



Digging Deeper Week 4

The Roman Road

The Roman Empire was known for its system of roads that were efficient, well patrolled, and built to last. They helped travelers navigate their journeys with mile markers and well-designed paths. The saying “All roads lead to Rome” came about as a result of meticulous planning and engineering of Roman roadways that came out of the capital city.

However, when Christians talk about the Roman Road, they are speaking about a spiritual pathway rather than a physical one. The Roman Road is a term that refers to some key verses from the Book of Romans that are used to explain the way in which a person becomes a Christian. You might say that these verses are more like the road “pavers” than the road itself.

Studying Scripture in context and with historical background gives us a more complete picture of what it means to be a Christ follower. Salvation is much more than an experience in which we read a few verses and pray a prayer so that we will go to heaven when we die. Following Jesus is as much a present reality as it is a past experience. So as we look at these verses from Romans that frame a gospel roadmap of sorts, let’s keep in mind that these truths are only a starting point. The journey of an ongoing relationship with Christ is filled with crossroads, stop signs, hills, and valleys. Sometimes we even go off-roading at times, following our own ways. Then we get back on the path and seek God again.

With that word of caution, the “Romans” Road can be a helpful tool for addressing questions such as these:

- *What does it look like to begin a relationship with God?*
- *How could I explain the good news about Jesus to someone?*
- *Can I be sure that I will go to heaven when I die?*

The Romans Road highlights the key stepping stones toward a relationship with Jesus. Different versions of the Romans Road use different verses in a variety of orders, but most include something similar to this:

God made us and loves us. By faith we believe that God created the world and loves His creation.

Ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

(Romans 1:20)

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No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 8:39)

Sin messed everything up. By faith we believe that sin brings spiritual death and separation from a holy God.

As the Scriptures say,

*“No one is righteous—
not even one.”*

(Romans 3:10)

Everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.

(Romans 3:23)

Christ paid the penalty for our sin. By faith we believe that Christ was the perfect sacrifice to cleanse us from sin and restore our relationship with God.

God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

(Romans 5:8)

The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 6:23)

We personally believe and receive grace by faith. By faith we start a relationship with God by saying and believing that Jesus is the way to God.

⁹If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.

(Romans 10:9-10)

“Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”

(Romans 10:13)

This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.”

(Romans 1:17)

We don’t need to “do” something spiritual or pray a “proper” prayer for salvation. Instead, we believe by faith that what God says is true. We take spiritual steps down our own journeys and seek to connect with the God of the universe, who is crazy about us and sent His Son to die for us.