a person must ask for help. This implies that the person is acknowledging that they are in trouble, and they cannot rescue themselves, and the One they are calling out to is able to help. Whether it’s a silent cry from the heart, or an appeal that is spoken aloud, a person must cry out to attract the Helper’s attention. It might be as simple a cry as: “Save me,” or “help!” When a person realizes they are sinking, or drowning, or in great trouble they must cry out for help in order to be saved. This great verse teaches us that to become a Christian a person must **call upon the name of the Lord.** When crying out for salvation a person can’t just put out a broad appeal to cover all the bases. You must call out to the only One who can save you. So many people call the wrong number when searching for salvation. In the Old Testament, Joel identified the only true God as Yahweh. In the New Testament, both Peter and Paul identified the only Savior of the

world as Jesus Christ. Jesus is able to deliver you! Only He can help you. Only He offers what you truly need. So, cry out to Jesus for salvation.

Discussion Guide/Action Steps

1. Has the devil ever attacked you and tried to get you to doubt your salvation? Embrace Scriptures (like today's text) which provide assurance of our salvation.
2. Continually pray a Psalm 139 prayer: *Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and try me to see if there is any wicked way in me. If there is, convict me, Holy Spirit, so I can repent and confess my sin and be forgiven and be cleansed of all unrighteousness.*
3. Have you acknowledged your true, spiritual need? Have you beseeched for help? If not, why not? What are you waiting for?
4. Are you ready to call upon the Lord? You can cry out to Jesus for salvation, using simple prayers like this:
 - *“Jesus, help me!”*
 - *“Jesus, save me!”*
 - *“Jesus, I trust You alone for salvation!”*
 - *“Jesus, come to me!”*
 - *“Jesus, make Yourself real to me!”*
 - *“Jesus, I choose You alone to be my Savior and Lord!”*