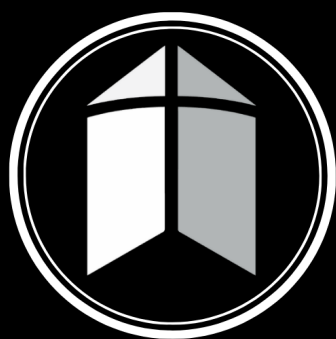


THE ROMANS ROAD

A WAY TO GIVE YOUR FAITH AWAY

By Dr. Clint Archer



CHRIST FELLOWSHIP

BAPTIST CHURCH

Anchored In Truth



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This Book Belongs To: _____

ROMANS ROAD

1. PURPOSE OF THE ROMANS ROAD CLASS



i) To know the way – i.e. to understand the theology of the gospel more deeply.

ii) To show the way – i.e. to be equipped to explain the gospel to an unbeliever.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE CLASS

i) To name the most essential, indispensable elements of the gospel.

ii) To be able to confidently present the gospel in a limited time, by focusing on the essential elements.

iii) To be able to quote verses or at least their references when presenting the gospel.

iv) To be able to answer frequently asked questions unbelievers have in response to the presentation

v) To understand the discipline of staying on track and avoiding irrelevant rabbit trails during the presentation.

3. INTRODUCTION (recap)

-Who wrote the book of Romans?

-Why is Romans ideal for a gospel presentation?

- What does the Greek word *euangellion* mean?

- What is the English word?

- Why must we evangelize?

- Who must evangelize?

- How is does a person survive God's wrath; in other words, by what means are people saved?



Saved or justified people survive the judgment by _____ (Romans 1:17)

4. DEALING WITH INTERRUPTING QUESTIONS

Unbelievers frequently ask questions while you are talking. This is sometimes a red herring that sends you off down a rabbit trail that has no real relevance to the discussion. Other times it is a genuine concern that has come up because they have understood your gospel presentation.



Irrelevant FAQs (Red Herrings):

- What does the Bible say about dinosaurs?
- Doesn't the OT teach you should stone people?
- How can homosexuality be wrong if people are born that way?
- If God is so good, then why do bad things like earthquakes happen in the world?
- There are so many different interpretations of what the Bible means, how can be sure you have the right one?



Relevant FAQs:

-But then if grace is a free gift, then if I keep on sinning, will I still go to heaven?

Answer:

Rom 6: ¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ...⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin.

-What about people who never hear the gospel at all? Do they still go to hell?

Rom 1: ¹⁹For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

5. THE NEED FOR THE GOSPEL

We have established that Jesus commanded us to share the gospel, that people are sinners and that the way to be saved is to have faith, to trust in Jesus.

Discussion:

- Is it possible for a person who has sinned, to be saved without hearing the gospel?
- How much does a person need to hear, understand, and believe to be saved?
- What if you leave essential elements out, can they still be saved with only part of the gospel content?

READ **Romans 10:10-17**

6. THE ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS OF THE GOSPEL

In class assignment:

Put a **check mark** next to which of these you would *always* include every time you present the gospel (ones you think are the *indispensable* elements of the gospel).



- God loves you
- God chooses who will be saved (election)
- The Bible is true
- Hell is eternal, conscious suffering
- Satan is real and evil, but not equal to God in power
- The Trinity consists of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three persons, one God
- God is holy
- You must be baptized
- You must repent of your sins
- You must trust Jesus to save you
- You are a sinner
- You are helpless to save yourself
- Jesus is the only way to salvation
- Jesus died on the cross
- Jesus died as a substitute for your sins
- Jesus rose from the dead physically
- Jesus will come again
- Once you are saved you cannot lose your salvation

Now read these passages that speak about the contents of the gospel, or what must be believed to be saved.

1 Corinthians 15:³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

Ephesians 2:⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

James 2:¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food,¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

Galatians 5:¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions,²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Now go back to your list and **circle** the elements you would include if you could only include FOUR. Yes, only four.

Romans Road will give three simple categories of truth that must be conveyed, but for each person you will need to determine how much detail to give under each category.

