

8/1/19  
HBS 22

## Roman's Road

We are at Romans 3:10, which is the first verse on what has aptly been called "The Roman Road to Salvation" So, we will take a detour tonight on that Road.

Paul has been and is dealing with the superiority attitude of the Jews of his day. We have seen that because God chose the Hebrews to reveal himself and his mighty hand through under the old covenant, they were proud and lifted up. They looked down on those who were outside of the Hebrew nation. Paul has proved and is proving to the proud Jews at Rome that God condemned both Jews and Gentiles because of sin.

Paul does not speak about things that are hard to understand. In 3:10, he deals with the human nature of all mankind, and proceeds to show the only answer to man's bondage to sin.

Starting with V. 10 we have the first verse of what has been rightly called the "Roman's Road" that leads to salvation. I do not know who put these verses together in this particular order, but they are truly a short and effective path to explain scriptural salvation.

The fundamentalist movement in which I was trained has used this "Road" in a very corrupt manner. At the end of it, they normally offer a prayer with the promise of eternal life.

I learned this "Road" in the late 1960s. I used it in the typical fundamentalist way, and offered a prayer for salvation. It was not until 1977 that the Lord opened my understanding, and I was converted.

Personal Evangelism was my occupation for a good number of years. My hope here is simply to give you an overview and some ideas to equip you to be prepared to give a proper word at the proper time.

The order of these verses is the easiest, simplest and most efficient way of explaining the gospel to a someone.

*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:*

A Christian must be ready give the reason for his hope. Can we?

It would be wise to at least learn the addresses of the key verses of the Road. Take what you can use. (I drew a map in my bible buy underling the verse, and writing the address of the next verse next to it.)

I am going to go through it as I have done over the years when dealing with someone about their salvation. I ask questions as I go through the Romans Road to help the person understand what the scripture teaches.

What we are interested in is the verse order, and a simple explanation of each verse. But, as my son-in-law said, "Why use three words when 10 will do?" I must plead guilty. I will give you much more than I would even think of giving someone to whom I might be talking. Take what you can use.

I ask a lot of questions and often ask them to read the scriptures in order to keep the individual engaged.

It is the Spirit that must draw one to the Lord. He may use very few words, or many words. I have found that normally those I talk with probably think they are believers, so I go into more detail as I have the opportunity with them. I have told people that I will talk someone out of their salvation if possible.

Paul has reduced all mankind whether "Jew" or "Gentile" to the same level because of sin. He now builds on that common ground starting in v. 10.

## FIRST VERSE

V. 10 *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

That is, no one lives right enough according to God's standard to go to heaven.

To show he is not offering something contrary to the Old Testament scripture, which was the Septuagint in his day, Paul quotes from the "hero" of the Hebrew nation, David:

Psalms 14:1-3 and Psalms 53:1-3 are word for word: *To the chief Musician upon Mahalath, Maschil, A Psalm of David. » The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good. 2 God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God. 3 Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*

Using various other passages, Paul continues to reveal what is in the heart of every person, e.g. Psalms 5:9 *For there is no faithfulness in their mouth; their inward part is very wickedness; their throat is an open sepulchre; they flatter with their tongue.*

At this time, we will not develop the evils listed down through v. 18.

## SECOND VERSE

Romans 3:23 *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

Sin means missing the mark. It is a Greek archery term meaning to miss the bulls-eye.

God has established a “bulls-eye” that must be hit in order to see him. That bulls-eye is absolute righteousness as revealed in the 10 Commandments. All have come short of that mark.

1 John 3:4 *Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.*

It only takes one sin to miss God’s mark.

1 John 3:8 *He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.*

## THIRD VERSE

Romans 5:12 *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*

Death. What were the two trees in the Garden? Life and Knowledge.

Adam was warned that he would die if he ate of the tree of knowledge. Satan told his wife that they would not die if they ate of that tree. Rather, he assured her that she would be like God, and would not need God to tell her what is right and wrong.

Sin basically is simply disobedience to the word of God. Paul shows us that all of Adam’s seed sinned in Adam.

(1 Timothy 2:14 *And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.*)

The woman ate first, and gave to her husband. (There is a lot of serious New Testament theology behind what took place here at the introduction of sin into the human race.)

Did they drop over dead?

What happened the next time God came into the garden? They hid themselves.

Two deaths took place in the Garden.

1) Spiritual death, or separation from God. That death passed down from Adam to all men in the form of a sin nature that now desires to sin.

That controlling desire can only be conquered through Christ.

We are all separated from God because we have missed the mark, which is the perfection of Christ.

2) Physical death, or separation from the body. Will anyone avoid the physical result of Adam's sin?

Hebrews 9:27 *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

The first death: Do we cease to exist when we die?

When we die, we simply leave our body, but we will be alive somewhere forever.

#### FOURTH VERSE

Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

What is a wage?

A wage is a payment for something we do. In this case, we earn a wage with our sin, death. This death is the second death, or eternal separation from God, which can only be avoided through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Revelation 20:14 *And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

Jesus Christ said that the lake of fire was prepared for the devil and his angels.

Matthew 25:41 *Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:*

Revelation 21:8 *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

God offers man a way to avoid the second death, and that is through faith or trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, v. 23.

Ephesians 2:1 *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. 4 ¶ But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, [made alive together with Christ] (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Those who have been raised with Christ will avoid the fate of the wicked.

Revelation 20:6 *Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

The first death was dead in trespasses and sins, so the first resurrection is raised up with Christ. Those who have been raised with Christ will have no part in the second death.

