The Romans Road To Salvation

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday August 16th, 2020

Text: Romans 1:5-6; 16:25-26

### Intro

1. The Romans Road To Salvation: Bait & Switch!
	1. While in line at the start of the 2015 Iditarod race in Fairbanks, AK (03/09/15) a man approached us and asked, “Would you like an Iditarod Pamphlet?” We took one.
	2. We were surprised to see a small booklet titled, “The Good News of Jesus Christ Recorded in The Books of John & Romans: The Holy Bible.” Also on the front cover was stated: “Alaska Iditarod Edition” with an Iditarod logo! It was produced by the Bible Baptist Church in Fairbanks, AK.
	3. We looked through it and found nothing to do with the Iditarod at all!
	4. We were promised a secular pamphlet on the event we were attending and instead we were given a partial Bible!
2. In the back of the “Iditarod Edition” of John & Romans is a popular tract produced by Little Red Book *(*[*www.littleredbook.org*](http://www.littleredbook.org)*)* called “The Romans Road.” Various denominations include it with their tracts and it is sometimes called, “The Romans Road to Salvation.”
	1. *Salvation is an important subject.* The Scriptures warn us about the danger of being mistaken concerning our salvation *(Prov. 16:25; Mt. 7:21-23; Rom. 10:1-3).*
	2. The teaching contained in the “Romans Road” needs to be examined for this very reason, because it contains incomplete teaching concerning what one must do to be saved!
	3. “The Romans Road” seeks to explain how one is saved from sin by using verses from the book of Romans.
3. It contains partial teaching on the subject of salvation (Just as the booklet was a partial Bible!)
4. Partial truth is still error, so let us complete “The Romans Road to Salvation!”

#### “The Romans Road” (to Salvation) Tract

* 1. Believe God’s Book! *(No Scripture given in Romans, but it quotes Ps. 19:7-8)*
		1. Rom. 3:21-22: By believing in Christ (faith) we have the righteousness of God!
	2. The Wages of Sin
		1. *Rom. 3:23:* “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” *(3:10)*
		2. Rom. 6:23: “For the wages of sin is death.” One must have an understanding that eternal punishment awaits the unsaved! *(Gal. 5:19-21: Deeds of the flesh)*
	3. Repentance *(No Scriptures given from Romans, but it quotes II Pet. 3:9; II Cor. 6:17-18)*
		1. Rom. 2:4: Repent, rather than take God’s kindness & patience lightly!
		2. Rom. 2:5-8: The unrepentant will suffer the wrath of God!
	4. By Grace Not Works (Quotes Eph. 2:8-9; Is. 64:6)
		1. Rom. 4:4-5, 7-8: Grace is unmerited favor and is not earned.
	5. Blood Redemption (Quotes Jn. 3:16, 36; I Jn. 1:7)
		1. *Rom. 5:1:* “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
	6. It’s Your Decision (Quotes II Cor. 6:2)
		1. Though these tracts close differently, depending on who publishes it, “The Romans Road” usually ends with an exhortation to the reader to say the “Sinner’s Prayer” to be saved (Rom. 10:9-10), then the tract closes. *(Oft times provides info to contact the publisher)*
	7. “The Romans Road to Salvation” tract is correct up to the part of salvation! *(Like with the “Iditarod Edition” they pull a Bait & Switch)*

#### Why Is “The Romans Road to Salvation” Incomplete?

* 1. We know the recipients of Paul’s letter to the Romans were Christians (1:1-7: Saints), and thus were saved from sin.
	2. We must all have a complete picture of the Bible's teaching on Salvation.
		1. In *Mt. 4* Jesus was responding to an incomplete treatment of a biblical subject when He said, “It is written again” and then cited another Scripture (NKJ: 4:7).
		2. Jesus teaches us that, when considering a subject in light of the Scriptures, we need to consider all the facts of Scripture which speak to that subject.
	3. This leads to a pertinent question:
		1. Why do we view “The Romans Road to Salvation” tract as being incomplete?
	4. “The Romans Road” tract is incomplete because it teaches salvation is by faith only, leaving out the part that obedience plays in salvation in the Book of Romans!

