

**March 9, 2003**

**Week Twenty One: "Living Under Grace"**

**Day One: Small Group Guide**

**Read: Romans 6:1-4 (p. 1284)**

**Read: Commentary (p. 1286)**

**Reflect:** Have you ever taken advantage of someone's grace or been tempted to just stay in sin because you are going to be forgiven anyway? What is wrong with that way of thinking?

**Dig:** Why would Paul argue the way he does in Romans 6:1-14? See the close of chapter 5 to answer this question.

If you have a "Message" version of the Bible or a contemporary language version, read Romans 6:1-14 in that version. What insight do you gain?

What does it mean to "count yourself" or "consider yourself" in verse 11? In other words, what does the way we think of ourselves have to do with how we behave?

**Apply:** Ask God to point out to you how you take grace for granted. Admit this to Him and ask Him to make you aware of the need today to "count yourself dead to sin but alive to Christ."

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**Day Two: "Our Relationship to the Law"**

**Read: Mark 2:23-28 (p. 1125)**

**Read: Commentary (p. 1126)**

**Reflect:** What does the term "law and order" mean to you? Can you recite all ten of the Ten Commandments from memory?

**Dig:** How do Christians relate to the law differently than First Testament

believers? (see commentary)

How does the law work as a "tutor" to bring us to Christ (see Galatians 3:24 p. 1347)?

What is role of the "law" or "commands" in Romans 12:9-21 (p. 1295)? Note especially the first few sentences of this chapter.

**Apply:** What in your life acts as "law" and is hindering you from living under grace instead of law? Ask Jesus to live his new life through you instead of trying to live under law.

## **Week Twenty-One: "Living Under Grace"** **Day Three: "Walking With God"**

**Read: Matthew 11:28-30 (p. 1091)**

**Read: Commentary (p. 1091)**

**Reflect:** When has your pace been faster than God's? When has it been slower? How have you learned God's pacing?

**Dig:** Notice the context: what do you learn about being yoked with Jesus based on verses 25-26?

And what do you learn about being yoked with Jesus from verse 27?

The commentary tells us that when we are yoked with Jesus we learn "...the priority of relationships as taught to Mary and Martha." Look up this story to see what the author is speaking of (Luke 10:38-42, p. 1172). Who are you most like?

**Apply:** How will you walk with (not ahead or behind) Jesus today? In prayer, dedicate yourself to accepting Jesus' yoke and walking through your day with him.

## **Week Twenty One: "Living Under Grace"** **Day Four: "Led by the Spirit"**

**Read: Exodus 13:20-22 (p. 77)**

**Read: Commentary: (p. 78)**

**Reflect:** Do you feel more "driven" or "led" in your life? When have you clearly heard God's guidance and direction in your life?

**Dig:** What two ways are mentioned in the commentary that are indications that God is not leading us (see first paragraph of right-hand column).

What light does Isaiah 50:10-11 (p. 807) shed on this matter of trusting God to lead you?

Romans 12:1-2 outlines the way that God normally leads us in our life. What "pattern" are we to follow in order to know God's leading?

**Apply:** How might God be telling us to "lie down in green pastures" today? How can you open yourself up to God's guidance?

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### **Day Five: "Enduring Hardship"**

**Read: Hebrews 12:1-13 (p. 1435)**

**Read: Commentary (p. 1435)**

**Reflect:** When have you been disciplined by God? What was the purpose of His discipline?

**Dig:** What is the connection between the concept of "living under grace" and the concept of discipline? (see vss. 11-12)

How does the description of Jesus (verse 2) help us to understand the "grace" character of this discipline? (i.e. that it is a gift)

What is the main theme, in one word, of the passage (vss. 1-13)?

**Apply:** How is God disciplining you at the present time? Do you know what he is teaching you?

Thank God that he treats you like a legitimate child.

