

MEMBERSHIP SERMON SERIES

Part 1: SALVATION

(Various Verses from Romans)

Romans: Letter about the **Good News of Salvation** *through faith* in Jesus.

Romans 1:16-17 (Paul's thesis statement)

16 I am not ashamed of the **GOSPEL**, *because* it is the power of God *for* the salvation of everyone who believes [in Jesus]: 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**".

The Romans Road to Salvation

Question: "**What is the Romans Road to salvation?**"

Answer: It is a way of explaining the Good News of Salvation using verses from the book of Romans.

The Romans Road to Salvation is a simple yet powerful way of explaining...

GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION!

1. Why do we need salvation?
2. How did God provide salvation?
3. How can we receive salvation?
4. What are the gifts of salvation?

1. WHY DO WE NEED SALVATION?

1. Romans 3:23

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

2. Romans 6:23a

"For the wages of sin is death;"

2. HOW DID GOD PROVIDE SALVATION?

3. Romans 5:8

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

4. Romans 6:23b

"but the gift of God is eternal life *through* Jesus Christ our Lord."

3. HOW CAN WE RECEIVE SALVATION?

5. Romans 10:9

"that if you **confess** with your mouth **Jesus** as Lord, and **believe** in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved."



6. Romans 10:13

"for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord [Jesus] will be saved."

4. WHAT ARE THE GIFTS OF SALVATION?

7. Romans 5:1

"Therefore, since we have been **justified through faith** [in Jesus], we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Ephesians 2:8-9

For *by* **grace** you have been **saved through faith** [in Jesus]. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

8. Romans 8:1

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

John 3:17

For God did NOT send his Son into the world to **condemn** the world, *but* to **save** the world *through* him.

9. Romans 8:28-29

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son.

10. Romans 8:38-39

38 "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Would you like to follow the Romans Road to Salvation?

If so, here is a simple prayer you can pray to God. Saying this prayer is a way to declare to God that you are trusting in Jesus Christ for your salvation. The words of this prayer themselves will not save you. Only faith in Jesus Christ can provide salvation!

"Heavenly Father, I admit that I have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. I thank you that Jesus died for the forgiveness of all my sins. With joy, I place my trust in Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I thank you for the gift of eternal life. In Jesus' name, Amen."



“Write & Share Your Testimony”

Testimony: ***How did you come to faith in Jesus as your Lord and Savior?***

Believe in the Lord **Jesus**, and you will be **saved**. (Acts 16:31)

How To Write Your Testimony

Option 1: Six questions to help you write your testimony.

1. What were you like before you became a Christian?
2. Why did you decide to seek God?
3. What message in the Gospel convinced you to come to Jesus?
4. What is the prayer that you prayed when you invited Jesus to be your Lord and Savior?
5. How did Jesus change your life?
6. How does Jesus live with you today?

Option 2: Three questions to help you write your testimony.

1. **Before** faith in Jesus (What was your life like before you came to trust in Jesus?)
2. **How** faith in Jesus (How did you come to believe in Jesus as your Lord & Savior?)
3. **After** faith in Jesus (What was your life like after you put your faith in Jesus?)

(Note: Please keep your written testimony to 500 words or less; able to fit on one sheet of paper)

“My Testimony: How did I come to faith in Jesus as my Lord and Savior?”

by Pastor Steve Ruetschle (an example)

1. What were you like before you became a Christian?

I was raised in a loving home in Dayton, OH. We were a church-going family who attended Christ United Methodist Church. I don't recall hearing about having a personal relationship with Jesus during those years of going to church. Church was mostly a social activity. (46 words)

2. Why did you decide to seek God?

During my sophomore year in High School, a friend introduced me to a Young Life leader named Tim Hoeweller. Tim invited me to a Young Life club at the house of another high schooler. I then invited my younger brother, Mike, to attend Young Life with me. Later, Mike went to a Young Life camp where he gave his life to Jesus. I was not able to go to the camp. When Mike returned, we had a talk on a bench at Old River Park. He said, “*Steve, something is missing in your life, it's Jesus.*” I did know that something was missing as I had been feeling depressed. That one simple sentence changed my life. (116 words)

3. What message in the Gospel convinced you to come to Jesus?

That summer I asked the Young Life leader all kinds of questions about Christianity and Jesus. For example, “*What makes Christianity different than other religions? Why does God allow suffering? Who is Jesus? What does it mean to follow Him?*” Tim graciously and patiently answered my questions, but more importantly, he cared for me and spent time with me. (59 words)



4. What is the prayer that you prayed when you invited Jesus to be your Lord and Savior?

One night, during that summer, while lying in my bed, I asked Jesus into my heart. I recall saying *“Jesus, I invite you into my heart”*. I remember looking out of the window/skylight of my room, up into the nights sky, hoping to see a shooting star. I never saw a shooting star, but a light much brighter than any star filled my heart that night. (67 words)

5. How did Jesus change your life?

Accepting Jesus as my Lord & Savior was the best and most important decision I have ever made. My life changed for the better. I knew my life changed because many people at my high school asked me, *“what happened to you? you changed?”* and all I could tell them was the truth, *“I received Jesus into my heart.”* (58 words)

6. How does Jesus live with you today?

Ever since that night when I asked Jesus into my heart, the best way to describe my faith in Jesus is in terms of a personal relationship. My relationship with Jesus has gone through many ups and downs, but Jesus has been the constant faithful presence in my life. He has given more gifts than I can count. He gave me joy, where there was sadness, confidence, where there was insecurity, hope, where there was despair. To me, Jesus is the answer to everything. My life is infinitely better with Jesus as my Lord and Savior. (96 words)

(442 words)

“Write & Share Your Testimony”

- Feel free to use the questions in Options 1 or 2 as a guide in writing your testimony.
- Please title your testimony: **“My Testimony: How I came to faith in Jesus as my Lord and Savior”** by (name).