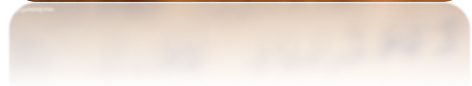
- 1) **Bad news** (God is holy, you are a sinner, there is consequence for your sin, you cannot save yourself).
- 2) **Good news** (But god loves you, and made a way for you through Jesus' substitutionary death, and resurrection).
- 3) **Repentance** (You must place your trust in Jesus, as the only Savior & Lord, to save you from your sins).

7. HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS DUE NEXT WEEK

-Can a person be saved without hearing the gospel?
Give a verse in the reason for your answer.

-What if you leave out some of the gospel, how can the person be saved?

-Why not just memorize that verse as the one-size-fits-all
gospel presentation?



ROMANS ROAD:



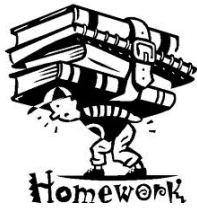
1. RECAP

- i) To know the way – i.e. to understand the theology of the gospel more deeply.
- ii) To show the way – i.e. to be equipped to explain the gospel to an unbeliever

It's the Gospel that saves. There is no *one-size-fits all* presentation, but there are some basic ingredients that must be in each presentation: Bad News, Good News, and Repentance.



2. HOMEWORK ANSWERS



-Can a person be saved without hearing the gospel? *No.*

Give a verse in the reason for your answer.

Rom 10:17 faith comes by hearing the word of Christ.

-What if you leave out some of the gospel, how can the person be saved? *Someone else will need to give the rest (Rom 10:14 how will they hear without a preacher?)*

-Why not just memorize a verse as the one-size-fits-all gospel presentation?
Each person comes with different levels of understanding of the 3 steps.

-Read Romans 1-4

3. THE PREDICAMENT, THE BAD NEWS.



Now that you understand that no one ever gets saved without actually hearing, understanding, and believing the gospel account of Christ's death and resurrection on our behalf, the first step of the Romans Road gospel presentation is to make sure the person understands the predicament they are in, i.e. that they need a Savior.

If you skip this step then they might agree with you outwardly, but inwardly they are not convinced they need help.

You don't want someone to say they believe in Jesus, you want someone to actually believe they need a Savior.

Also, if you skip this step the person might not believe that there is a need to call out for salvation in repentance.

If they don't know the need and therefore don't trust in Jesus, then they won't be saved.



So, the **goal** of step one, *the bad news*, is to get someone to understand the predicament so that they really desire to be saved.



Medicine will only be taken voluntarily if the patient believes that they need it.

Ingredients of the Bad News...

(these concepts help a person recognize their need for a Savior)

- God is Holy (set apart from sin)
- You are a sinner by nature (original sin).
- You have sinned in your deeds (fall short of the standard).
- God will punish you for your sin (since he is just).
- You cannot save yourself.
- You need a Savior to rescue you.

The essential element is that you are in a state of needing a Savior (because God is holy, you have sinned, you deserve punishment, and can't save yourself).

Verses that teach the above bad news...

Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

****Rom 3:10** as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one;”¹¹ no one understands; no one seeks for God. ¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”

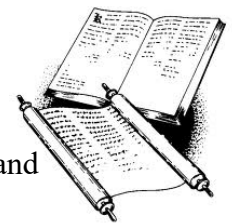
***Rom 3:23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Rom 5:12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

Rom 6:23a For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Best single verse if you only have time for one.

** Next best verse if you only have time for two.



In Class Assignment 1:

Which verse makes the point for each of these elements of the bad news.

Element of bad news:

Verses that contain this truth:

- God is Holy.
- You are a sinner by nature.
- You have sinned in your deeds.
- God will punish you for your sin.
- You cannot save yourself.
- You need a Savior to rescue you.

Remember that if you have the chance to find out how much they know about this step, that will determine how many verses you show them and which ones you use.



In Class Assignment 2:

Draw a line to the most applicable response...

How could I be a sinner, I never knew?

