

Things Hard To Understand (#5)

Calling on the Name of the Lord

Text: Romans 10:8-13

Introduction:

1. As we have seen, there are many passages hard to understand (2 Peter 3:16), but that does not deny they can be known (John 8:32).
2. Today's lesson will continue an examination of some things which, as Peter says, those who are "unlearned and unstable wrest." The tragedy is that it is not to their destruction alone, but to those who will follow their perverted teachings instead of the truth that makes one free.
3. Our text contains one of the "sugar sticks" of the denominational doctrine of salvation by "faith alone" – just "call upon the name of the Lord" and you "shall be saved." [It doesn't seem to bother them that teaching "faith alone" and then telling someone to "call upon the name of the Lord" is itself a contradiction!]
2. There are 3 texts in which we see that "calling on the name of the Lord" is divinely equated with eternal salvation – Romans 10:13; Acts 2:21 and Acts 22:16. Since man is not the source of truth, nor is he united upon what this phrase means or how one is saved, our task will be to examine the context of these passages so as to ascertain what God says this phrase means as it relates to the alien sinner. (We specify the alien sinner, because the term "call upon the Lord" is used also of the children of God when they place their trust in Him). As we conclude we will see if our conclusion is in contradiction with other passages in the Bible which speak of how man is saved.

Discussion:

I. The Phrase As Used in Romans 10:13

II. The Phrase As Used in Acts 2:21

III. The Phrase As Used in Acts 22:16

Conclusion:

1. One of the tests of an accurate exegesis is to find if the conclusion agrees with other plain teachings of the Bible on the same subject. Since our subject is salvation let's ask that question – "Does it agree with other passages regarding salvation?" - Yes!
2. Having examined these Bible texts, the real question becomes, "Do I want to know what God wants me to do to be saved (call on the name of the Lord) or do I want to know what some man or organization says I must do?"