

A few questions to consider:

What are some false assumptions I have made or see others make about obtaining God's approval?

Circumcision was seen as very important to the Jew.

- What does Paul tell us about true circumcision in Romans 2:25-29?

- Is there any ceremony or other act on which we (or others) may tend see as being necessary for us to experience the redemption of Jesus Christ?

Paul wasn't the first to speak about circumcision of the heart. It was Moses. Read Deuteronomy 10:12-22.

- Recall that Deuteronomy is the "second giving" of the Law to the "second generation" of the Exodus Jews just before they entered the Promised Land.
- List thoughts shared by Moses in this passage that parallel those of Paul in Romans 2?

- In addition to verse 16, what other verses in Deuteronomy 10:10-22 speak to your heart?

Moses addresses the circumcised heart again in Deuteronomy 30:6.

- From this verse, who circumcises the heart?

- Parallel this to Ephesians 2:8-10 and other New Testament passages which clearly tell us that salvation is the gift of God, provided solely by the work of Jesus Christ in His atoning death, burial and resurrection. Share your thoughts below on this glorious truth as you read and prepare for next week's study (Romans 3:21-4:3).

Once again, we encourage each of you to dig a little deeper into this passage (you may also include Romans 3:1-20) by preparing a HEAR Report. As noted last week, HEAR is an acronym for Highlight, Explain, Apply, Respond.

- Read thru this passage (or even Romans 1) 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 truths you found. We'll share some of those next week.

Also please email comments, suggestions for this 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