#### Completing “The Romans Road” (to Salvation)

* 1. The book of Romans states the importance of obedient faith in both its opening and closing verses!
		1. Rom. 1:5-6: “Through whom *(1:1,3)* we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the ***obedience of faith*** among all the Gentiles for His name's sake.”
		2. Rom. 16:25-26: “…by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to ***obedience of faith***.”
	2. Rom. 2 clearly states that, in the final judgment, one will be lost or saved based on whether or not that person has obeyed God, not just on the basis of faith only:
		1. 2:6: “Who will render to each person according to his deeds.”
		2. 2:8: “But to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation.”
		3. 2:13: “For it is not the hearers of the Law who are just before God, but the doers of the Law will be justified.” (Js. 1:21-25: “Hearers and doers”)
	3. Rom. 6 clearly places salvation after obedience, not after faith only:
		1. 6:16-18, 22: “But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed.”
	4. Rom. 10 clearly places salvation after obedience, not after faith only:
		1. 10:1-3, 16, 21: “But they have not all obeyed the gospel” (NKJ: 10:16)
		2. Israel was lost because they had not “submitted” to the righteousness of God (1:16-17).
		3. Those who were lost had not “obeyed the gospel” (10:16). They had been “disobedient” (10:21). The implication is that, had they been obedient, they would have been saved!
	5. “The Romans Road to Salvation” tract is incomplete because it fails to show that Rom. 6 teaches that baptism is also a necessary part of the road to salvation:
		1. 6:3-6: The Christians at Rome had been baptized!
		2. “New life” comes after baptism! To put it another way, using the language of this passage, a resurrection demands a burial.
		3. The burial in this passage is baptism (not sprinkling or pouring) and the resurrection is new life in Christ.
		4. Romans teaches that baptism comes *before* new life, not *after* it. “The Romans Road” says nothing about baptism!
		5. *Rom. 6:3-6* harmonizes withRom. 6:17-18, which places salvation after obedience.
		6. These facts are also in agreement with the N.T. teaching on the necessity of baptism for salvation from sin! (Mk. 16:15,16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; I Pet. 3:21)
	6. Further, one baptized into Christ (6:3) is baptized into His body, the church found in the N.T. *(Eph. 1:22-23).*
		1. Rom. 8:1: There is “no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:27-28: “Baptized into Christ;” Eph. 5:23: “Savior of the body”)
		2. One outside of Christ does not have these blessings!
		3. Baptism frees one from sin and puts one into the church that Jesus came to build (Mt. 16:18; Acts 2:47; I Cor. 12:13).
		4. It is the church for which He shed His blood *(Acts 20:28).*
		5. “The Romans Road to Salvation” tract says nothing about the church!
	7. Romans does contain all that one needs to know to be saved!
		1. Hear The Gospel (Rom. 10:17)
		2. Believe In Christ (Rom. 3:21-22; 10:17)
		3. Repent Of Sins (Rom. 2:4-8)
		4. Confess Christ (Rom. 10:10)
		5. Be Baptized (Rom. 6:3-5)
		6. Remain Faithful (Rom. 1:5-6; 16:25-26)
	8. It is not “faith only” but obedience to the gospel that causes “new life” in Christ!

## Conclusion

1. Does “The Romans Road” tract as put forth by Little Red Book lead one to salvation?
	1. The denominational tract calls on the reader to read *Rom. 10:9-13* and then say the “Sinner’s Prayer” to receive salvation.
	2. Just as they pulled a bait & switch by handing out a partial Bible booklet when they promised an Iditarod pamphlet, they pull a bait & switch by promising to lead one down the Romans Road to Salvation and then NOT telling how to obey the gospel but switch it up by telling you to say a prayer!
	3. Nowhere in the Scriptures has God ever asked or commanded a person to pray for salvation!
2. It is claimed by many that the “Sinner's Prayer” is what Paul is referring to when he writes “call upon the name of the Lord” *(Rom. 10:9-13).*
	1. Acts 22:16: The truth about what it means to “call on the name of the Lord” was revealed to Paul by Ananias, sent to Paul by God: “’Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'“
	2. Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21, 38: Peter said the prophecy of Joel was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost and those who “called upon the name of the Lord” were baptized!
	3. The Romans had believed the gospel and been baptized to be saved *(1:5-7; 6:3).*
	4. The lost sinner calls on the name of the Lord by being baptized, not by saying the “Sinner's Prayer!” *(Nowhere in Scripture has God expected people to pray for salvation)*
3. The Book of Romans is bookended with the teaching on obedience (1:5; 16:26: ***“obedience of faith”***), therefore it is an important step on the road to salvation!
4. Have you heard the gospel, and having heard, have you believed, repented, and obeyed?
5. If you are not a Christian, you need to be to have the promises of Christ. Repent and be baptized!
6. If a Christian in error, remember from what you have been saved from! Repent & be renewed.
7. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!