The second death is to be case alive into the lake of fire that has been prepared for the devil and his angels

The fourth verse, 6:23, *the gift of God...*

Gift: a favour one receives though no effort of his own.

The gift of God eternal life, and is given through Jesus Christ.

## FIFTH VERSE

Romans 5:6 *For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even*

*dare to die. 8 But God commendeth (or proved) his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

This is one of the key points along the “Roman’s Road.” The lack of emphasis on this passage has filled our churches with lost people. I probably spend the most time on this, the substitutionary work and death of Christ.

This substitution was clearly spelled out in the Old Testament when the guilty party would lay his hand on the innocent victim, which was then slain on the altar. The guilty person was saying that he deserved to die for his sin, and that the victim was taking his place.

A good illustration here:

“Let us say that I kill your sister. I get caught, and I am tried, and the judge sentences me to death. However, the law says that if I can find someone to die in my place, I can go free. So, I come to you, and ask you to be my substitute. I promise that I will be extremely good in the future, I will commit no more murders, pay my bills on time, quit beating my wife, and even go to church and keep the 10 Commandments. I promise to do all these things if you will just take my place in the electric chair. Will you do it?”

Of course, you would say an emphatic NO. Yet we see in Romans 5:6-8, this is exactly what Christ did for the repentant sinner.

*1 Corinthians 6:9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*

Through faith, Christ will be your substitute, and pay the price for your sin. Why?

Romans 3:8, God proved his love: that is, because of his love. You could never do anything to deserve him dying in your place. He offers this free gift, but it must be received by faith.

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

John 1:12 *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

SIXTH VERSE

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. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

These several verses in Romans 10 have been corrupted almost beyond recognition. The sinner is saved as a result of his trust or faith in the work of Christ in his place. That faith is to be expressed by a verbal confession, but it is not the verbal confession that saves him. It is the trust that has taken place in his heart.

John 3:15 *That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

I have found the word *believe* to be the source of great error because of its common usage.

The publishers of dictionaries have listening posts all over the country. As the usage of a word changes, the dictionaries change. I have a copy of a Webster Fourth Edition Unabridged Dictionary. It has the root of the English words from Webster's 1828 dictionary, which includes Webster's KJV bible verses he used to define his words.

New definitions are added on top of Webster's, and all are retained in an Unabridged dictionary. It is a very large volume. Abridged dictionaries drop off the original meanings, and the new meanings may be totally different than the original meanings.

The general usage of *believe* today is simply a confidence that something is true. I believe that George Washington crossed the Delaware River in the winter. We might even be willing to risk our lives on something we might believe is true.

However, as concerning salvation, the meaning of *believe* is far more than simply confessing to a historical fact.

Its true biblical meaning is shown in

Ephesians 1:12 *That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. 13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*

Trusting in and confessing the Lord Jesus is quite different than simply admitting that we believe in God and in the historical fact of Jesus Christ and his resurrection. It is more than turning our life over to God, and trusting him to take care of us. All of these things are good, but there is no eternal hope in them.

Rather, trusting in the gospel of the substitutionary work of Christ means we turn from everything we might think we can do to get to heaven and completely turn and trust in what he has already done. One must trust in the Lord Jesus to be his substitute, his only hope for heaven and to pay the penalty for his sins.

Then confession is made with the mouth of this belief or trust in him that takes place in the heart. Words do not save. Rather, it is the attitude and commitment of the heart that is confessed with words.

Salvation is not based upon repenting of and turning from sin, for that is an impossible task as long as we have the fallen nature. Rather, salvation is repenting of following my own way to save myself, and turning to his way of salvation.

#### SEVENTH VERSE

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

What does “Lord” mean?

Owner, master. Are you willing to trust or accept him as your Lord, Master and Saviour?

V. 13 is one of the most misused verse in Scripture, and has sent multitudes of sincere people away with a false security in their salvation.

I have heard very short salvation messages on the radio that uses this verse to say, "all you have to do is call on the Lord to save you," with no explanation of the need to trust Christ as our substitutionary payment before God.

I remember listening to a “preacher” on our way from WV to visit our children in OH. At the final town coming out of the mountains of WV, we would stop at a Dairy Queen and reward ourselves for making it across US 50 safely. As we got ready to stop, I distinctly remember that preacher quoting Romans 10:13 *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.* He gave absolutely no background for his statement as he told the people that all they had to do was call upon the Lord, and they would be saved.



Certainly, God saves whomsoever he will and howsoever he will, but shame on the messenger for not making the substitutionary payment of Christ clear to the prospect.

The "Roman's Road" I grew up with in the "Evangelical community" and used until the late 70s totally missed the fact of complete trust in the finished work of Christ. Though the truth might be there, the emphasis at the end of the "Road" was on a prayer, *whosoever shall call*. Obviously, I cringe now when I hear preachers or Christians say that all one must do is pray.

It is a deceitfully, evil message that offers a prayer without any understanding of the necessity of faith in what Christ did for them.

I normally ask the individual to take my hand if they are willing to trust Christ, then I ask them to pray and tell the Lord what they are doing.

Versus with which to follow up:

I do not know how many people I have heard who depend on John 3:16 to stand alone to their hope of salvation, so I deal some with that passage.

Why is a person condemned?

*John 3:18 John 3:15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

Why is the wrath of God on a person?

*John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

Assurance?

*John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*

The goal of salvation is not heaven, but it is to set us free from the power of sin, so we can serve the Lord.