

## Lesson 21

### What about Accepting the Lord?

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Opening Verse: **John 12:48**

*He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the **word** that I have spoken, the same **shall judge** him in the last day.*

#### Introduction:

This verse involves a very serious responsibility for us to obey the Word of God since it is God's Word that is going to judge us in the last days. For our soul to be saved, we need to obey the CORRECT doctrine of salvation that the Bible teaches.

A very common belief in the Non-denominational Christian community is the doctrine of salvation by **Accepting the Lord as your Personal Savior**. That statement may sound very "biblical" and convincing but is this really the correct biblical doctrine of SALVATION?

In this lesson, we are going to carefully study the Word of God in order to find out if this is indeed a true and correct biblical doctrine of salvation.

#### Is This a Biblical Statement?

In the KJV, you will find only three verses where the word, **accept** is used in the context of Salvation:

**Acts 10:35** *But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is **accepted** with him.*

**2 Corinthians 5:9** *Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be **accepted** of him.*

**Ephesians 1:5-6** *Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us **accepted** in the beloved.*

- In all of these verses, it is **God** Who is doing the **accepting**, not man.
- You will not find any verse in the Bible that even remotely suggests that "man" is accepting the Lord.

#### NOTES

##### **1 Peter 3:15**

*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and **be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:***

But is it a “HARMLESS” statement anyway since the thought is still directed towards God?

To accept = to approve (per Strong’s)

For man to accept the Lord as his Savior is **NOT** a **Biblical** statement because the terminology denotes a concept of **superiority** wherein man, the one “accepting,” appears to be MORE superior than God, the One Who is being “accepted.”

It is just like saying that *we are approving God to save us*. In that same context, it also implies that we are supposedly the ones “**showing kindness or favor**” to God. Jesus should be the One doing all the accepting by His own conditions.

We never want to use any un-biblical statements in professing the Truth since we would never want to add or take away from the Word of God:

**Revelation 22:18–19** <sup>18</sup> For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: <sup>19</sup> And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Examples of **Biblical Statements** that we can/should use:

- Have you surrendered or given your life to Christ?
- Have you obeyed the gospel of Jesus Christ?
- Have you been born-again of the water and the spirit?

What is their **APPLICATION** for Accepting the Lord as their Personal Savior?

- It is mainly reciting the **SINNER’S PRAYER** which involves repentance and asking God to come into their life.
- **Water baptism** is OPTIONAL and is NOT in Jesus’ Name (more as a sign of public confession, and not required for salvation).
- Absence of seeking for the infilling of the **Holy Ghost** or there is no tangible and biblical sign for the infilling of the Holy Ghost (speaking in tongues).

## NOTES

### *Sinner’s Prayer*

*Dear Lord Jesus,  
I know that I am a  
sinner, and I ask for Your  
forgiveness. I believe You  
died for my sins and rose  
from the dead. I turn  
from my sins and invite  
You to come into my  
heart and life. I want to  
trust and follow You as  
my Lord and Savior.*

**Accepting the Lord as Personal Savior DOCTRINE:**

By reciting the sinner's prayer = all sins are forgiven and eternal Salvation is granted.

The following verses are commonly used to support that:

**Romans 10:13** *For whosoever shall **call** upon the name of the Lord **shall be saved**.*

**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**.*

Although you may have 2 – 3 verses that seem to support your doctrine of Salvation, **you still need to find out:**

- If the **CONTEXT** of your interpretation is **correct**.
- If there are any **OTHER** verses (or doctrines) in the Bible that **contradict** that teaching.

**2 Timothy 2:15** *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth**.*

**2 Timothy 3:16** *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is **profitable for doctrine**, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

**2 Peter 1:20** *Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of **any private interpretation**.*

### Studying the CONTEXT of **Romans 10:13**:

What does it mean to **CALL** upon the name of the Lord (**Rom. 10:13** *For whosoever shall **call** upon the name of the Lord shall be saved*)?

Per Strong's: **Shall call upon** = to put a name upon;  
to surname

- As you study the Greek root word of this phrase, it reveals that CALLING requires MORE than a verbal communication!
- That it actually **involves our surname becoming Jesus!**
- It also implies that a significant "action" is required before we could be surnamed Jesus.
- We will learn about this ACTION on the next pages ...