You cannot save yourself

I'm a moral person

Original sin makes all people sin

Catholic who believes they are a sinner

Your conscience convicts you

"God is a God of love and forgiveness"

Your sin nature effects your thinking

"God made me this way" (gay/ alcoholic)

You are a sinner

"I don't believe there is a God"

God is angry at sin and will punish it

Now add a verse reference to each response.



Homework:

- What could happen if you skip this bad news step when presenting the Gospel?

- Under what circumstance would it be appropriate to skip this bad news step?

- Which types of people already believe this bad news?

- What is the most essential ingredient of the bad news?

- What one verse says that best?

- What one verse proves original sin best? (i.e. that you are born with a sin nature).

- What one verse proves that all people have committed deeds of sin?

- What one verse proves best that sin will be punished?

- What verse answers the FAQ 'What about people who don't know God's law?'

- Memorize Romans 3:23 (and 6:23)

- Consider writing in your Bible next to Romans 3:23... "RR 1. BAD NEWS, turn to 6:23"

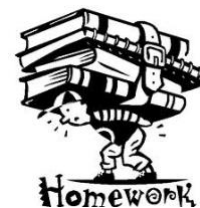


1. RECAP

- A person must hear, understand and believe the FULL gospel to be saved, there is no other way.
- STEP ONE in a gospel presentation is the BAD NEWS, i.e. the predicament—that everyone is a sinner by nature and deeds, and since God is holy he will punish sinners in Hell, and no one can save themselves. We are all in need of a Savior.

2. HOMEWORK ANSWERS

Let's take a moment and review your answers from last week.



3. THE SOLUTION: THE GOOD NEWS



Now that the person understands their predicament, the goal of Step Two is to clearly show that God's love made a way for sinners to be saved.

[] *Great Exchange, Carlton & Darnay Tale of 2 Cities*

Ingredients of the remedy include:

- God loves you
- Jesus, as God in human flesh, lived the sinless life that God requires from you, and reckons it to your account.
- He gives his righteousness to you – aka imputation.**
- Jesus died on the cross, satisfied God's anger, and paid

the price you owe as a substitute for you

He takes your sin from you – aka atonement

- Jesus rose again from the dead in victory over death and to prove the work is over, making him the only true Savior.

The most essential ingredient is that the sinless Jesus died to pay the debt your sins incurred against the Father.

You may be thinking, What about faith and repentance? Next week we deal with the person's *response* to this good news, and how to apply it to their life. This week is just understanding the theology of how the good news works.



Verses that teach the Good News...

Rom 5: ⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹* Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

*Best single verse if you only have time for one is Rom 5:9.

Some potential rabbit trails...

-“Why do I have to believe in the virgin birth?” Understand that the virgin birth of Jesus is important because it explains why he was not born with a sin nature like ours.

-“It doesn’t sound fair that God would punish his innocent Son for something we did.” First, remember that God is punishing *himself*, not someone else. Second, God is taking responsibility for the actions of his creation. Adam sinned and the whole race fell, God held Adam responsible for Eve’s sin because he was the head of the race. In the same way Jesus takes responsibility for the whole race’s sins, voluntarily.

-“I believe that Jesus was a good teacher who came from God to show us how to live. Why do I need to believe in the Resurrection?” Remember that this doctrine of ‘substitutionary atonement’ is an essential part of the gospel. Jesus did not come just to be an example of a good life, he came to die. The Resurrection proves all his claims.

In Class Assignment:

Which verse makes the point for each of these elements of the good news.

Element of good news:

Part of the verse which contain this truth:

God loves you

God overcomes your inability to contribute

Jesus' perfect life is reckoned to you

God's justice is satisfied by the cross

God's holiness is satisfied the cross

You can be reconciled only through Jesus



Homework:

-What was God's motive in making a way to save sinners? Supply a verse.

-When we say "Jesus died for your sins" what does the phrase "for your sins" mean?

