

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

Volume 12

May 7, 2023

Number 19

“HOW SHALL THEY HEAR WITHOUT A PREACHER?”

John Edwards

This is one of several questions Paul asked the Romans as he affirmed, *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”* (Rom. 10:13).

SALVATION IS PROMISED TO ALL WHO CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD. The declaration of Paul makes it clear that salvation is promised to all who call on the name of the Lord. It was prophesied by Joel, *“And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call”* (Joel 2:32). This prophecy was quoted by Peter on Pentecost, *“And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved”* (Acts 2:21). The apostle said, *“For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call”* (Acts 2:39). This is the promise of salvation to those who call on the name of the Lord.

HOW DOES ONE CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE

LORD SO AS TO BE SAVED?

There is no reason for misunderstanding how one calls upon the name of the Lord for Paul expressed it in understandable words. *“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**? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? ...But they have not all **obeyed the gospel....**”* (Rom. 10:14-16). Thus, one calls upon the name of the Lord by hearing, believing and obeying gospel preaching! The appeal of Ananias to Saul was, *“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord”* (Acts 22:16).

**THE ROLE OF A
PREACHER AND PREACHING.** The question before us, *“...how shall they hear without a preacher?”* emphasizes the vital role of a preacher and preaching in salvation. God *“...manifested his word through preaching...”* (Titus 2:2-3). The Bible affirms, *“...it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe”* (1 Cor. 1:21). Paul reminded the Corinthians, *“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you,*

unless ye have believed in vain” (1 Cor. 15:1-2). The book of Acts shows preachers being sent so folks could hear the gospel and be saved. Philip the evangelist was sent to the Ethiopian treasurer, *“...and preached unto him Jesus”* (Acts 8:35), which resulted in his conversion. Peter was sent to Cornelius for the express purpose, *“Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved”* (Acts 11:14), which resulted in the Gentiles having *“received the word of God”* (Acts 11:1). Who can deny the importance or value of preachers and preaching in light of the question, *“...and how shall they hear without a preacher?”* How important is hearing? *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”* (Rom. 10:17). One might as well mitigate the need for hearing as to lessen the value of preachers and preaching!

**NICOLAS EDWARDS IS
DOING THE WORK.** My son, Nicolas, has expressed his desire to do the work of a gospel preacher. The elders are giving Nicolas and I the opportunity to work together in preaching and teaching the gospel here. We commend Nicolas for his desire to preach the gospel, and want to do all we can to hold up his hands. Nicolas and his wife, Raegan, are expecting their first child, and we wish them all the best in the Lord's service!

BIBLE BEGINNINGS

Nicolas Edwards

Seeing how I am beginning my work as an evangelist this month at the church of Christ at Terre Haute, let's look at some Bible beginnings!

IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED. *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). "And, thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands" (Heb. 1:10). "Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God: which made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that therein is: which keepeth truth for ever" (Ps. 146:5-6). In the beginning, God created! This shows the theory of a "Big Bang", followed by evolution, is false. God's word is truth! (Jn. 17:17).*

THE BEGINNING OF KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM. *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction" (Prov. 1:7). "The fear of the Lord is the beginning*

of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding" (Prov. 9:10). The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom! Do you fear the Lord? The wise man wrote, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Eccl. 12:13). "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate" (Prov. 8:13). The fear of the Lord is to depart from evil, and do good! (Job 28:28; Ps. 34:11-14). Are you departing from evil and doing good?

THE BEGINNING OF A FOOL'S WORDS. *"The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious; but the lips of a fool will swallow up himself. The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness: and the end of his talk is mischievous madness" (Eccl. 10:12-13). What is the beginning of your words? Are they gracious or foolish? "A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes. A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul" (Prov. 18:6-7). The Lord*

said, *"But I say unto you, that every idle word men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgement. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned" (Mt. 12:36-37). Be careful what you say!*

THE BEGINNING OF REPENTANCE AND REMISSION OF SINS PREACHING. The Lord said, *"Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Lk. 24:46-47). This took place on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2. "Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? 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" (Ac. 2:37-38).*

Won't you repent and be baptized for the remission of your sins?

The Terre Haute **SPEAKER** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

Assembling At:

4017 E Margaret DR
Terre Haute, IN 47803
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,
West on Margaret DR 1 mile]

Assembling Times:

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