

The Romans Road of Salvation

From Fr. Jack Estes' July 2, 2023, sermon

The Romans Road is a Roadmap for Salvation.

It is a guide for our spiritual journey, taking us from the starting point in our life and humanity to our final destination. That is God's intention for us, our true identity.

The Romans Road is well documented, and I would refer you to the handout I provided this morning. It usually consists of four or five key verses that serve as stops along God's plan of salvation, the roadmap for salvation. If you take a look at your handout, you'll see these key verses of the Romans Road.

It begins at the starting point, Romans 3:23: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

The next stop is Romans 5:8: "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Then we come to the third stop, which we heard this morning: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

You can see that we are progressing along the way toward our destination. On the next page, Romans 10:9 states: "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."

And the final key verse, the fifth in this sequence, is Romans 10:13: "For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Following the Romans Road of salvation assures us that we have reached our destination, the assurance of salvation. The Romans Road is well documented and well traveled. In the early church, the early church fathers were greatly influenced by Paul's epistle to the Romans. It is the largest and longest of Paul's epistles, although not the first one he wrote. Due to its legal acuity and the precision with which Paul explains the means and ways to find Christ and come to salvation, it became prominent and is the first epistle in the New Testament.

The Romans Road has been well traveled throughout history. It played a significant role in the conversion of Augustine, the great father of Western theology. In his book, *The Confessions*, Augustine was struggling to find God, live a moral life, and discover truth. He was lost until he heard a child crying out in the garden, saying, "Take and read." He picked

up an open Bible and read Romans, and in that moment, he was converted, giving his heart and life to Christ. He then became a great theologian of the church.

Throughout history, many others, including Martin Luther, the father of the Reformation, have traveled the Romans Road. Luther, while reading Romans, discovered the verse that we are justified not by works of the law but by faith. Justification by faith alone became a fundamental principle of the Reformation.

Many have traveled the Romans Road before, as it is well-traveled and well-documented.

Today and over the next few weeks, I invite you to go on a summer vacation. Take out the roadmap of the Romans Road and walk through it together, considering afresh God's plan of salvation.