

## **The Roman Road to Salvation (based on Saint Paul's letter to the Romans)**

The "Gospel" is good news of salvation for all people, based on faith.

**Romans 1:16-17** "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. [17] For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

Sin is a universal problem, separating all people from a holy God.

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

God took the initiative to restore the relationship with us by sending Jesus Christ to pay the penalty for our sins and to open the way to reconciliation with Our Heavenly Father.

**Romans 5:8-10** "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

[9] Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! [10] For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!"

Our sin has earned us physical and spiritual death, but God's gift through Jesus Christ is abundant and everlasting life.

**Romans 6:23** "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

We can receive God's gift of life by acceptance in our hearts and a public declaration of our faith.

**Romans 10:8-10** "But what does [The Scripture] say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: [9] That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. [10] For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

God is willing to forgive, heal and restore all who respond to His invitation, but we must actively respond. Passive indifference or blind ignorance is no guarantee of salvation. Assurance comes from our active trust in God's promises.

**Romans 10:13** for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Some Questions for Discussion and Reflection:

- In your own life, how have you traveled along the mile markers of this path to God?
- Are you "saved" according to this understanding of salvation?
- Have you "called on the name of the Lord" for salvation? When & how?
- Do you "believe in your heart" the Bible's message of hope about Jesus?
- Who heard you "confess with your mouth" your affirmation of Christian faith? The congregation at church? A pastor or counselor? Nobody yet?