

Nuggets and Gems from the Bible

GOD'S
SELECTION—
OUR DESTINY

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Living Stream Ministry

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THE END OF THE LAW

[Romans 9 and 10](#) deal with God's selection and our destiny as selected ones. [Romans 10:4](#) says, "For Christ is the end of the law unto righteousness to every one who believes." Christ is the end of the law. This means that He has completed and terminated the law. He came to fulfill the law ([Matt. 5:17](#)). By fulfilling the law He ended and terminated the law. The result of Christ's terminating the law is that God's righteousness is given to everyone who believes in Christ. When He died on the cross, Christ completed and terminated the law. The law ended in Him. Since the law was terminated on the cross of Christ, we should be under it no longer. We may simply receive God's righteousness by believing in Christ.

The Jews treasured the law and tried to keep it that they might establish their own righteousness before God. They did not see that the law had been fully completed and terminated by Christ. If they had seen this, they would have

stopped their attempts to keep the law. They would never again have tried to establish their own righteousness before God, but would have taken Christ as their righteousness.

The principle is the same with a great many Christians today. After being saved, they make up their minds to do good to please God. As a result, they spontaneously make regulations for themselves which may be considered as their self-made laws, and they endeavor to fulfill them in order that they may be pleasing to God. Like the Jews, they do not see that Christ is the end, the termination of all regulations and that they should take Him as their life that they may live righteously before God. Furthermore, they need to see that genuine righteousness before God is Christ, the One who has terminated the law that He might be the living righteousness to everyone who believes in Him. [Romans 10](#) unfolds so much of Christ that we may know how to participate in and enjoy Him as our real and living righteousness before God.

INCARNATED AND RESURRECTED

We need to read [Romans 10:5-7](#): “For Moses writes that the man who does the righteousness which is out of the law shall live in it. But the

righteousness which is out of faith speaks in this way, Do not say in your heart, Who will ascend into heaven? That is, to bring Christ down. Or, Who will descend into the abyss? That is, to bring Christ up from among the dead.” Paul’s writing is very deep. Apparently these verses do not mention the incarnation and resurrection of Christ; actually both are included in this portion. Paul quotes [Deuteronomy 30:12](#) saying, “Do not say in your heart, Who will ascend into heaven?” He then points out that this means “to bring Christ down,” and that this refers to Christ’s incarnation, for Christ came down from the heavens in His incarnation. Furthermore, Paul says that we should not ask, “Who will descend into the abyss?” To “descend into the abyss” means “to bring Christ up from among the dead,” and this refers to Christ’s resurrection. To descend into the abyss means to die and to enter into Hades. When Christ died He descended into the abyss, and in resurrection He was brought up from among the dead, that is, out of the abyss. Christ is the One who has passed through incarnation and resurrection. Therefore, we may say that He is the “processed” Christ, Christ incarnated and resurrected.

Christ has passed through a long process from

incarnation through resurrection. In this process He accomplished everything that is required by God's righteousness, holiness, and glory and all that is needed to enable us to partake of Him. He was God incarnated to be a man, and as a man, He was transfigured through resurrection into the life-giving Spirit ([1 Cor. 15:45](#)). Now in resurrection as the life-giving Spirit He is so available to us that we may receive Him and take Him in at any time and in any place.

CHRIST, NEAR TO YOU

Please pay attention to what Paul says in [verse 8](#). "But what does it say? The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart: that is, the word of the faith which we preach." The resurrected Christ as the living Word is near us, in our mouth and in our heart. In this verse Paul suddenly uses the term "the word" interchangeably for Christ, indicating thereby that this Word undoubtedly is Christ Himself. Christ in resurrection as the life-giving Spirit is the living Word. This corresponds to the New Testament revelation that the Word is the Spirit. If you read [Ephesians 6:17](#) in the Greek text, you will discover that the Spirit is the Word. Hence, Christ in His resurrection is both the Spirit and the

Word. He is the Spirit for us to touch, and He is the Word for us to understand. We may receive Him as both the Spirit and the Word. The resurrected Christ as the life-giving Spirit is the living Word that is so near to us. He is in our mouth and in our heart. Our mouth is for calling, and our heart is for believing. Thus, we can call upon Him with our mouth and believe in Him with our heart. When we call on Him we are saved; when we believe in Him we are justified.

After being processed through incarnation and resurrection, Christ today is both the Lord sitting on the throne of God in heaven and the life-giving Spirit moving on the earth. Thus, He is near and available to us. He is so near that He is even in our mouth and in our heart. No one can be nearer than this. He is so available that whoever believes in Him with his heart and calls on Him with his mouth will partake of Him. He has accomplished everything, and He has passed through every process. He is now moving on earth, ready for and available to anyone who will receive Him.

