

- What is the number one basic necessity to reaching a destination? You might say directions, but I'll suggest there is something even more important than knowing than you need to take the 3rd street on the right. Even more important than knowing where to turn is to first know that you're on the right road.
- We're going to talk about roads this morning. Specifically, we're going to focus on the road from Jerusalem to Rome. This road is the center piece for mainstream Christianity in regards to salvation. In fact, they refer to it as the Roman Road to Salvation. A simple search on Google will result in thousands and thousands of pages and images that teach this Roman Road to Salvation. One such image, lays out this road in a very simple way.
 - All have sinned, Romans 3:23.
 - Sin deserves death, Romans 6:23.
 - Life is a gift of God, Romans 6:23.
 - Christ died for us, Romans 5:8
 - Confess Jesus as Lord, Romans 10:9.
- This all looks great. In fact, I would agree with all 5 of these being true. However, we are interested in knowing if this road will indeed help us find salvation. Will a person have their sins forgiven at this point? Sadly, the answer is no, and there are millions of people who have bought into these faulty directions.
- Why do we need to study this? We need to study this because we need to help our friends and family get on to the right road! If we are traveling to a destination with another person and we see them get on the wrong road, wouldn't we warn them they are going the wrong way? Absolutely! We must be willing to do the same thing when it comes to our destination of heaven. Friends, those who are on the faith only Roman Road to Salvation are heading for disaster. We must be willing to warn them, and we need to know how to respond when this Roman Road of Salvation is presented to us.
- Let's use our remaining time by considering some other roads we read of in the book of Acts. The people on these roads all found salvation, and we want to see what they had in common. After that, we'll consider all aspects of what the book of Romans has to say about salvation and having one's sins forgiven.

I. Other Roads to Consider

A. The Road to Samaria, Acts 8:5-13

1. Philip goes down (up) to Samaria to preach the Good News about the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. **(vv.5,12)**
2. Samaritans listened and heard what was being said to them, and those things were confirmed by the miracles of Philip. **(v.6)**
3. The Samaritans and even the Sorcerer Simon believed those things taught by Philip. **(vv.12,13)**
4. The believe Samaritans and Simon were baptized in faith. **(vv.12,13)**

B. The Road to Gaza, Acts 8:26-40

1. Philip gets up and goes down to the desert road that goes to Gaza from Jerusalem. **(v.26)**
2. Philip meets the Ethiopian Eunuch, the treasurer for Queen Candace of Ethiopia, who was reading from the Prophet Isaiah about the Messiah. **(vv. 26-34)**
3. Philip preaches Jesus to this Eunuch. **(v.35)**
4. The Eunuch believes in Jesus. **(v.37)**
5. The Eunuch confessed Jesus. **(v.37)**
6. Philip baptizes the Eunuch. **(v. 36-38)**

C. The Road to Damascus, Acts 9:1-19; 26-16

1. Saul hears the voice of Jesus, and Jesus tells him to go into the city. **(9:4-6; 22:7-10)**
2. Ananias tells Saul to be baptized, calling on the name of the Lord. **(22:16)**
3. Saul believes and is baptized to wash away his sins. **(9:18)**

- ## **II. We consistently see a steady pattern throughout the book of Acts that shows individuals who hear the Gospel, believe the Gospel, change their lives, confess Jesus, and are baptized for the forgiveness of their sins. Why, then, is it that the Roman Road to Salvation leaves out the action of baptism? Let's seek to answer those questions.**

III. God's Plan of Salvation in the Book of Romans

A. There is not a new Gospel or plan of salvation being taught in this book.

1. Some would say that Paul is teaching a new Gospel or a different faith in the book of Romans, but that just isn't the case at all.
2. Some might wonder if Paul even mentions baptism in the book of Romans since it isn't included in the Roman Road to Salvation.
3. Paul certainly does mention baptism in the book of Romans. **(entirety of chapter 6)**
4. Did the writers of this material accidentally leave baptism out of the Roman Road? Not at all. Proponents of this believe purposefully take a detour around 6th chapter. This is a quote from a man promoting the Roman Road in response to another who asked why he left out baptism, *"I certainly do not want to diminish the necessity of Baptism, but this was an article regarding the 'Romans Road' verses written for those searching for a Biblical foundation for Salvation, or for those looking for a guide when sharing Christ with others. I do not believe that baptism is essential to Salvation. It is necessary as we pursue holiness and righteousness, but the Bible is clear that Salvation is by grace alone and not by works."* (thereisnogray.wordpress.com/gods-plan-of-salvation-the-romans-road/)

B. The book of Romans is consistent with the other inspired writings concerning salvation.

1. All have sinned. **(3:23)**
2. Sin is deserving of death **(6:23)**
3. God does give life through His grace. **(6:23)**
4. Believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **(10:17)**
5. Repent/turn from the former life of sin. **(6:1,2)**
6. Confess Jesus as the Son of God. **(10:9)**
7. Be immersed/baptized in water for the forgiveness of sins. **(6:3-11)**
8. Through doing this, a person has now been "obedient from the heart." **(6:17)**
9. That person must then continue living acceptably before God. **(12:1)**

Unfortunately, there are many who have followed after the false doctrine of the "Roman Road to Salvation." Does the book of Romans have the ability to teach someone how to have their sins forgiven? Absolutely! However, we must be sure to take the book for its entirety and not skip over any of the details. Why do the proponents of faith only salvation have to skip over parts of Romans? Because they have a false concept of baptism. Baptism isn't a work that earns us salvation. In reality, it is simply an act of obedience. God says to do it, and we do it because God said so. May God help us to always hold to His plan of Salvation, because only through His plan can the sinner find that place where their sins can be washed away. May we as Christians always be ready to defend the true road to salvation, God's road to salvation.