

A few points and questions to consider:

This text is filled with Paul's use of Old Testament (OT) scriptures to reinforce his teachings to the Roman Christians and to us. Paul's assumption is that his readers are knowledgeable of the OT context of his citations and their relevance to his application. Unfortunately, we as 21st century believers aren't as knowledgeable of the OT as we should be. We also often miss Paul's intention as he cites these passages.

In his commentary on the book of Romans, Douglas Moo notes that Paul's use of OT scripture is generally done with one of the following goals in mind:

- (1) A direct application of the OT teaching but one that may require reading the OT passage in context to fully see the connection between the OT passage with his teaching;
- (2) To explain and/or expound upon the use of words in the text, with the OT context supplying information about what is being taught and his use / the power of the words; or
- (3) Using one truth of God to illustrate another truth of God.

Most study Bibles include footnotes that reference the cited text. If yours does not, noted below are Paul's citations: 10:5 Lev 18:5. 10:6 Deut 9:4; 30:12. 10:7 Deut 30:13. 10:8 Deut 30:14. 10:11 Is 28:16. 10:13 Joel 2:32. 10:15 Is 52:7 & Nah 1:15. 10:16 Is 53:1. 10:18 Ps 19:4. 10:19 Deut 32:21. 10:20 Is 65:1. 10:21 Is 65:2. 11:3 1Ki 19:10, 14. 11:4 1Ki 19:18. 11:8 Deut 29:4 & Is 29:10. 11:9-10 Ps 69:22-23.

Most prominent in his references are Deuteronomy 30 and Isaiah 65. Using either:

- Deut 30 or Is 65, or
- The OT texts from this lesson's verses that are especially dear to you,

Read the OT citations in their entirety and see how Paul is using those texts to reinforce his teaching. Under which of Moo's three goals that are listed above does Paul's references fall?

Once again, we encourage you to dig a little deeper into this passage by preparing a HEAR Report. As noted in previous weeks, HEAR is an acronym for Highlight, Explain, Apply, Respond.

- Read thru this passage and HIGHLIGHT a verse(s) that you found especially powerful.
- EXPLAIN the verse. What was the context and purpose for what was written and when it was written.
- APPLY the verse to yourself
- Lastly, RESPOND to the verse. Maybe there are changes God wants you to make in your life w.r.t. the verse. Or your response may be a prayer to God. It may be praising Him. However you feel led to respond.

As has been pointed out by others, the goal isn't for you / me to jot down a "profound truth" but to note the "truth you found."

Please email us and let us know how this passage spoke to you. Also let us know if you have any general comments, suggestions, etc. for this midweek Bible study program. *We want and need to hear from you.* Email address: connect@madisonavenuebc.org

Name: _____

H.E.A.R. REPORT for _____ (Bible passage).

Highlight a verse(s)

Explain what the text means.

Possible questions to consider: *Why was this written? To whom was it originally written? How does it fit with the verses immediately before and after it? Why did the Holy Spirit include this passage in the book? What is He intending to communicate through this text?*

Apply "the significance of these verses to you personally"

Possible questions to consider: *How can this help me? What does this mean to me? What would the application of this verse look like in my life? What does this mean to me? How does this apply to my family, my church family, my community? What is God saying to me?*

Respond

Matthew 7:7 (ESV), "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."

Source: Growing Up, Robby Gallaty