

The Roman Road to Redemption

The title of this study is in reference to the New Testament book of Romans. The following is a brief journey through Romans as it describes the condition we are in, and what it takes to receive “redemption” and “salvation” in a way to be able to share it with others. He is the only Source of love, joy, hope, meaning and purpose. The word “redeem” means to “buy back,” “recover” or “rescue” (that which was sold or taken into captivity).

Some split Romans into two sections:

- What to believe (chapters 1 through 11)
- How to behave (chapters 12 through 16)

Consider five key areas presented in Romans that are pillars of the Christian faith:

- 1) **Sin** - as mentioned in other studies, sin is simply refusing to obey God and to live our lives according to our own wishes and desires. Consider the separate study on sin if interested.
- 2) **Salvation** - Saved from God’s wrath and judgement for an eternal relationship with Him, and to receive all of His blessings. Again, see the separate studies on salvation for more on this subject.
- 3) **Sanctification** (growth) - this is the process God performs in us when we surrender our wills to Him as our Savior and LORD. We then receive the Holy Spirit to do the work in us to transform us into His likeness.
- 4) **Sovereignty** of God - God is in control of it all. Yes, He gives us free will, and our first parents chose poorly (Genesis chapter 3). But, because of His amazing love, He put a plan in place to save those who, by faith in Jesus Christ, give their lives to Him.
- 5) **Service** to God - This is how we are to be the light and love of Jesus to others that they see the life changing love and power in us, that only comes from Him.

The following are key verses from the Book of Romans that will help us as believers better understand God’s plan, and be better prepared to share His plan with others.

- Romans 1:19-20** - Humans are all, by nature, infected by sin. That is a difficult truth that needs to be acknowledged up front. This passage also clarifies that all of us are without an excuse. (Read verses 18-32 for a description of the consequences of having it **our way**.)
- Romans 2:14-15** - This shows that we all have a “conscience” that convicts us of what is right and wrong even if we are not followers of Jesus Christ.
- Romans 3:23** - This simple verse clearly proves that none of us is without sin. All have fallen short of God’s glory. By this, we were separated from God. (Verses 21-31 give a more thorough understanding of this.)
- Romans 5:1-2** - This is a key verse (and chapter) that shows that our reconciliation to God comes through the death of His Son, Jesus Christ who was the only acceptable sacrifice to pay for our sins and satisfy the perfect and pure holiness of God. The Payment was made but the gift of this Payment can only be received by **faith** in the One who gave His life for us.
- Romans 6:23** - This makes it much clearer that sin is what brought death (spiritual and physical) and that eternal life is **only** through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Romans 8:28** - What a wonderful assurance of God’s “sovereignty” that **all** things work together for our good, even the suffering and trials. As you read on in the chapter, you will see the results of it all. This may be one of the most encouraging chapters in the Bible. Consider reading the whole chapter for amazing encouragement in your present circumstances!
- Romans 10:9-10** - This is the most clear reflection of the “how to get saved” references in the Bible. Please do not overlook the word “Lord” which means master. One cannot believe Jesus is Savior and not make Him Lord and be saved. Again, reading in the context of the whole chapter is of great value.
- Romans 12:1-2** - Here we are getting into living out our salvation and the process of transformation. A word on Spiritual gifts and of Love are beautifully mentioned in the rest of the chapter. The rest of Romans goes into more detail about living out the Christian life.

*For new believers, the book of John is a great place to start to get to know the person of Jesus Christ better. I believe the book of Romans is a great place to better understand the foundational doctrines of the Christian faith. May you grow to be a beacon of God’s Light, Love and Truth to this dark and dying world.
May it begin in your home, church and community today.*