BELIEVE UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS

“That if you confess with your mouth, Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has

raised Him from among the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth man confesses unto salvation. For the scripture says, All who believe on Him shall not be put to shame. For there is no difference between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord of all is rich to all who call upon Him. For, Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (10:9-13). Paul says that with the heart “man believes unto righteousness.” “Unto” is an equivalent of a Greek preposition which, in many instances, means “resulting in.” Therefore the result of believing with the heart is righteousness, while the result of confessing with the mouth is salvation. If we want to be justified, that is, to have the righteousness of God, we must believe in the Lord Jesus. If we want to be saved, we need to confess the Lord Jesus, that is, to call upon Him.

CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD

In [Romans 9:21, 23](#) we are told that under God’s selection we, the called ones, have been made vessels of mercy unto honor and glory. However, we still must realize that such vessels by themselves are empty. Vessels need content. Although [Romans 9](#) tells us that we are vessels,

it does not give us the way to be filled. It is wonderful to be a vessel of mercy unto honor and glory, but it is pitiful to be empty. We need to be filled. The way to be filled is found in [Romans 10](#). Every vessel has a mouth, an opening. If it has no mouth, it is not a vessel. Instruments such as hammers, knives, and axes have no mouths. However, we are vessels, and as vessels we have an opening—our mouth. Do you know why you have a mouth? You were made with a mouth that you might be filled with the riches of Christ. Our mouth was made for calling on the name of the Lord Jesus. The Lord is so rich! He is rich to all who call upon Him. There is a verse in the Psalms which says, “Open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it” ([81:10](#)). As empty vessels with a mouth we should open our mouth wide that we may be filled with the riches of the Lord.

In order to be saved we need to call upon the name of the Lord. However, calling upon His name is not only for salvation; it is also the way in which we receive the riches of Christ. The Lord is rich to all who call upon Him. When we call upon Him, we participate in and enjoy His riches. Do you want to participate in and enjoy the riches of Christ? If you do, do not be silent; open your mouth and call upon Him. In recent

years the Lord has revealed very much to us regarding this matter of calling on His name. Even as late as ten years ago we knew little about this. We thank the Lord that He has made us clear. We appreciate [Romans 10](#), especially [verse 12](#). “For there is no difference between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord of all is rich to all who call upon Him.” [Verse 13](#) has been used a great deal in gospel preaching. But we also must use it with [verse 12](#), not for gospel preaching, but for filling up all the empty vessels with the riches of the Godhead. If you will open your mouth wide and call upon the Lord, the riches of divinity will be your portion. Now, we have the way to fill the empty vessels. We have a mouth to call on Him that we may be filled with Him, and we have a heart to believe in Him and to retain Him.

The Bible reveals clearly that calling on the Lord is the way to partake of and enjoy the Lord. [Deuteronomy 4:7](#) (ASV) says that the Lord is “nigh unto us whenever we call upon him.” [Psalm 145:18](#) says, “The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him.” [Psalm 18:6](#) and [118:5](#) say that David called upon the Lord in his distress. In [Psalm 50:15](#) the Lord asks us to call upon Him in the day of trouble, and in [Psalm 86:7](#) David did it accordingly. [Psalm 81:7](#) says that the children

of Israel did the same thing ([Exo. 2:23](#)); and that the Lord told them, “Open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it” ([Psa. 81:10](#)). [Psalm 86:5](#) says that the Lord is good, ready to forgive, and is plenteous in mercy to all that call upon Him. [Psalm 116:3-4](#) says, “The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow. Then called I upon the name of the Lord.” [Verse 13](#) of the same Psalm says, “I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord.” In order to take the cup of salvation, that is, to participate and enjoy the Lord’s salvation, we need to call upon the name of the Lord. [Isaiah 12:2-6](#) tells us that the Lord is our salvation, our strength, and our song, and that we can draw water out of the wells of His salvation with joy. The way to draw water out of the wells of the Lord’s salvation, that is, to enjoy the Lord as our salvation, is to praise Him, to call upon His name, to sing unto Him, and even to cry out and shout. In [Isaiah 55:1-6](#) we find God’s wonderful calling to the people. He calls the thirsty ones to come to the waters, to enjoy the riches of the Lord’s provision, such as wine, milk, and good food, and to delight themselves in fatness. The way to do this is to seek the Lord and to “call upon him while he is near.” [Isaiah 64:7](#)

shows us that by calling upon the Lord we can stir up ourselves to take hold of Him.