-Memorize Romans 5:9



ROMANS ROAD: Offering Salvation

1. RECAP

-Only the gospel saves. A person must hear, understand and believe the FULL gospel to be saved, there is no other way (**Romans 10:10-15**)

- STEP ONE in a gospel presentation is the BAD NEWS, i.e. the predicament that everyone is a sinner by nature and deeds, and since God is holy he will punish sinners with Hell, and no one can save themselves. So we are all in need of a Savior (**Romans 3:23; 6:23**)

- STEP TWO in the presentation is the GOOD NEWS that God's love motivated him to provide a way to satisfy his justice, but rescue sinners. Jesus Christ, God in human flesh lived a sinless life and then offered his righteousness on the cross as a substitute for the sin of any who would trust him to save them (**Romans 5:8-19**)

2. HOMEWORK ANSWERS

Let's take a moment and review your answers from last week.



3. CLOSING THE DEAL: OFFER OF SALVATION

Now that the person understands their predicament, and that the solution is Jesus Christ, the **goal** of Step Three is to challenge the sinner to repent of their sin and call to Jesus for salvation. The goal is not for you to manipulate them into doing this; it is the work of the Holy Spirit. *Your role is to show/tell them how to do it.*

Don't think of yourself as a salesman, but as a doctor. Your job is not to coax a customer into signing a contract. Your job is to give a patient the bad news of a disease, give the good news of the remedy, and then to write the prescription and tell them where to get it and how to take it. You don't force feed the pill to them. They need to willingly take it themselves.



Charlemagne offered converts clothing as an incentive to be baptized. At other times Crusaders forced Muslims to be baptized or be executed. This is not conversion.

Ingredients of the prescription include:

- You can have Christ's sacrifice applied to you
- You need to repent of your sin and trust in Jesus alone
- You need to ask for forgiveness and obey God, through baptism and ongoing repentance
- You need to count the cost

Mark 1:15 "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Grace is free, but it may cost you everything! (Jesus said to take up your cross, count the cost, and whoever does not hate his own life cannot be my disciple).



No one is saved apart from good works... the question is *whose* good works save us? The Savior's life & atoning death is imputed to the sinner; the sinner's sin and guilt is imputed to the Savior.

The most essential ingredient is that you need to repent of sin and trust in Christ.

Trusting in Jesus and repenting of sin is only one activity.

[] It's like moving from Durban to Mobile. It's not two actions, it's one action that can be described in two ways. In the same way, turning to Christ in faith is the same thing as turning away from sin (repentance).

Verses on how to repent...



Romans 10:9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

11 For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame."

12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him.

13 For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

*Best single verse if you only have time for one (**Rom 10:9**).

Some potential rabbit trails...

-“If grace is free, then why do I need to repent?”

Repentance is also a gift of God, so it's part of the grace; and turning from sin to Jesus is one action, not two, and evidence/effect, not a cause of salvation.



Acts 11:18 When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

-“If I am forgiven of all sins past, present, and future, then can I keep on sinning?”

You are not being saved only from the *consequence* of sins, but the *sins themselves*.

If you are not free from your sin, then you have not been saved.

Rom 6:1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?

2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been

baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We

know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin



In Class Assignment:

Create a list of 5 questions for an interview that you could administer with an unbeliever which would open the door for a conversation on the gospel.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Other helpful questions you may want to include (i.e. from the other people's lists)...



Final practical exam:

-Using what you have learned in this class, share the gospel with an unbeliever this week. Write a one page report on your experience (you can use an essay narrative format or a bullet point format, or an interview).

Include the following information:

- >Who is this person and what is your relationship to them?
- >How did you know they were an unbeliever?
- >What medium did the conversation use (i.e. e-mail, phone, in person, etc.)?
- >How did you initiate the conversation?
- >How did you transition into the presentation?
- >Did you use all 3 steps of the RR presentation?
- >Did you quote or explain or reference any verses? If so which ones?
- >Describe how you ascertained which steps of the presentation to emphasize?
- >Were there any questions they had, and how did you handle them (e.g. answer relevant and postpone answering irrelevant)
- >What was their response to the presentation?
- >In what ways was this experience profitable for you and for them?
- >Do you have any follow-up planned, if so what?
- >Any further comments?

-Repeat this assignment as many times as you can before you die!