

One of the most widely accepted doctrines in Christianity today is **The Roman Road of Redemption**—the scriptural pathway that in and of itself is **regretfully mischaracterized.**

Jesus tells us to search the scriptures because we think we are saved, so let's do just that. We need to know, not just think!

What is the Roman Road?

- A series of scriptures in the New Testament book of Romans when taken out of true Biblical context look to be steps necessary to be saved...to go to heaven. Quite simply, they are used incorrectly by advocates of the Roman Road.
- To better understand its fallacy, the steps of the Roman Road are presented below with comments concerning salvation.

Step 1—Romans 3:23; *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”*

- True—this verse tells us that all people have sinned. We have fallen short of God’s intended purpose for us and most of us have willingly added our own sinful actions.

Step 2—Romans 6:23; *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

- True—The just payment for our sin is death. Jesus has paid the price for our sin by His death on the cross.

Step 3—Romans 10:9; *“That 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.”*

- Because of Jesus’ death on our behalf, The Roman Road uses this scripture to say all we have to do is believe in Him, trusting His death represents full payment for our sins—and we will be saved!
- Merely believing that God exists and that Jesus died on the cross for our sins will not result in salvation. The Devil also believes this (see James 2:19), but there is no place in the kingdom of Heaven for him. Believing requires action!

Step 4—Romans 10:13; *“For whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

- This verse says that any person who will call upon the name of Jesus, the Lord, shall be saved. To call means simply to ask in prayer. The

verse does not require one to know more... do better... clean up one’s life... or in any way try to add to what Jesus has done for us.

- Calling on the name of the Lord means much more than just speaking the name of Jesus. Jesus himself taught that *“not everyone who called him Lord, Lord, would enter into the kingdom of heaven, but they that do the will of [his] Father in heaven.”* (Matt 7:22)

This is where The Roman Road stops!

That’s right! Travelers on The Roman Road say you need to realize you’re a sinner, understand that Jesus died for your sins, believe in Jesus and call on His name and you’re saved! That’s all!



In Philippians 2:12, Paul (who also wrote the Book of Romans) further tells us to *“work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”*



When taken in proper context, what does the Bible REALLY say about salvation?

Staying in the book of Romans just after The Roman Road ends (Rom 10:13), the Apostle Paul not only instructs us in the process that leads to salvation (vs.14-15), he cautions us to obey the gospel. (v.16)

Romans 10:14-15 asks how someone is to accomplish this (obey the gospel).

- *How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?*
- *How shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?*
- *How shall they hear without a preacher?*
- *How shall they preach, except they be sent?*

And as we continue to read in Romans, The Apostle Paul stresses the importance of being obedient to the gospel. (vs.16), *“But they have not all*

obeyed the gospel.” Paul concludes (v.17), “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

This faith, inspired by the Word of God, will move a person to “obey the gospel,” and will be accompanied by action (James 2:26).

The Apostle Paul was “unashamed of the gospel of Christ,” because it was the “power of God unto salvation,” for “everyone that believes.” (Romans 1:16)

How did Paul, the author of the Book of Romans, show himself “obedient to the gospel”? What did he do?

- God sent Ananias to preach the gospel to Saul (whose name was later changed to Paul). On the day of his conversion to Christianity, Saul was told by Ananias, “Jesus hath sent me, that you might be filled with the Holy Ghost.” (**But wait! This wasn’t mentioned in the Roman Road!**)
- Further, he instructed Saul to “arise, and be baptized. And [Saul] arose, and was baptized. (in Acts 9:18; **Again, this isn’t mentioned in the Roman Road!**)

- And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” (Acts 22:16; **Likewise, not mentioned in the Roman Road!**)
- Often a person is moved by the good news that Jesus has died for their sins. Just like those who heard the gospel on the day of Pentecost, they asked “*what shall we do*”? (Acts 2:37)

When asked that question (“*what shall we do*”? Or, what shall we do to be saved?) On the day of Pentecost, the Apostle Peter commanded...

“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” (Acts 2:38)

Again, this scripture answers the question the only time it was ever asked in the Bible; essentially, “*what shall we do* [to be saved]?”

- Repent
- Be baptized in Jesus’ name (not the titles “Father, Son and Holy Ghost”, but the name of Jesus)
- Be filled with the Holy Ghost

This promise of salvation is still in effect today...

“For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.” (Acts 2:39)

That’s right! **The Roman Road**, as most people know it, **is not complete concerning salvation**.

If you focus in on a just a few scriptures and neglect other relevant scriptures also dealing with salvation, you will have a distorted understanding of what the Bible commands us to do to be saved.

To make it to Heaven, we must obey the Acts 2:38 plan of salvation just as they did in the Bible. Don’t take man’s word. Follow God’s Word!

For More Information, Contact...

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Are you “lost” on The Roman Road?



Are You Really “On” The Pathway To Heaven?



Search the scriptures;
for in them
YE THINK
ye have eternal life
(John 5:39)