

Tusculum Hills Baptist Church  
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Romans Road

Romans 3:10, 23; 5:12; 6:23; 5:8; 10:9-10, 13

October 6, 2013

## **INTRODUCTION**

In the last few weeks, some of you have asked me questions about things that have been on your mind for quite some time, and I want you to know that I'm glad you've asked. I want us to have that type of rapport. I want you to feel that you can ask me any question, because the only dumb question is the one that doesn't get asked. If I don't have the answer to a question that you have about the Bible or some type of spiritual principle, I'll search until I find it. I want to be helpful to you. Some of you have been at this Christian life a lot longer than I have been and know a lot more than I do. So, I seek to have a mutual rapport with you where we can exchange ideas and share questions and answers together, but these questions led me to realize that it's important for me to plan messages that reinforce the basic tenets of the faith.

We have to desire the sincere milk of the Word. Listen to what the Bible says. This is not my text for this morning, but let me just read this. In 1 Peter 2:2, it says, "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good."

We need to know the milk, the basic food of the Word, before we can move on to the meat and potatoes. We need a solid foundation so that we know how to spread the Good News to others. You'll meet people that I never meet; I'll meet people that you never meet. So, it's important for me to reinforce these basics so that you are solid in your belief.

Today, I want to talk to you about what sin is and what salvation is. This is the most basic message that I could possibly put together. I hope that it's plain and simple. I hope that everyone here understands 100% of this message. I've read church growth books. I've been to the conference's, but I've decided to follow a simple strategy here. It is to love people, to preach the Bible, and to tell people about Jesus. That's it.

I've been schooled in different evangelistic presentations. They've all been good; they've been helpful in different ways, but I think simple is better. So, my evangelism strategy for sharing the gospel is the Romans Road. If you go to any rescue mission, this is the evangelistic strategy that they use for people coming in right off the street. Many of you came to faith in Christ because somebody shared with you some of the most powerful verses in scripture that deal with salvation. With the Romans Road, you can tell people what the Bible says, and then you can quote the verse. If they get upset, they'll be getting upset at the scripture. They may get upset at the messenger, but you can just blame it on the Bible.

The Romans Road is just a way to share the plan of salvation. It's straight from the scripture. The Romans Road answers these basic questions:

- Who needs salvation?
- How does God provide salvation?
- What is the result of salvation?

As we work through these verses, if you haven't already, mark them in your Bible with a pencil or pen or highlighter. You will not go wrong by sharing these scriptures with other people. You can just say, "Did you know that the Bible says..." Then you can just say one of these verses, and leave it at that. Let God do the rest of it.

## **1-WHO NEEDS SALVATION?**

**SCRIPTURE** Romans 3:10

*As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one;"*

### **EXPLANATION**

This means that no one at all, including you and me, are righteous on our own accord—none of us. We can spend our days and nights doing good deeds, but it's not good enough. You may say, "I give to the church. I give to other good causes." You may say, "But I attend church. But I'm a good person. I do more good than I do bad."

I was talking to a man one time who seriously wondered if he would go to heaven because he gave money to the zoo so little children could enjoy the animals. One time a man told me that he believed that every American soldier who died in battle fighting for freedom went to heaven automatically. It's really sad that people believe these things. It's hard to believe that people cannot grasp eight words. Repeat them with me, “There is no one righteous, not even one.” This might offend you, but this is what the Bible says.

**SCRIPTURE** Romans 3:23

*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

### **EXPLANATION**

All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Again, here we go, “all” is inclusive of everyone. It includes you; it includes me. There are no exceptions. We have all sinned. It doesn't matter if the sin was a long, long time ago. It doesn't matter if the sin seems small. It doesn't matter if someone else's sin appears greater than ours. Sin is sin, and the scripture says we all have sinned. The second part of the verse is “fall short of the glory of God.”

Have you ever noticed how people use the word “almost”? I almost passed that test. I almost graduated from school. I almost married that person. I almost made it there on time. The reality is that “almost” never did.

King Agrippa told the Apostle Paul, “You've almost persuaded me to become a Christian,” but guess what? Unless he made a decision that we don't know about, King Agrippa didn't become a Christian. No matter how many good things we have done, we are not righteous on our own accord. We're not righteous at all. We've all sinned; we've all come short of the glory of God.

