

Verndale Alliance Church



The Fellowship Forum

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What is the
Roman Road?

Book-by-Book Overview –Romans

Author of Romans

The apostle Paul, whose Jewish name was Saul, written from Corinth about AD 57.

Overview

The central theme of the letter is the righteousness of God (1:16-17). All people, whether Jew or Gentile, are sinful and stand condemned before a righteous and perfect God. It is only through the sacrificial death of Christ on the cross that people can make right with God. On the basis of Christ's payment for sin, God "Justifies," or declares righteous, those who have faith in him.

Interesting facts about Romans

- Paul plan to visit Rome on his way to Spain was changed by his arrest in Jerusalem (Acts 21-28). As a prisoner, though, he eventually got to Rome and preached the gospel there (Acts 28:30-31). Paul may have gone to Spain after his release, but this is uncertain since Acts ends with Paul still in prison.
- The letter was evidently carried by Phoebe, a woman and deacon (or servant) from the church at Cenchrea (16:1)
- The letter was dictated by Paul to a secretary (or, amanuensis) named Tertius, who identifies himself in 16:22.

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Routines, Ruts, and Discipline

I have a confession to make, I like routines. For some there is excitement in not knowing what is coming next but not for me. This past spring I tried to break out and live care free, if only for a moment. We were planning our vacation to the Black Hills so we ordered a vacation planner and I set to work mapping out our trip. After a while I declared that the Stanley family would not be following a plan but would instead just decide each day as it came. I even planned *not* to plan where we would stay but leave that to the whim of the road. Two weeks before we left I made reservations. Oh well, it was fun while it lasted.

Of course even for the most free spirited among us routines can be good. If we don't pay our bills on some routine basis we can run into trouble. Getting a routine physical can alert us to health issues before they become problems. Routine maintenance on our cars can keep us from sitting along the road somewhere and so on.

In some areas of our lives though routines can become ruts. Ruts are those habits that take more and more of our time and keep us moving in a direction that may not be healthy for us. Certainly not all ruts are as dangerous as others. But when we consider ruts a problem not only because of where they are taking us, but what it is they are keeping us from, we get a clearer picture of the problem. If we are not careful, even seemingly benign ruts can keep us from using our time and energy for more noble pursuits. Nothings on TV, but we watch TV anyway instead of say reading a book or calling a friend. We can't make it to church because we are out every Saturday night to late and can't wake up in time. Before long we find ourselves doing what we do because we have always done it. Ruts usually lack any real purpose other than to dig a deeper rut.

So how can we avoid problem ruts? In a word the answer is discipline. In 1 Corinthians 9 Paul uses the analogy of Greek athletic events to make the point that in his striving to represent Christ he wanted to live in such a way as to not be disqualified. In vs. 27 of that chapter he says he "disciplines his body". For the believer our high calling and privilege is to be a witness for Christ. To do this effectively requires we do the same. That we order our lives in such a way as to not damage that testimony. Later in 1 Corinthians 10 Paul reminds us that while all things are lawful not all things are profitable. Just because we *can* do something doesn't mean we *should*.

Getting out of a rut is not easy but it is worth it. When we discipline ourselves to choose God's best, even when that way seems harder, we will find Him faithful to give us the strength to carry on. Each time we choose to say, read our bible and pray or invest in our kid's spiritual growth rather than watch another rerun or scroll more Facebook post, we will find it easier to make that choice the next time. And with each opportunity taken we will find our course begin to shift from problem ruts to the path God has called us to follow.

In Christ,

Pastor Tony

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7	5	9	4	2	8	3	6	1
8	6	1	9	7	4	2	3	5
9	7	3	2	5	1	6	4	8
5	4	2	8	6	3	7	1	9



The Anointed Quarter

I recently returned from ten days in Nassau, Bahamas with twenty-two teenagers and four adults. One of the benefits of a missions trip is that you are focused on watching God work. After all, isn't that one of the main reasons you would go to another country in the first place? You want to be the hands and feet of Jesus and be used by Him and to see Him work up close.

My heart was ready for this trip. This was the best missions trip that I have ever led and even better than that, this was the best missions trip I have ever been a part of. This was mostly due in part because I spent countless hours allowing Jesus to prepare my heart for service. I also led a group, our missions team, who had done the same. These teens and adults were ready. We stepped off the plane in Nassau, primed and ready to see the hand of God. God did not disappoint.

