

A few points and questions to consider:

At the beginning of today's study, Brad asked everyone to "pause" and consider Paul's question from Romans 6:1, "*What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?*"

While your answer (and ours) was "No," for many of us that's not the truth that plays out in our lives. Think for a moment about the "little" sins that you may have considered "dismissible" and "easily" forgiven by God.

- Consider / remember that Jesus' death was necessary to atone for all of our sins; not just the "big" ones but also the "little" ones.
- Confess those "little" sins to God and ask for His forgiveness for taking lightly the blood of Jesus that was shed on the cross.

Paul clearly explains in Romans 6:2-11 that, if (since) you have been justified by your act of faith in God's grace, you have identified with Jesus Christ in His death. You have died to sin. However, that doesn't mean – as Paul will write about in the coming chapters – that your struggle with sin is over. In that regard, he closes today's passage with the following verses:

Romans 6:12-14, "[12] *Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. [13] Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. [14] For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.*"

What are the commands, the directives that Paul gives us in these three verses? Circle, underline, or otherwise highlight them above.

In 6:13 he tells us "*not to present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness.*" The wording of the New Living Translation is "*Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin.*" What "parts" of your body (don't forget your mind!) are most vulnerable to temptations? Note those in the space below then take these to God in earnest prayer. Lay them at the altar and ask Him to help you "reckon these as dead."

Attached is a list of several verses that address the new life we have in Christ. Read and meditate on these. In your HEAR report, you may choose to elaborate on one of these or on a verse from our study passage.

Scripture Reading for May 20 Bible Study: Romans 6:15-23

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