**SCRIPTURE** 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—*

## **EXPLANATION**

Why are we being blamed for this? Who made us sinners? How did this all happen? Look at Romans 5:12; the Bible says that by one man, Adam, sin entered into the world, and death by sin. So, death passed on to all men because all have sinned. When Adam sinned, he brought the curse upon all mankind. This is why everyone is born with a nature prone to sin. It has been passed down to us from Adam. Since Adam's sin brought death into the world, death has spread to everyone.

The one thing the poor and the unknown have in common with the rich and famous is that we will all die. The rich and famous and the poor and unknown all are descendants from Adam. We are born with Adam's nature; it's called the Adamic nature.

## **ILLUSTRATION**

How many of you had to teach your kids how to fight? Did anybody have to do that? Did any of you have to teach your children how to say “no” in defiance. That's usually one of the first words most children learn. You want them to say, “mamma” or “daddy,” but probably you hear what? “No!”

People ask, “How can there be a god when the world is such a mess? The better question is, “Why does God tolerate this world?” You see, Adam’s sinful nature passed on through all humanity. It is the source of all problems in the world, the source of fighting, wars, injustice. All these things are the result of Adam's sin. You've seen the flu, polio, smallpox, whooping cough, and other diseases take many to their graves, but thanks to science, these diseases didn't take everyone. In many cases these diseases have now been eradicated all together, but it’s different with sin. When Adam sinned, there was no stopping it. It was like a disease that spread to 100% of all people. The Bible is clear, and history proves it. Even if someone doesn't believe the Bible, history proves it. Our own experiences prove it to be true. Because of Adam's sin we will all die someday. As much as medical science has progressed, no one has been able to create life or preserve it after a person's heart and brain stopped working. Death is the final word for the human body. You cannot escape death, but you can escape the death of your soul.

## **2-HOW DOES GOD PROVIDE SALVATION?**

## **SCRIPTURE** Romans 6:23

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

This is the problem. No one is righteous; because of Adam we were born into sin. Next on the Romans Road is the penalty for sin. Look at Romans 6:23, *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*”

## **EXPLANATION**

The penalty for sin is death. Without Christ, we are spiritually dead. Your physical birth brought you into this world, but it did not save you. That's why you and I must be born again. Just as you get paid a wage for work, death is the penalty for sins committed.

## **ILLUSTRATION**

Wouldn't it be nice not to have to pay sales tax because you didn't know about it? It would be nice for the IRS to forgive that error on your taxes that was in your favor. That's not going to happen. Wouldn't it be nice for policemen to let you go because you told him you didn't know the speed limit? I was in Texas and got pulled over by the police. I was just going through the neighborhood minding my own business. He pulled me over, and he told me how fast I was going. I told him that I didn't know the speed limit, and he said that the state law required me to know the law and that he could write me a ticket for being ignorant of the law. In other words, ignorance of the law was no excuse.

## **APPLICATION**

Because of our sin, we have to pay a penalty. Physically we all die. That's the penalty. If Adam had never sinned, we would never have to die, but there is hope. There is hope because the Bible says, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” A gift is something that you cannot earn. If you work for something, it's a reward not a gift. A gift is free. We've

done nothing to earn eternal life—nothing. Can you say it with me? “I have done nothing to earn eternal life.”

Have you ever given someone a gift, and then they insist on paying you for it? Or they insist on going and buying you a gift? That may be normal if there's a gift exchange going on, but sometimes if you want to give something to someone and they insist on paying you for it or giving you something back, it cheapens the meaning of the gift.

Salvation is receiving; it's not giving. This free gift is through Jesus Christ our Lord. He's the mediator between sinful man and a righteous God. He's the lawyer pleading a case on our behalf, but at the same time he's paid the penalty for us. How wonderful!

I've covered the sin problem—that no one is righteous, that because of Adam we were born into sin, and that the penalty for our sins is death. I've covered the solution—the gift of God, eternal life through Jesus who died, was buried, and rose three days later. Christ the risen Lord died for our sins.

