

A few points and questions to consider:

Similar to last week's text (Rom. 6:1-14) springing off Romans 5:20, today's text springs from Romans 6:14: "For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace." Then – similar to last week's passage – Paul clearly states that our life "under grace" is not one enslaved by sin. It is quite the opposite.

Consider the marvelous, wonderful grace of God. We see it clearly in the scriptures; we sing about it as we worship. Paul states it well in 1 Corinthians 15:10a:

- "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect." (NIV)
- "But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out his special favor on me – and not without results." (NLT)

What are the differences, the blessings in your life that you can only attribute to God's grace? Jot down a few of those then pray a prayer of thanksgiving to God for those.

In Romans 6:17-18, Paul writes: "But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness."

We know from the opening of this letter, Paul longed to be with the Romans so that he might strengthen and encourage them in their faith and they, in turn, would encourage him (Rom. 1:11-12). Each of us is a "link in the chain" of the teaching and encouragement of the Gospel that started with the apostles and continues today. We are "slaves of righteousness" because of the work Holy Spirit as He used others to share with us a "standard of teaching" that was consistent with God's Holy Word.

- Who were the people who first invested spiritually in your life? Thank God for them. If they are still alive, call them or write a letter, email, etc. thanking them for their investment in you.
- Who are those that are doing that today? Do the same.
- In whom are you now investing your life? Who are you helping to "become obedient from the heart the standard of teaching to which you committed?" Thank God for them. Call them or write a letter, email, etc. encouraging them to stay the course, to walk humbly with Jesus Christ.

Scripture Reading for May 27 Bible Study: Romans 7:1-13

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