[Lamentations 3:55-57](#) makes it clear that when we call upon the Lord He draws near to us and that our calling upon Him is our breathing, our cry. By this we can realize that to call upon the Lord is not only to cry to Him, but also to experience a spiritual breathing ([Exo. 2:23](#)) in which we breathe out all that is within us, whether it be agony, pain, pressure, etc. Jeremiah did this when he called upon the Lord out of the low dungeon, that is, out of the lowest pit. Whenever we are in a spiritual dungeon or pit, under a certain suppression, we can call on the Lord, breathing out the heaviness within us, and thus be delivered from the lowest pit. This kind of calling on the Lord not only enables us to breathe out the negative things from within us, but also to breathe in the Lord Himself with all His riches as our strength, enjoyment, comfort, and rest. In this way we partake of the riches of the Lord. Hence, here in [Romans 10:12](#) Paul tells us that “The Lord of all is rich to all who call upon Him.” Today in resurrection the Lord is ready and available for our participation in Him and He is rich for our enjoyment of Him. We simply need to call on

Him all the time. Calling on Him, we partake of and enjoy all His riches.

Calling on the Lord is different from merely praying to Him. The Greek word for “call on” or “call upon” means to invoke a person, to call a person by name. Although it is possible to pray to the Lord silently, calling on the Lord requires that we cry out to Him or address Him audibly. The Hebrew word for “call” in [Genesis 4:26](#) firstly means to “call out to” or to “cry unto.” [Isaiah 12:4](#) and [6](#) show that to call upon the Lord’s name is to “cry out and shout.” [Lamentations 3:55 and 56](#) reveal the same thing—to call upon the Lord’s name is to “cry” to the Lord. Hence, David said, “I called upon the Lord, and cried to my God” ([2 Sam. 22:7](#)). To call upon the Lord is to cry to Him.

According to the Scripture record, this matter of calling on the name of the Lord began with the third generation of mankind. From the time of Enosh “began men to call upon the name of the Lord” ([Gen. 4:26](#)). Then Abraham ([Gen. 12:8](#)), Isaac ([Gen. 26:25](#)), Job ([Job 12:4](#)), Moses ([Deut. 4:7](#)), Jabez ([1 Chron. 4:10](#)), Samson ([Judg. 16:28](#)), Samuel ([1 Sam. 12:18](#)), David ([2 Sam. 22:4](#); [1 Chron. 21:26](#)), Jonah ([Jonah 1:6](#)), Elijah ([1 Kings 18:24](#)), Jeremiah ([Lam. 3:55](#))—they all practiced

this matter of calling on the name of the Lord. Moreover, in [Joel 2:32](#), [Zephaniah 3:9](#), and [Zechariah 13:9](#) it is prophesied that people will call on the name of the Lord.

On the day of Pentecost the New Testament believers also called on the name of the Lord to receive the outpoured Spirit as the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy ([Acts 2:17-21](#)). God poured out His Spirit, and the believers opened their mouths to receive the Spirit by calling on the name of the Lord. The Spirit has been poured out by God, but we have to receive Him. The way to receive Him is to open our mouths and call on the Lord. Hence, the New Testament believers, like Stephen ([Acts 7:59](#)), practiced this. By practicing this they made it known that they were followers of the Lord ([Acts 9:14](#)). When Paul was Saul, the persecutor of the church, he intended to arrest the believers, recognizing them by their calling on the name of the Lord. After he was converted, he was advised to wash away his sins (mainly his persecution of those who called on the Lord) by calling on the name of the Lord himself ([Acts 22:16](#)). Undoubtedly, this practice was common among the early saints.

In addressing his first Epistle to the church at Corinth Paul said, "All those who call upon the

name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place” (1 Cor. 1:2). This indicates that all the early believers practiced this matter of calling. In his second Epistle to Timothy, Paul charged him to pursue spiritual things “with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart” (2:22). So, we must practice it too. The Old Testament saints called on the Lord daily (Psa. 88:9) and throughout their entire life (Psa. 116:2). How about us? We should practice it more, calling on the Lord “out of a pure heart” (2 Tim. 2:22) and with a “pure lip” (Zeph. 3:9, Lit.). If we practice this, we will certainly partake of the Lord’s riches and enjoy them. To call on the Lord is not only for salvation, but also for the enjoyment of the Lord with all His riches.