### **SCRIPTURE** Romans 5:8

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

### **EXPLANATION**

If it's been unclear, I hope that it's clear now. I hope the blinders have come off. God provided a way through Jesus to escape his wrath. He paid a debt he did not owe. I owed a debt that I could not pay. What a precious scripture. God in his love decided to give mankind a chance, an opportunity to escape the wrath of his judgment. Jesus came and laid down his life for us. Knowing just how sinful the human race is, God expressed his love for humanity, paying our sin debt even though he knew that we are so undeserving. Why? The scripture says because he first loved us.

There are some scriptures that compare Adam and Jesus. Adam's sin results in a guilty verdict; God's free gift results in a pardon even though we've committed sin.

Adam's sin results in death; God's free gift results in life. Because one person, Adam, disobeyed God, many became sinners. Because one person, Jesus, obeyed God, many will become righteous through Jesus.

No one is righteous. Because of Adam we were born into sin. The penalty of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life. Jesus died for our sins; he resurrected from the dead. So, what do we do with all of this information?

### **3-WHAT IS THE RESULT OF SALVATION?**

**SCRIPTURE** Romans 10:9-10 and 13

*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. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved... for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

### **EXPLANATION**

To confess means to admit. Will you confess Jesus as Lord? Do you believe that God raised Jesus from the dead? The Bible says that with the mouth confession is made.

That's the Roman Road, plain and simple. Jesus died and was buried and resurrected. If you believe that the gospel is payment for your sins, then you're saved, immediately, irrevocably, and eternally. Salvation is the simplest thing in the world, but man can make it so complicated. Somebody here may be thinking, "I need to be saved, but first, I need to clear up some things." No, Jesus accepts you as you are. We could never clean ourselves up enough to come before God. He accepts us as we are.

### **ILLUSTRATION**

Here is a testimony that I read. A man wrote a couple of paragraphs that I want to share with you.

“Although I was saved at the early age of 13, I did not receive the blessed assurance of my salvation until I was 20 years old. I lived in constant fear and cried myself to sleep many nights wondering if, perhaps, I didn't have enough faith or maybe I had missed something. I was so afraid of going to hell fire. Looking back, I now realize that it was my awful ignorance of the Scriptures and God's plan of salvation that caused me so much emotional fear, worrying, and doubt. I was saved, but I didn't understand it, and so my mind was filled with many doubts and fears. Does this describe you? This describes a lot of people. As a result of my painful ordeal, I wrote a book called *Salvation* so I could share with others the wonderful truth which God gave me to settle the assurance of my salvation. I never doubted, I have never doubted my salvation since I now fully realize that I'm safe not on my own self-righteousness but by his righteousness. It's not a prayer that saves us, but our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Salvation is of the Lord. I was focusing on an experience, the words I spoke, what I prayed, the degree of my faith, etc. I was really worried. Thankfully, those days are forever gone, and I know beyond any shadow of a doubt that my name is written in Heaven in the Lamb's Book of Life.”

## **APPLICATION**

Perhaps you've had a phantom doubt that won't go away, or perhaps you thought your works were earning you points to salvation. We pray to receive Christ, but it's not the prayer that saves us. It's our faith in Christ, but we verbalize a prayer to make it concrete. So, if you are worried that maybe when you were six or seven or eight years old you did not say the exact words, there are no exact words, but there is an exact faith.

“God be merciful to me a sinner”; that's the faith that we need. Do you live for Jesus? Do you think about him? Do you know that he lives in you? Do you dwell on the cross and the meaning of the cross? I think the older a person gets, the more meaningful the cross becomes. It's never a one-shot deal where you learn everything about the cross and then it's over. It's the beginning of a lifelong journey, of coming to the cross regularly and realizing that you don't go day to day on your own will, doing your own thing when you want, where you want. It's a surrender to the cross; it's a surrender to the lordship of Jesus in your life.

Have you received the Romans Road? Have you received the pardon of God through Jesus Christ? Have you accepted the fact that you cannot do enough to earn it? It's all Jesus.

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I use the NIV translation of scripture because of its conversational nature. Feel free to go to Bible Gateway and copy and paste whichever translation you want to use. This transcript has been edited to an outline format that improves readability and therefore may not exactly follow the video edition.

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