To get more context on verse 13, let's study the **FOLLOWING** verse: **Romans 10:14**

*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?*

- So, CALLING upon Jesus requires **BELIEVING** in Him first!
- And what does **BELIEVING** really mean? The next few verses qualify the full meaning of **BELIEVING**:

**Romans 10:15–16** *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! But they have not all **obeyed the gospel**. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath **believed** our report?*

- So, **Believing** is about **OBEYING the GOSPEL!**

**WHO was sent to preach the GOSPEL? The Apostles!**

**Mark 16:15** *And he said unto them (the 11 disciples), Go ye into all the world, and **preach the gospel** to every creature.*

**What was the GOSPEL that the Apostles preached?**

**Acts 2:38**

<sup>38</sup> *Then Peter said unto them, **Repent**, and **be baptized** every one of you **in the name of Jesus Christ** for the remission of sins, and ye shall **receive the gift of the Holy Ghost**.*

**Therefore ...**

**To CALL upon the name of the Lord = To OBEY the Gospel**  
(Rom. 10:13) (Rom. 10:14-16)

**To OBEY the Gospel = Repentance**

**Baptism is Jesus' Name**

**Receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost**

(Mark 16:15, Acts 2:38)

**\*To CALL upon the name of the Lord = Repentance, Baptism in Jesus' Name and Receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost.**

**ADDITIONAL REFERENCE:** [Calling upon the name of the Lord is biblically LINKED to the obedience of the Gospel](#) in Peter's response to the multitudes who questioned the outpouring of the Holy Ghost on the Day of Pentecost:

**Acts 2:16–17**

<sup>16</sup> *But this is that which was [spoken by the prophet Joel](#);*

<sup>17</sup> *And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, **I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh:** and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:*

**Acts 2:20–21**

<sup>20</sup> *The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:*

<sup>21</sup> *And it shall come to pass, **that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.***

**Acts 2:32–33**

<sup>32</sup> *This **Jesus** hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. <sup>33</sup> Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father **the promise of the Holy Ghost**, he hath shed forth this, **which ye now see and hear.***

Here's the exact reference: [Joel 2:28–29, 32](#) <sup>28</sup> *And it shall come to pass afterward, **That I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh;** And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions:*

<sup>29</sup> *And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids **In those days will I pour out my spirit.***

<sup>30</sup> *And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, Blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. <sup>31</sup> The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, Before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come. <sup>32</sup> And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall **call on the name of the LORD** shall be delivered:*

**THEN Peter proclaims to them how to obey the Gospel in Acts 2:38, after they were convicted of their sins (vs. 37).**

**MORE** on the **CONTEXT** of **Romans 10:13**: *For whosoever shall **call** upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

Per Strong's: **Shall call upon** = to put a name upon;  
to surname

- CALLING requires MORE than a verbal communication!
- It involves our **SURNAME** being **CHANGED**!
- It requires significant **ACTION** before the **FAMILY NAME** of Jesus can be put upon us!
- And **Water Baptism** is the action that washes away our sins and puts the family name of God upon us!

Calling on the Name = **Being Baptized in Jesus' Name**

**Acts 22:16** Saul's Testimony

<sup>16</sup> *And now why tarriest thou? arise, and **be baptized**, and wash away thy sins, **calling on the name of the Lord.***

**Ephesians 3:14–15** <sup>14</sup> *For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup> **Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,***

**Baptism Qualifies = BELIEVING in the Gospel**

**Mark 16:15–16** <sup>15</sup> *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the **gospel** to every creature. <sup>16</sup> He that **believeth and is baptized** shall be saved; but **he that believeth not** shall be damned.*

Belief in what? **The gospel that would be preached by the Apostles.** Verse 16b implies that **BELIEVING** requires an action since it omits the word *baptism*.

**BELIEVING + BAPTISM = SALVATION**

**Acts 10:43-48** – Cornelius and his household

<sup>43</sup> *To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever **believeth** in him **shall receive remission of sins.** <sup>44</sup> While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. <sup>45</sup> And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. <sup>46</sup> For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.*

Then answered Peter, <sup>47</sup> **Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized**, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? <sup>48</sup> **And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.** Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

### **Acts 16:30-33 The Philippian Jailer**

<sup>30</sup> And brought them out, and said, Sirs, **what must I do to be saved?** <sup>31</sup> And they said, **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved**, and thy house. <sup>32</sup> And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. <sup>33</sup> And he took them the same hour of the night, **and washed their stripes; and was baptized**, he and all his, straightway.

### **Why Baptism cannot be Optional for Salvation:**

#### **1. It is for the remission of sins**

**Matthew 26:28** For this is my **blood** of the new testament, which is shed for many **for the remission of sins.**  
**Hebrews 9:22** And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and **without shedding of blood is no remission.**  
**Acts 2:38** <sup>38</sup> ... **be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins**, ...

#### **2. It is our adoption into God's family**

**Galatians 3:26-27** <sup>26</sup> For ye are all the **children of God by faith** in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup> For as many of you as have **been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.**

#### **3. It represents the burial of Christ so that we can be resurrected.**

**Romans 6:3-5** <sup>3</sup> Know ye not, that so many of us as **were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?**  
<sup>4</sup> Therefore **we are buried with him by baptism into death:** that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.  
<sup>5</sup> For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

## NOTES

**Colossians 2:12** **Buried with him in baptism**, wherein **also ye are risen with him** through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

#### **4. The Old Testament supports the necessity of Water Baptism for the New Testament Church.**

#### **1 Peter 3:20-21**

<sup>20</sup> Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, **eight souls were saved by water.** <sup>21</sup> The like figure whereunto **even baptism doth also now save us ...**

