

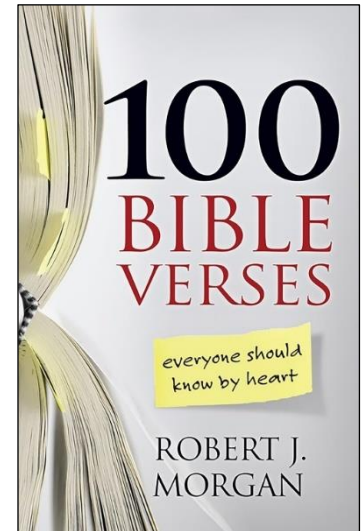
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SIX KEY STEPS ON “THE ROMAN ROAD” (The Plan of Salvation)

With the immediacy of Internet searches and ease of handheld devices, the custom of memorizing Scripture may not seem necessary, but best-selling author Robert J. Morgan makes an airtight case for reviving this rewarding practice in his book “100 Bible Verses Everyone Should Know by heart”.

“It’s vital for mental and emotional health and for spiritual well-being,” he writes. “It’s as powerful as acorns dropping into furrows in the forest. It allows God’s words to sink into your brain and permeate your subconscious thoughts. It saturates the personality, satiates the soul, and stockpiles the mind.”

In a series of brief opening chapters, Morgan prepares us for this new way of thinking and then presents his experienced list of 100 crucial verses, providing sidebar notes, quotes, and memorization tips for each. Extra pages are included to add your favourite verses, extending this life-changing exercise and memorization habit.



Having read the above synopsis, I decided to purchase this book and set about studying and attempting to memorize some scripture verses over an undefined number of months. Of course, as the years roll by our ability to retain and recall verses somewhat diminishes and no-one knows that better than I do!

This is not going to be a complete book review as I have only got a few sections in but a compelling second chapter coupled with a geographical coincidence led me to share this “Roman Road” section with you.

I happen to live within 100 metres of a very straight stretch of road called “Roman Road” which is now the demarcation between Broadstone and Corfe Mullen. So that slightly tenuous link captured my imagination. More on this later!

THE PLAN OF SALVATION “The Roman Road”

The book of Romans is to some degree the message of the entire Bible. Found in Romans is a series of six verses which together provide an outline of God’s entire plan of salvation for the human race. These verses are often referred to as the “Roman Road” in effect “the plan of salvation”.

We don’t know by name who first came up with this notion. But he was an evangelist in the USA who toured holding revival meetings. He carried with him an ink pad and stamp and everywhere he went he stamped the “Roman Road” with these six verses or stops on the road into the front of people’s bibles. They are very useful when leading someone to Christ as they effectively summarise everything, we need to tell others about how to receive Christ as their Saviour.

Stop One:- Romans 3 v 23 *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”*

We have all sinned and fallen short of the holy expectations and perfect standards of the God of all glory. Therefore, before the good news of salvation we need to know the bad news of sin. We can never be reconciled to God by trying to live a good life for we are intrinsically internally sinful. Only when we realise this can we fully appreciate what Christ has done for us.

Stop Two:- Romans 6 v 23 *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

No other text in Scripture, with maybe the exception of John 3:16 better sums up all thirty-one thousand verses in the Bible. Wages describe what we get for what we do. The Bible tells us that we are all “employed” by sin and the payback is physical, spiritual and eternal death. In contrast to that God offers a free gift which is eternal life. It’s a gift that only comes wrapped in one package - Jesus Christ our Lord!

Stop Three:- Romans 5 v 8 *“but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us”*

Romans 5:8 is most likely the greatest of all the “But God” statements in the Bible. The word **but** is a conjunction that indicates a sudden change of direction in the thought process. In the Bible it is vital to understand every word that follows it especially if the phrase is “but God”!

Stop Four:- Romans 10 v 9 *“because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”*

Stop Five:- Romans 10 v 10 *“For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”*

Stops Four & Five although reversed the message from both above verses is this: You must say clearly that Jesus is the Lord . Also, you must believe deep inside yourself that

God raised him to life again after his death. Then God will save you. God accepts people as right with him when they believe like that, deep inside themselves.

Step Six the Final Stop- Romans 10 v 13 "For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Here Paul is quoting from Joel 2:32. This verse means that the gospel of faith is open to all, but there must be a proper response, which is to call on the name of the Lord.

That concludes "the plan of salvation" in six steps through the book of Romans the further challenge is to commit them to memory.

Extracts from "100 Bible Verses everyone should know by heart".

With acknowledgements to Publishers B & H Books and the author Robert J Morgan.

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The Roman Road in South Dorset - XLIII ad > MMXXIV ad

As many of you will know we have, very close to us here in Poole and Wimborne a section of Roman Road built as a 2.8-mile-long supply route.

The Romans invaded Britain in 43AD, and the invasion of Dorset was by Vespian's Second Augusta Legion. They are believed to have landed in Poole Harbour, and the road north was built by the Roman army, to facilitate the conquest of the area and the subsequent administration.

It began at Hamworthy, which was an Iron Age settlement that had been taken over by the Romans and named Moriconium.

That Roman Road still forms Poole's western boundary for some miles, and the line of the road can still be followed, with some deviations, between the harbour and Wimborne. Today the road can be picked up at Upton Country Park and from there it heads up to the west of Creekmoor and Broadstone and on to Corfe Mullen.

The Legion then established a temporary base to the south of the River Stour near modern day Wimborne Minster. From there, they mounted operations against Badbury Rings. They conquered the Durotrige community, and settled in a small town they built nearby which they named Vindocladia. (Close to Shapwick)



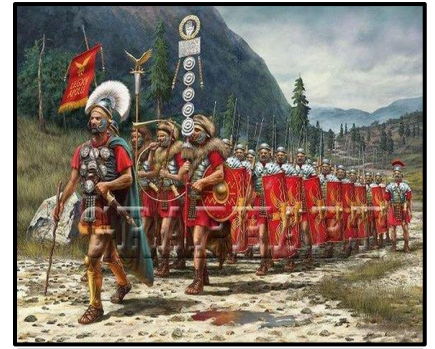
This is the signage at the junction with Clarendon Road leaving us in no doubt that this is indeed the original Roman Road



A typically straight section of the Roman Road up from the Pine Springs area of Broadstone to Springdale Road and past Corfe Hills School on towards Merley Park Road

It is then possible to use footpaths and minor roads on the National Trust's Kingston Lacy Estate to re-join the road near Badbury Rings, an Iron Age Hill-Fort (now owned by the National Trust), which was home to a number of tribes, including the Durotriges, a Celtic tribe who lived in parts of the South West of England.

Today many local people are literally walking in the footsteps of Romans, treading the same paths that they once used, possibly without even realising. Walking down this peaceful track, it is hard to imagine what the road would have been like in its heyday; it was used to march armies up from the coast, and then as a bustling route for traders and carriers. Now it just sees ordinary people getting out and enjoying the fresh air.



Ian Bunker – August 2024