**ARE YOU ON THE RIGHT ROAD?**

**Category:** Salvation

**Dowlen Road Church—Max Dawson**

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**Introduction:**

1. A few months ago, as I was headed to the radio station, someone in a Cadillac turned north into the left hand turn lane on Dowlen Road. I stopped. The Caddy stopped. I wasn’t moving till he got out of the way. He was on the wrong side of the road.
   a. Usually a wrong turn just puts you on the wrong road—not on the wrong side of the road.
   b. But being on the wrong road is also a problem. It can mean you will miss your destination.
   c. If you saw someone on the wrong road, and you had a way to let them know they were on the wrong road, what would you do? Would you let them know they were going the wrong way?
   d. Or, what if you were the person on the wrong road, would you want someone to tell you?

2. If you are on the so-called “Roman Road to Salvation,” I am here to tell you just that. You are on the wrong road. You can read about it in tracts. TV Preachers urge you to get on it. But it is wrong.
   a. This road selects a few passages from Romans and says “That's all there is to salvation.”
   b. It says, “Believe on Jesus; invite Him into your heart by a prayer; and now you are saved.”
   c. But that is not what we find in the New Testament. Something critical is missing from that plan. Because something is missing, it is not God’s plan. What is missing from the so-called “Roman Road…?” It is Romans 6:3-4. A detour is made around these two verses. Sometimes in life you have to take a detour, but it is always wrong to make a detour when you come to God’s word!

3. We will return to the Book of Romans in a few minutes, but let’s go to the Book of Acts and go down some roads together and see some cases of salvation that cannot be questioned! Are you with me?

**The Lesson:**

I. **The Samaria Road.**

A. The evangelist Philip went down that road to preach the gospel to the Samaritans, Acts 8:4-5.
   1. Verse 5 tells us what he preached at Samaria. He preached Christ.
   2. How did the people respond to Philip’s preaching? See Acts 8:6-12. They heeded (that is, they listened carefully to what he said); they believed and were baptized. Note also that they turned away from the false religion of Simon the Sorcerer. Thus, they repented!
   3. So, they heard the gospel, believed in Jesus and were baptized.
   4. Isn’t this what Jesus said people should do in Mark 16:15-16?

B. If you went down that road to Samaria with Philip would you be in agreement with him? I would remind you that those who teach the so-called “Roman Road…” would disagree with him.

II. **The Gaza Road.**

A. Leaving Samaria, Philip went down the road to Gaza and met an Ethiopian, Acts 8:26.
1. This man had been to Jerusalem to worship, Acts 8:27-34. What do you think Philip will do with this question? Will it be different than at Samaria? He preached Jesus, Acts 8:35-39.

2. As a result, the Ethiopian wanted to change his life and be baptized. And he was baptized.

3. Very clearly, the same thing happened on this road as happened at Samaria. The man heard the gospel of Jesus, believed and was baptized—like Jesus said, Mark 16:15-16.

B. If you had travelled down that road that goes to Gaza, would you be in agreement with what the Ethiopian did? Those who teach the “Roman Road” would disagree with him.

III. The Damascus Road.

A. Leaving Philip, we go to the next chapter and see a man on his way to Damascus, Acts 9:1-3.

1. This man is not a preacher—at least not yet. He is not a Christian—not yet. He is a persecutor of the church, a hater of Jesus. But all that is about to change, Acts 9:3-6.

2. Now some preachers make the blunder of teaching that Saul was saved at this point. But, remember, he was on the way to Damascus. And the Lord told him to go on to that city and he would be told what to do (verse 6). We have to go all the way to “Straight Street” to get the story straight Acts 9:8-11. Ananias will find Saul praying at Straight Street.

3. The story is told further by Saul in Acts 22:10-16. Saul was told what to do; and, of course he believed on Jesus; being eager now to serve Jesus—he was baptized. See Mark 16:16.

B. If you had gone down that road to Damascus with Saul—and had gone all the way to Straight Street with him, would you be in agreement with him? The “Roman Roaders” are not!

IV. The Roman Road.

A. We can’t go to Acts to learn about how the Christians at Rome were saved, because it’s not recorded there. But we can go to the Book of Romans and see what they did to be saved.

1. But if we could go to Acts to see their salvation, would it be different than these other cases?

2. The Book of Romans was not written to lost people about how to be saved. It was written to saved people about how to live right. In writing, however, Paul reminds them about what they did to be saved.

3. He reminds them about hearing the gospel, Romans 10:17; about belief in the gospel of Jesus, Romans 1:16; about repentance, Romans 2:4; about confession of Christ, Romans 10:9-10; and about how they were baptized to have new life, Romans 6:3-4.

B. If you go through the book of Romans—without a detour—this is what you find. Have you really gone down the “Roman Road to Salvation” if you make a detour at Romans 6:3-4?

Conclusion:

1. Is there a road to salvation? Indeed there is. And all these roads we have seen all lead to the same place—because they are all the same road. You can find salvation on the Road to Samaria if you
will go all the way with Philip; on the road to Gaza if you go all the way to the water; on the road to Damascus if you go all the way to Straight Street; and on the Roman Road if you take no detours.

2. No matter how far you have gone down the wrong road, or how many years or miles you have been on the wrong road, it is still the wrong road. You need to find your way to the right road. It is not too late to change.