**Studying the CONTEXT of Romans 10:9:**

**Rom 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**.*

**Confession** = denotes an **expression of our FAITH in Jesus**

**Romans 10:10**<sup>10</sup> *For with the heart man **believeth** unto righteousness; and with the mouth **confession** is made unto salvation.*

**2 Corinthians 4:13**<sup>13</sup> *We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I **believed**, and therefore have I **spoken**; we also **believe**, and therefore **speak**;*

**Confession is the way faith works** = I hear what God says in my heart, my heart believes it and then I speak the same way with my mouth what the Spirit says to my heart

- Faith is not faith until I believe what I have heard and I speak it in confession!
- So **BELIEVING** or faith precedes **CONFESSING**!
- But **BELIEVING** is **MORE** than a thought!

As we have concluded in our study earlier (on page 4), **BELIEVING = Obeying the Gospel**

And **Obeying the Gospel = Repentance, Baptism in Jesus' Name and Receiving the Gift of the Holy Ghost** (Acts 2:38)

After thoroughly studying the Word of God, we can conclude that, **Calling on the Name of the Lord, or Confessing Jesus as your Savior requires MORE than a verbal communication to Jesus**. No matter how sincere you are in reciting the Sinner's Prayer, that action alone cannot provide you with eternal Salvation. For **Salvation only comes by obeying the Gospel that Jesus commanded His Apostles to preach: Repentance** (making a decision to change), **baptism in Jesus Name** (for the forgiveness of sins) and **receiving the Holy Ghost** (which is God's Spirit and power in us that identifies us with Him, which is also our eternal inheritance in God). (Acts 2:38)



## Difference between Book of ACTS and Book of ROMANS

The Book of Acts records the actions of the Apostles after Jesus ascended and when the NT Church began in Acts 2.

The Book of Romans are part of the Epistles or the letters written to the churches who were converted in the Book of Acts. Thus, they were already baptized in the name of Jesus and have already received the gift of the Holy Ghost.

### The Purpose of the Epistle/letter to the Romans

- The Book of Romans was a letter addressed to the church of Rome. They were converted in the book of Acts. One example is *Cornelius*, a Roman soldier who was converted with his household in Acts 10.
- One of the primary purposes of the **EPISTLES** is to explain the foundation and significance of the born-again experience. Therefore, since the letter was written to the Church or to “saved” people, the Apostle Paul was not writing to saved people **to tell them HOW to be saved**.
- **Every discussion of Salvation** in the books of the Epistles was addressing, teaching and explaining the important topics and instructions concerning the roots, effects and subsequent life experiences relative to the plan of salvation, BUT NOT THE ACTUAL PLAN ITSELF AS PREACHED BY THE APOSTLES.
- **As the Book of ACTS is the only book that records sinners being saved, the EPISTLES, starting with Romans 1:1, were all the teachings and the instructions of the Apostles to the SAVED people** - about what they did to be saved, and what that meant.
- For example, in **Romans 6**, Paul provides an **in-depth discussion about our salvation**, that those who were baptized into Christ were baptized into his death, and that we are resurrected by the power of the Holy Ghost.
- **So when the plan of salvation is discussed in the EPISTLES - it is giving context, background and meaning to the plan of salvation.**

## NOTES

The Book of Romans was a letter written by Paul to the Church of Rome:

### Romans 1:1; 7-8

*PAUL, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,*

*<sup>7</sup>To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be **saints**: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that **your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.***

The Church of Rome was established in the Book of Acts:

1. **Cornelius and his household were the first Roman converts.**  
(Acts 10:22, 43-48)
2. **Paul’s very last recorded ministry in the book of Acts was to the believers in Rome.**  
(Acts 28:16, 30-13)

**BONUS:****What about being Saved by GRACE and NOT by WORKS?**

**Ephesians 2:8–9** <sup>8</sup> For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: <sup>9</sup> Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Is **Water Baptism** a type of **work** than cannot earn us our Salvation?

The following verse reveals that God meant for us to do “good works:”

**Ephesians 2:10** <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto **good works**, which God hath before ordained **that we should walk in them**.

Other verses that state God expects us to do “works:”

**James 2:26** For as the body without the spirit is dead, so **faith without works is dead also**.

**Philippians 2:12** <sup>12</sup> Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling**.

**Works** (for all verses) = *er'gon* (Greek root word) = actions  
or deeds

**Types of Works:**

- **God's Work of Righteousness** – the work of Christ for our redemption; the shedding of His blood for the justification of our sins.
- **God's GRACE** – the work of God's Spirit in us that empowers us to do His will.
- **Man's Work of Self-Righteousness** – man's work to earn his salvation or man's work to gain God's favor or approval.

**It is only Jesus' work of DYING ON THE CROSS that can pay the price for our sins to saves us.** That is why we cannot be saved by our own works of righteousness. But God expects us to work-out our own salvation, not for the purpose of earning it but **to live a submitted life in obedience to His Word and His will.**