First Corinthians opens with calling on the name of the Lord, revealing that it is a book of enjoyment of the Lord. It tells us that Christ is our wisdom and power (1 Cor. 1:24) and that He has been made our righteousness, sanctification, redemption (1:30), and so many other items for our enjoyment. Eventually, in resurrection He became the life-giving Spirit of whom we may drink (1 Cor. 15:45; 12:13). The way to drink of Him as the life-giving Spirit is to call on His name. Thus, 1 Corinthians 12:3 indicates that if

we say, “Lord Jesus,” we are immediately in the Spirit. To say, “Lord Jesus” is to call on the name of the Lord. Jesus is the name of the Lord, and the Spirit is His Person. When we call on the name of the Lord we get the person of the Lord. When we call “Lord Jesus,” we get the Spirit. This kind of calling on the name of the Lord to receive the Spirit is not only spiritual breathing, but also spiritual drinking. When we call on the name of the Lord, we breathe Him in as the breath of life and we drink of Him as the water of life. The second stanza of hymn number seventy-three in *Hymns* says,

Blessed Jesus! Mighty Savior!
In Thy *Name* is all I need;
Just to *breathe* the *Name* of Jesus,
Is to *drink* of Life indeed.

This is the way for us to partake of and enjoy the Lord. We all need to do it. May the Lord bless us in this matter. May it be fully recovered in these days.

PREACHED AND HEARD

In [Romans 10:14 and 15](#), Paul says, “How then shall they call upon 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 one who preaches? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of those who announce glad tidings of good things!” Calling upon the Lord requires believing in Him, believing in Him requires the hearing of Him, and the hearing of Him requires the preaching of the glad tidings. If the gospel is to be preached, someone must be sent by God. Those who are sent by God preach the glad tidings that people may hear, believe, call upon the name of the Lord and be saved. After we have believed in the Lord and called upon Him we must also preach Him. Christ has been preached by the sent ones and heard by both the Jews and the nations. Many of them have believed unto righteousness and have called unto salvation.

RECEIVED AND REJECTED

In [verses 16 through 21](#) we see Christ received and rejected. On the one hand Christ has been received by the nations, but on the other hand He has been rejected by Israel.

Both [chapters nine and ten of Romans](#) cover one point—the selection of God. God’s selection is our destiny. This selection is of God who calls;

it is of God's mercy and sovereignty; it is by the righteousness of faith; and it is through Christ.

Of all the chapters in the book of Romans, [chapter ten](#) presents the most about Christ. In [10:4](#) Christ is called "the end of the law." In no other chapter in the whole New Testament is Christ designated in such a way. Hence, [Romans 10](#) gives us a very crucial title of Christ: the end of the law. This Christ was incarnated by coming down from heaven and was resurrected by coming up from the abyss. Having passed through this process, Christ, who is the end of the law, has become the living Word. He is near us, even in our mouth and in our heart. The two phrases "in your mouth" and "in your heart" imply that Christ is like the air. Only air can be in our mouth and in our heart. The resurrected Christ is the living Word, which is the Spirit; He is like the air, the breath, that we take into our being. All we need to do is exercise our mouth to breathe Him in, our heart to receive Him, and our spirit to retain Him. If we do this, we shall be saved and supplied with all His riches by calling on His name. We also need to preach Him. As we preach Him and people hear Him, some will believe and others will reject.

[Romans 10](#) presents an excellent description

and definition of Christ for our participation. We not only have to believe in Him with our heart, but also call on Him with our mouth. We have to call on Him, not only for salvation, but also for the enjoyment of His riches. We were made vessels to contain Him; we were selected and predestinated to be His containers. This requires our cooperation in receiving Him and taking Him in. In order to do this we need to open ourselves from the depths of our being and call upon Him with our mouth from deep within our spirit. Thus, in [chapter nine](#) we have the vessels, and in [chapter ten](#) we are given the way to have the vessels filled with the riches of Christ. This is the economy of God's selection, the purpose of His heart's desire.

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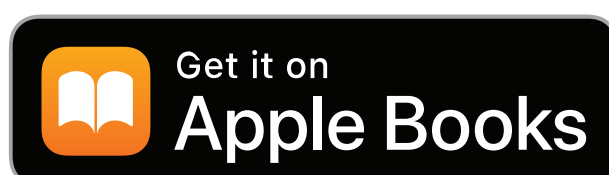
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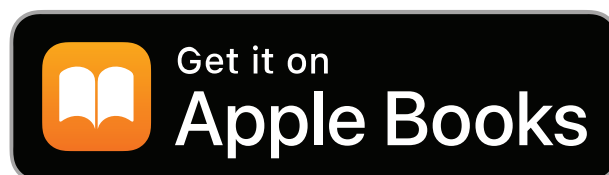
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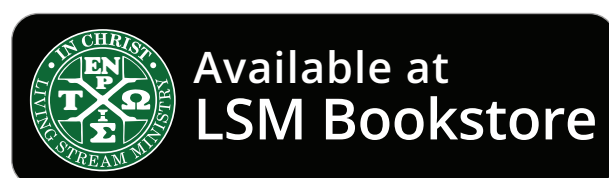
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