

Open Air Witness 7 – The Roman Road

Introduction

Today I draw your attention first to the Roman Road on Wheeldale Moor. You probably know about the Roman Road on Wheeldale Moor and you may have even walked along it. One web site www.roman-sites.com/england/nymoors/nym.htm says that *The Roman road known traditionally as Wade's Causeway ran from the fort at Malton to the coastal signal station at Whitby.*

Other commentators disagree with that en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wade%27s_Causeway but what we can be sure of is that an ancient roadway exists on Wheeldale Moor.

What we can also be sure of is that there's a part of the Bible that is like the Roman Road on Wheeldale Moor. It is in much better condition, of course, and if you get on that Roman Road in the Bible you'll end up at the right place and you won't be sorry for having made the journey. I speak from 47 years experience, right through university, industry, university lecturing, family life and church life.

You can't go wrong if you stick on the Roman Road of the Bible. It is like one of those journey planners you can use on the web. It will take you from where you start to where you finish and set out all the stages of your journey along the way.

The Book of Romans

What is this Roman Road in the Bible? It is the Book of Romans written by Paul the apostle. Paul said of himself ***"I am the apostle of the Gentiles"*** Romans 11:13, that is to you and me.

Paul wrote this Book of Romans to Romans as the title of the Book shows. However, Romans are Europeans like you and me so Paul was writing to you and me especially. Paul was writing ***"the oracles of God"*** Romans 3:2 that he refers to in the Book of Romans. ***"The oracles of God"*** are the words of God. Paul was writing to Europeans, you and me, what *God*, not Paul, has to say to *Europeans*, you and me.

So what does *God* have to say to *Europeans* such as you and me? Brace yourselves, because it is not very flattering at the start. I'll read out what God says to Europeans as the starting point on the Roman Road of the Bible, which is the Book of Romans.

Romans 3:10-12, 18, 23 – The Starting Point

This is the starting point on the Roman Road of the Bible from the Book of Romans. This is what *God* says to *Europeans* such as you and me.

Romans 3:10 ***"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:"***

Romans 3:11 ***"There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God."***

Romans 3:12 ***"They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one."***

Romans 3:18 ***"There is no fear of God before their eyes."*** In sum, God says:

Romans 3:23 ***"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"***

Romans 5:6, 8, 6:23 – The Mid Point

The starting point on the Roman Road of the Bible shows that none of us Europeans is off to a good start. If you've sinned, and everyone has, and are short of the glory of God, and everyone is, God says ***“Destruction and misery are in their ways:”*** Romans 3:16. God promises in the Roman Road of the Bible to destroy you if you don't come up to His standard of how you should live. He's God, He can do that and you are helpless to do anything about it. You may think you can do what you like with God now but one day you will die physically and a split second after that, God will do anything with you that He likes and you will have no comeback or court of appeal.

It looks like the Roman Road journey for Europeans like you and me has come to a bad end before it hardly started but listen to what *God* says of *Europeans* such as you and me at the mid -point of the Roman Road journey through His scribe Paul.

Romans 5:6 ***“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.”*** *“We”* is us Europeans.

Romans 5:8 ***“...God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”***

Romans 6:23 ***“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”***

The mid-point on this Roman Road journey in the Book of Romans shows that everyone who has sinned against God deserves death and destruction from God but the Lord Jesus Christ died in our place instead. The Lord Jesus Christ took on Himself the punishment of everyone's sin by dying for sin against God in everyone else's place so that no-one has to die or face destruction from God. Everyone can instead have ***“the gift of God...eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”***

So the mid-point of the Roman Road journey for Europeans like you and me is looking good compared to the starting but it gets better as we move to the end point.

Romans 10:8, 9, 10

This is what *God* says about the end point of the Roman Road journey for Europeans like you and me. This is the word of God *Himself*.

Romans 10:8 ***“The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;”***

Romans 10:9 ***“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”***

Romans 10:10 ***“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”***

God raised the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead back to eternal life after He had died for sin. If *you* believe that for *your* sin so that you're prepared to confess it, *you* will escape death, *you* will receive eternal life, *you* will receive God's gift of salvation.

We invite you to start out on the Roman Road from sin to salvation today!