

The Romans' Road to Salvation

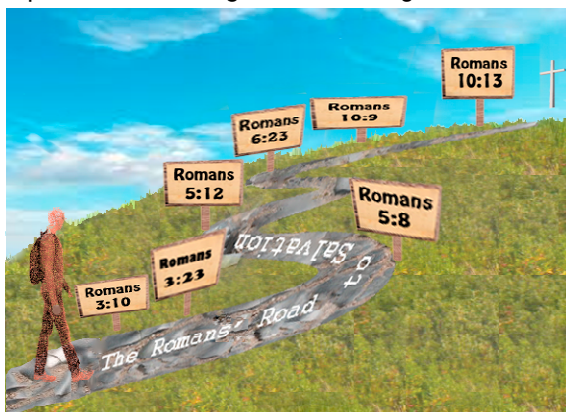


The Bridge of Life is a very familiar model that Christians use to explain the Gospel. There is also on YouTube a fascinating one-minute illustration of the Gospel by folding and cutting a piece of paper. There are quite a number of other models that Christians use to share the Gospel

message to pre-believers. One of these is called the Romans' Road to Salvation, based entirely on Scripture verses taken from the Book of Romans. It is a method of witnessing to pre-believers by taking them systematically through the Word of God. The verses of Scripture all from a single Book are easy to mark down in the Bible for handy reference. Those with the inclination to memorise them may also do so.

There are various versions of it, each adopting more or fewer selections of the Romans' verses and in different orders. Whatever the variations, I realise that this is a good model not just for pre-believers to get the message. It is also invaluable for those who have already known the Lord to refresh their minds and their hearts with the Good News as they journey along the Romans' Road hand in hand with the pre-believers.

Here, I have chosen the model with 7 verses in sequential order. In preparing to share this with you, I had to "recce" the route through the 7 stops myself. It has been a spiritually profitable exploration of God's Word through the epistle of Apostle Paul to the Romans. Therefore, I recommend that you too take the challenge of this journey and be blessed yourself apart from blessing pre-believers that you may bring along.



1st checkpoint: Romans 3:10

“As it is written: ‘There is no one righteous, not even one;’”

We begin our journey with the recognition that we are all sinners, without exception. In all honesty, hand on heart, can anyone say that he never commits any wrong against the voice of his conscience? What we do wrong affect others, and what others do wrong affect us, adversely. We are not just sinners, but very bad sinners as the strong words of Apostle Paul in verses 11 – 18 indicate:

- There is no one who seeks God.
- All have turned away from God.
- They have become worthless.

2nd checkpoint: Romans 3:23

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”

Those who criticise others think of themselves as good above criticisms. Similarly, others who criticise them think likewise. Romans 3:23 tells us unequivocally that absolutely no one is innocent. Hence, humans face a lot of troubles in the world because of themselves. We need help:

- We need to seek God.
- We need God’s saving presence.
- We need to be made worthy with God’s help

3rd checkpoint: Romans 5:8

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

By the Cross, God demonstrates His love for us. While we turned away from God and become worthless, God has not abandoned us to ourselves. Christ did not die for good people; anyway, there is none who is good in the world. Christ died for sinners that you and I are. Why did God have to send His Son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sin? The answer is found at the next two checkpoints of our journey on the Romans’ Road.

4th checkpoint: Romans 5:12

“Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned –”

At the start of our journey on the Romans Road, we recognize the fact that we are sinners. Humans are under the clutches of sin because of one man – Adam – and the consequent price we must pay is death.

5th checkpoint: Romans 6:23

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

It is not difficult to grasp that one man’s action of sin can result in a very bad outcome for others. It is also not far-fetched that one man’s action of righteousness can result in a very good outcome for others. In similitude, “just as sin reigned in death [because of one man, Adam], so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 5:21) We received death through Adam’s disobedience of God; we receive eternal salvation through the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross.

6th checkpoint: Romans 10:9

“If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

The message of the previous checkpoints is clear. What is left is your determination:

- Do you confess that Jesus is Lord?
- Do you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead?

7th checkpoint: Romans 10:13

“for, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’”

This is a reiteration of God’s promise as declared by Prophet Joel in the OT (Joel 2:32). This is a guarantee to all who have faith in Jesus. This is Good News – the Salvation Christ brings! People cannot believe unless they hear.

“Paul argued that only a remnant of Israel ever believed (9:27–29). In rejecting Christ Israel was following a precedent already at work in earlier days. The Jews’ zeal was commendable but nevertheless misguided. The only way of acceptance before God was faith in Christ and was (and is) within the reach of all. Those who believe in their heart and confess with their mouth “Jesus is Lord” will be saved. People cannot believe unless they can hear, and they cannot hear without a preacher. Though Israel heard, they still rejected God’s message.”¹

Concluding the journey

Have you heard? Do you believe? Will you call on the name of Jesus to save you from your sin?

John Lee

¹ Dockery, D. S. (1998). The Pauline Letters. In D. S. Dockery (Ed.), *Holman concise Bible commentary* (p. 550). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.