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The Roman Road to Salvation Comparing Catholic Soteriology with the Word of God

by J. Greg Sheryl

In Protestant evangelicism, the expression "The Roman Road" is sometimes used to describe a presentation of God's plan of salvation using verses from the book of Romans.¹ However, there is another "Roman Road," the Roman Catholic Church's teaching on salvation.

Soteriology is the study of the doctrine of salvation. Former professor of systematic theology at Dallas Theological Seminary, Robert Lightner, has written:

"What must I do to be saved?" the jailer at Philippi asked Paul and Silas (Acts 16:30). When you are lost, proper directions are very important. How terrible to give wrong directions to someone transporting a dying person to the hospital! How much more terrible to give sinners the wrong directions to heaven!"²



Although the sale of indulgences was the spark that lit the fire of the Protestant Reformation, the Reformers focused on two issues: the formal cause, "Scripture alone" or *sola Scriptura*; and the material cause, "justification by faith alone" or *sola fide*.

CATHOLICISM'S PERSPECTIVE ON SALVATION

Catholic doctrine is complex. Former Catholic Mike Gendron, founder of Catholics Proclaiming the Gospel,³ once said that Catholicism is so complicated "it would take a Philadelphia lawyer" to unravel it. The writer of the Fore-
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