

**E-Team: Personal Evangelism 1.03**

The Romans Road

*The Romans Road is a series of verses from the Book of Romans that provide a scriptural backbone that explain God’s plan of salvation for mankind. There might be occasions where “we” might literally walk someone down the Romans Road; however, most of the time, our familiarity with these important verses allow us to answer people’s questions concerning what we believe, and gives us the ability to effectively plant the seeds of truth that may someday lead to salvation.*

*This is what we know concerning the power of the Gospel message: Romans 1:****16a “I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.”***  *Make no mistake about it, the gospel message is potent in breaking through the veil of unbelief and darkness. In this variation of the Romans Road we are going to be using five verses: Here we go! (These are verses that should be committed to memory)*

# Lost (Every member of the human race needs God)

***For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*** Romans 3:23 (NKJV)

* This is a truth that addresses the spiritual and moral condition of mankind. In discussions with non-believers, they are inclined to cling to the notion that people are basically good. This idea comes to us from the Greek Philosophers, that deep down inside everyone has a touch of the divine nature. That said, it does not take a brilliant intellect to examine both history and current world events to realize that there is something fundamentally wrong with our species.
* John Calvin called this “screw loose” in us the “Total Depravity” of mankind. This seems to be a fact that is verified by simple observation and by the truth of God’s Word. The slogan of the Secular Humanists, “Good without God,” is a tragic misdiagnosis of mankind’s spiritual condition.
* **Jeremiah 17:7-10 (NKJV)** 7  "Blessed *is* the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose hope is the LORD. 8  For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit. 9  "The heart *is* deceitful above all *things,* And desperately wicked; Who can know it? 10  I, the LORD, search the heart, *I* test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.
* Questions to consider:
  1. Why do I need God?
  2. Does evil really exist? Who decides what constitutes evil?
  3. Can humans learn from the lessons of history and evolve into a “better” species?
  4. Does mankind have what it takes to “save” our species from self-destruction?

# Consequence (The consequence of sin is death)

***For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*** Romans 6:23 (NKJV)

* It is a scientific fact that everything that is born into this world eventually dies. This is a stark reality and the result of sin. Before the temptation in the Garden of Eden and subsequent disobedience the world was a place close to perfection. The Lion and the Lamb existed in peace and death was unknown. A number of things changed when Adam and Eve ate from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Sin invaded our world and the curse thereof. Death, disease, pestilence, famine, hardship, sorrow, futility all became of part of the life experience of those living on planet earth.
* **Proverbs 14:12 (NKJV)** 12  There is a way *that seems* right to a man, But its end *is* the way of death.
* There is no way to cheat death of its ultimate victory with one exception; those in Christ Jesus receive the gift of eternal life after passing through the doorway of death. **John 14:6 (NKJV)** 6  Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
* Questions to consider:
  1. What is the impact of sin upon the earth itself?
  2. Why do the “acts of sin” seem to bring about a speeding up of the death process?
  3. Why do bad things happen to good people?
  4. Why is Jesus the only way? Aren’t all religions basically the same?

# Love (God’s love is unilateral)

***But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*** Romans 5:8 (NKJV)

* Here is one of the lies that Satan has effectively perpetrated in the mindset of unbelievers: “Even if God exists, He must really hate us.” On a closer examination of Jesus’ life, who was God in the flesh; Jesus, was an exceptionally loving and caring individual. He is an accurate snapshot of God, and a perfect reflection of who and what God is. **1 John 4:7-8 (NKJV)** 7  Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8  He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.
* God loved us while we were still soiled by sin, and God continues to love those who count themselves unbelievers or enemies. Jesus confirmed this philosophical approach to relationships when He command “us” to love our enemies.
* Questions to consider:
  1. How does God balance His response to mankind between the ideals of love and justice?
  2. God was not “forced” to make a plan to save us, what does His unilateral action of love “tell” us about God’s nature?
  3. What are some of the “other” ways that God has revealed His love to mankind?
  4. Why was Christ’s death necessary?

# Faith (Confession and belief are expressions of faith)

***If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*** Romans 10:8-9 (NKJV)

* There is an ongoing theological argument in Evangelical circles concerning what is called “synergism” in salvation. It is really a silly argument, because the Apostle Paul pointed to two synergistic actions that are a part of the salvation process. (It could be, and is argued that “humans” are simply responding to an irresistible urge set by God) Let us agree that our faith or “urge” was placed there by God, it still does not remove the need for verbal confession and belief in the heart.
* **John 1:12-13 (NKJV)** 12  But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13  who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
* There is power found in a verbal profession of faith. It is the reason that water baptism is important. Water baptism gives an opportunity to publicly declare our faith before witnesses.
* The beauty about belief—specifically, belief that Christ was raised from the death, is that “our” faith is based in historical fact. It could be argued that if Jesus had not triumphed over death, the church would never have been born in the first place.
* Questions to consider:
  1. Is confession and belief necessary or vital to the salvation process?
  2. How soon should baptism follow salvation?
  3. How does a person know if and when they are saved?
  4. How secure is our salvation?

# Freedom (Salvation brings freedom from sin)

***There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*** Romans 8:1 (NKJV)

* Freedom from sin is an earmark of authentic conversion. When people are truly saved, a process of transformation is initiated. There will be visible evidence of such change.
* Christians have great freedom to pursue and live the abundant life promised by Christ. If we obey the leadership of Jesus, through His words of wisdom and the leading of the Holy Spirit, we will indeed live as the wise man who built his house on the rock.
* **1 Corinthians 10:23 (NKJV)** 23  All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.
* Questions to consider:
  1. Why is knowing and following the teachings of Christ crucial?
  2. What did the Apostle Paul mean when he stated that all things are legal but not edify?
  3. What is the difference between legalism and holiness?
  4. Do you clearly understand the difference between the concepts of freedom to sin and that of having freedom from sin?

**Wrap-up: As you share the Roman Road with non-believers, you are going to run into people that believe the lie that their lives without God are more fun than your life with God.** They will say things such as: ***“I don't want to give up all the fun stuff that I get to do in order to be a Christian.” "Wow...really...the fun stuff that I get to do? Like what?”***

I guess that they don't understand what real freedom is. They want to hang on to the bondage of sin and the self-destructive activities that hurt them and the people they love. God's invitation of salvation is a gift of sanity and freedom. And those who walk in God's wisdom--they are blessed and are a blessing to the people around them.