

QUESTIONS TO PONDER—What was new, interesting, confusing, convicting, etc. in this week’s readings?

**1. Sunday, May 21; Rom. 5:6-8; Christ Died for the Ungodly.** Read passage with notes. As we often do at Easter, reflect on why Christ’s death and resurrection was “at just the right time.” Share your thoughts. Why do people need to be “powerless” in order to receive Christ’s sacrifice (6)? Read Bible notes regarding verse 7. What are your thoughts regarding the difference between righteous and good? Think of a scenario where someone might die for another. Now imagine yourself dying for a hardened criminal. How do we know that God loves us (8)? What was the purpose of Christ’s death? **Personal Application:** Explain the relationship between God’s love, Christ’s death and humanity’s neediness in your own words. What is the key ingredient to head knowledge becoming heart knowledge?

**2. Monday, May 22; Rom. 5: 9-11; Reconciled to God through Christ.** Read passage with notes. What two things did Christ’s death for a repentant sinner do (9)? Why were you and I once God’s enemies (10a)? Who initiated reconciliation in this relationship and how (10b)? How is our salvation a done deal (10c)? About Whom should we boast now (11a)? Why (11b)? **Personal Application:** Reflect on your personal reconciliation to God. How did it come about? Thank God that this is a done deal and you are His forever through Jesus Christ.

**3. Tuesday, May 23; Rom. 5:12-17; Adam = Sin, Jesus = Salvation.** Read passage with notes. How did death come to all people (12)? During which period of time was there no “sin” because there was no law yet (13)? What was the result and why (14)? How is the “gift” unlike the “trespass” (15)? What are the different outcomes of the gift and the trespass (16)? What was the result of Adam’s life for mankind (17a)? What was the result of Christ’s life for those who receive Him (17b)? **Personal Application:** Make two headings: Adam and Jesus Christ. Under each write words you find from this passage that fit.

**4. Wednesday, May 24; Rom. 5:18-21; Sin = Death, Grace = Eternal Life.** Read passage with notes. In your own words give a summary of the comparison of Adam and Jesus Christ (18-19). Why was the law established (20a)? What was the result of greater sin (20b)? **Personal Application:** How does sin = death and grace = eternal life (21)? When did grace and eternal life take over in your own life?

**5. Thursday, May 25; Rom. 6:1-7; Old Self is Buried with Christ.** Read passage with notes. Reflect back on 5:21. In what state does sin reign and in what state does grace reign? Do you feel that 6:1 follows a logical path based on 5:21? Why or why not? What is Paul’s new way of thinking (2)? Do you and I agree and why or why not? Explain how baptism depicts Christ’s death and resurrection (3-4). How does baptism unite us with Christ (5)? Have you or I personally experienced the crucifixion of our old selves (6)? **Personal Application:** Give some examples of how you have been “set free” from sin’s shackles and power (7 and notes).

**6. Friday, May 26; Rom. 6:8-14; Dead to Sin, Alive to God or 3 Steps to Victory over Sin.** Read passage with notes. Summarize verses 8-10 in your own words. For Jesus Christ, how is death finished and life to God is forever (10)? How are we to be just like Jesus (11)? According to NIV study notes, Paul gives three steps to having victory over sin. What is Step 1 (11)? What is Step 2 to victory over sin (12)? What is Step 3 (13)? What are some practices/habits you or I have that show we are offering every part of ourselves to God as an instrument of righteousness (13b)? **Personal Application:** Because you are under grace, reflect on and explain how sin is no longer your master (14).

**7. Saturday, May 27; Rom. 6:15-23; View from the Top of the Fence—Which Side is Greener?** Read passage with notes. Is it possible to live daily on both sides of the fence when it comes to sin and righteousness (15)? Are you or I able to pinpoint the day or era when we jumped the fence to the side of righteousness forever (16-18)? Describe from your own perspective what this phrase means: “You have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance” (17). Consider whether or not you indeed feel “free” on this side of the fence (18). Make two headings; Slave to Sin and Slave to Righteousness. Under each write words from 19 and 22 which fit. Is there more freedom in sin (as so many claim) or in righteousness (20-23)? **Personal Application:** Draw an overview of two pastures separated by a fence. On one side of the fence write the first half of Romans 6:23 and on the other side write the other half of the verse. Write words from this passage in the “pastures”. Which side is greener? **Cindy Oury, May 18, 2017**