While in Nassau, I personally recorded eight direct answers to prayer. We witnessed healings, salvations and miracles. I don't have time to share details about each experience, but in case you missed the Sunday morning service on July 20th, I want to share with you one story about a miracle that happened. It has become known as the anointed quarter.

The day we arrived in Nassau, I went grocery shopping with two of our youth coaches while the rest of our group settled into our church accommodations. We shopped for over an hour and filled four shopping carts with food. It took probably twenty minutes for the cashier to scan everything into her computer. Our total came to \$950. I didn't think anything of the payment because I had already gone down to our bank in town to let them know I would need to use the card on our missions trip to Nassau. Well, she scanned my card and it didn't go through. I said, try it again. Nothing. Then I gave her my two personal credit cards, still nothing. Denied. I thought, oh great, how are we going to pay for this?

While my youth coaches waited with our four shopping carts inside the store, I went to find my friend, the youth pastor of the church where we were serving. I found him outside another store with a couple buddies. I explained the situation to him. He allowed me to borrow his phone to call my credit card company back in the United States. I couldn't make the call from my phone because it would have cost me a small fortune in roaming charges. When the phone call connected I was put on hold for five minutes before a representative got on the phone. Well, as soon as I start giving her my information, my friend's phone battery died. Oh great!

Continued on the next page.

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In light of this, we were reminded of God's sovereignty, so, we stopped and prayed and asked God to take over. Then my friend gives me a quarter to use the pay-phone outside the grocery store. I was able to get through and find out that the wait was now seven minutes to get through to an agent. Well, the problem was that for every quarter you put in, you only get about thirty seconds of phone time to the United States. My friend had three quarters in his pocket and then sent his friends to find more. Two minutes into the phone call, my friend put a quarter in that added time and then popped out of the bottom of the phone, as if to return the quarter to us. He used the same quarter ten times, each time accumulating time. We had an anointed quarter.

I can only describe this as an act of God. My friend told me he has never seen a quarter do that in a pay-phone ever before. Praise the Lord! I ended up getting through to my credit card company, and we only had to add a few more quarters to enable me to finish my phone call. The friendly agent on the other end freed up my credit card for purchases in Nassau and my credit card was accepted for the groceries.

Through this experience, God reminded me that He is in complete control no matter what the circumstance. When my credit card didn't go through, I was already thinking ahead to the possibilities of not making that purchase to feed our team for the week or considering other ways to make the purchase. The right thing to do was what we ended up doing and that was to stop and pray. All I needed to do was to trust God. When we prayed, we invited the God of the universe into our situation. He had complete control all along. He delivered a timely miracle that I will never forget.

Matthew 6:33 says, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you."

Pastor Fred Hartley IV

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Answers on Page 3

What is the Romans Road?

Simply put, the Romans Road shows the path to Heaven. It uses points from the book of Romans in the Bible to explain God's gift of salvation. At each stop we learn something new about why we need salvation, how God has provided for it, and how we receive it. As you look at each of the six points outlined here, take time to reflect on what God's Word has to say. Remember that the book of Romans was written to people just like you and me: people living in a busy culture, trying to make sense of what is true and what is most important in life.

The Romans Road describes the only way to Heaven. Study it, learn it, and follow it!

1. Everyone Needs Salvation

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

2. Jesus Died For Our Salvation

But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

3. Salvation Is A Gift

The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

4. We Are Saved By Grace

And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. (Romans 11:6)

5. Salvation Comes Through Faith

To him that ... believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. (Romans 4:5)

6. God Saves All Who Call Upon Him

Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Romans 10:13)

The Bible says there are two roads in life: one is the way to eternal joy in Heaven, and the other leads to eternal punishment in Hell. Which road are you on?

Follow the Romans Road to salvation today. Recognize that you are a sinner and that your sin must be judged by God. See that Jesus died to pay the penalty for your sin, but that you must choose to accept His provision. Understand that you cannot earn your way to Heaven through good works or religious activity. Now turn to God and put your faith in Jesus Christ who died for you and rose again.

If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Romans 10:9, 10)

