

**Searching His Word**  
God's Word Reveals His Plan  
By Russell Earl

God gives commands within His Word. When we do not follow His Word or if we teach others untruths concerning God's commands we sin. If we are to obtain eternal life we must follow the commands God gives us within His inspired Word.

Concerning salvation the first command God gives us is that we must hear. In order to be saved we must decide for ourselves if we are willing to do what is necessary. No one is "predestined" for heaven or hell. We all must decide just as Joshua encouraged those in his time to decide: Joshua 24:15 "...choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve.."

Romans 10:14-15 says "*How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed...of whom they have not heard?*" This tells us in order to be saved we must first hear the gospel of Christ so that we may know what we ought to do in order to receive salvation and eternal life in Christ. The same is said in Romans 10:17. "*So then faith comes by hearing and hearing, by the word of God.*"

Look at what the Bible does NOT say. A simple prayer for salvation is not found here. In fact, notice what we just saw from God's word: an unbeliever cannot simply "call" or pray to God in order to receive eternal life and forgiveness of sins! "How then shall they call on Him..." indicates an unbeliever cannot call on Him, only a believer in Christ can pray to Him (Pro 15:29). We must first listen and respond in obedience to God's Word before we have the right to obtain the forgiveness of sins and eternal life in Christ. Next month we will look at: believing the second step in God's plan for man's salvation.