

The Romans Road

Week 33: Aug 13-19 – *Romans 9-13*

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Helpful Resources

Map of Paul's Missionary Journeys

Making Sense of It All

- The Big Picture

While Paul was in Corinth (*Acts 20:2, 3*), he expressed eagerness to visit Rome and preach the gospel to the people there (*Rom. 1:15*). But before he went, he sent a letter to the Romans declaring the doctrines of the gospel (*Rom. 1-11*), what we've called "the gospel essentials." No one does a better job than Paul at clarifying the need for salvation, the means of salvation, and the effects of salvation. In fact, the book of *Romans* is the most thorough explanation of the gospel in the Bible.

If Paul revealed to us the road to salvation (being made right with God), then we should be able to see the signs (or verses) that show us the way. For decades, Christians have referred to these signs as the Romans Road of salvation. The Romans Road is a simple way of sharing the gospel by using select verses from Paul's letter. Let's look at the road signs.

- Romans Road Signs

Why Do We Need Salvation?

Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."

Romans 6:23a, "For the wages of sin is death..."

What Is the Means of Salvation?

Romans 6:23b, "But the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 5:8, "But God demonstrated His own love towards us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 10:9, "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

Romans 10:13, "For whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved."

What Are the Effects of Salvation?

Romans 5:1, "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Romans 8:1, 2, "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death."

- The Rest of the Road

While it is true that the Romans Road is a simple way to share the gospel using verses from Paul's letter, we must recognize that there is more to the story. Paul's audience was largely comprised of Jews, so he had to demonstrate that both Jews and Gentiles (Greeks, Romans) needed Christ. Thus, he had to address the topics of Abraham and the Mosaic Law. He also had to show how Jews and Gentiles could be reconciled through Christ, as both can become members of the family of God.

Note these verses about the Jews and Gentiles.

Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jews first and also to the Greek."

Romans 2:9-11, "There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jews first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God."

Romans 3:9, "We have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin..."

Romans 3:27, 28, "We maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from the works of the Law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is He not a God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also."

Romans 4:9-11, "Is this blessing then on the circumcised (Jew), or on the uncircumcised (Gentile) also? For we say, 'Faith was credited to Abraham as righteousness.' How then was it credited? While he was circumcised (Jew) or uncircumcised (Gentile)? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised... so that he might be the father of all who believe..."

Romans 11:11, 12, "By the Jews' transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles... A partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in..."

- Applying the Gospel

After Paul finished teaching what to believe about the gospel (*Rom. 1-11*), he switched gears and taught how to behave in response to the gospel (*12-16*). So far, he has explained how we should relate to God (*12:1, 2*), to the church (*12:3-8*), to other believers (*12:9-21*), to governing authorities (*13:1-7*), and to unbelievers (*13:8-21*). Our response to the gospel is evidence of the reality of the gospel in our lives. Jesus said, "You will know His disciples by their fruit" (*Matt. 7:20*), and James said, "Faith without works is dead" (*Jas. 2:17*). If we truly have surrendered our lives to Christ, then we will exhibit Christlikeness in our lives.

The Bottom Line

Paul's letter to the Romans is a clear explanation of the gospel for both Jews and Gentiles.

Questions to Consider

1. What part of Paul's salvation explanation is the most encouraging or challenging? Why?
2. Have you ever used the Romans Road to share the gospel with someone? Explain.
3. Summarize the gospel as it relates to both Jews and Gentiles.
4. What part of Paul's application of the gospel has meant most to you? Explain why.
5. Describe a Christian's relationship with governing authorities.