

CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
THE WAGES OF SIN OR THE GIFT OF GOD

Scripture Reading:

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”
(Rom 6:23).

Introduction:

A. C.H. Spurgeon said this about Romans 6:23: “It is a Christian Proverb, a Golden Sentence, a Divine Statement of Truth worthy to be written across the sky.”

B. One time I was buying a sandwich at a store and I did not have enough money. A man in line behind me pulled out a one dollar bill and paid for my sandwich. I was so thankful that my debt was paid. But, imagine if you owed a debt of \$10,000 but you only had \$10. It would be impossible for you to pay off your debt. Now imagine if a friend puts \$1,000,000 into your bank account. It would be very easy to pay a \$10,000 debt if your friend gave you one million dollars. That is what Jesus did when He paid the price for our sins. The wages of sin is death. We deserve to die, but Jesus died in our place (Dr. Daniel King – Sermon Central).

Points to Ponder:

- 1.** Because of our sin, we owe a great debt (Death) that is impossible to pay, but Jesus paid the debt in full.
- 2.** God has a gift for unworthy sinners – The Gift is Eternal Life. Salvation is **Free** to the sinner. However, it cost Jesus His life.

I. The Wages of Sin is Death (v. 23a)

A. Wages means the payoff. It is the payment for work performed. It is earned which is the opposite of a gift. The wages of sin is earned by the unbelieving sinner – who will receive exactly what is deserved.

B. What is the definition of sin?

1. “Sin is the transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4)

2. “Whatsoever is not of faith is sin” (Rom 14:23)

To do something that goes against faith and trust in God is sin. The refusal to do something that pleases God is sin.

o “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin”
(James 4:17).

3. Sin is rebellion against God

It is rejecting God, ignoring God, disobeying God and refusing to live for God (Rom 5:10).

4. Being “unthankful” towards God is sin (Rom 1:21)

Everything we have, everything we are, is from God. Always, thank God for Who He Is and for His Daily Provisions.

○ “Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever”
(Ps 145:2).

○ “The Lord is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works”
(Ps 145:9).

○ “The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works” (Ps 145:17).

○ “Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness”
(Ps 150:2).

C. The fruit of sin is death

There is nothing good about sin. Sin corrupts, destroys and dooms all who seek its fruits.

The death in the text refers to Eternal Death which is the **Second Death** (Rev 20:14-15).

1. The first death is Physical Death which we will all experience unless Christ returns in our lifetime (1 Thess 4:13-18).

○ Gen 2:16-17; Ezek 18:4, 20; Rom 6:16, 21; 8:6, 13

2. The second death is Eternal Separation from God. It is Eternal Damnation and eternal torment (Luke 16:19-31). It is the deserved wages for unbelievers because of sin.

○ Christian Believers will not die the second death.

II. The Gift of God is Eternal Life (Rom 6:23b)

A. Gift means a gift of grace, a free gift, an undeserved favor.

1. The free Gift of God is unearned and unmerited. It cannot be achieved or attained by our efforts. It is given to sinful man from God’s Grace. It is the opposite of wages.

2. The free Gift of God is Eternal Life (John 3:16, 36)

Eternal Life is a free gift that cannot be earned (Eph 2:8-9; Titus 3:5).

B. Salvation which is God’s Gift is free. He paid the high price for it when He sent His Son Jesus Christ to go to the Cross and die as our Substitute (Rom 5:6,8; 2 Cor 5:21).

C. The free Gift of God comes to us through a personal trust in Jesus Christ. All we do is receive the free Gift. The thief dying of the cross “said unto Jesus, Lord, remember **me** when thou comest into thy kingdom” (Luke 23:42).

● “Back in 1830 George Wilson was convicted of robbing the United States Mail and was sentenced to be hanged. President Andrew Jackson issued a pardon for Wilson, but he refused to accept it. The matter went to Chief Justice Marshall, who concluded that Wilson would have to be executed. “A pardon is a slip of paper,” wrote Marshall, “the

value of which is determined by the acceptance of the person to be pardoned. If it is refused, it is no pardon. George Wilson must be hanged.” – (Bible.Org)

Study Question #1:

Have you received God’s Free Gift of Salvation?

Study Question #2:

Are you trusting in Jesus Christ **alone** for Salvation?

D. Eternal Life is in a Person and that Person is “Jesus Christ Our Lord.” All who are in Jesus Christ have Eternal Life.

Conclusion:

A. Bad News/Good News

1. Bad News – “The wages of sin is **Death**” (Eternal Separation from God)

2. Good News – “The Gift of God is **Eternal Life** through Jesus Christ Our Lord”

❖ **What will your choice be?**

❖ **If you are not a Christian, consider the consequence of your sin. Then, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved” (Acts 16:31)**

B. What can wash away my sin, nothing but the Blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again, nothing but the Blood of Jesus.

C. What a Wonderful Change in my Life has been Wrought

What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought since Jesus came into my heart!
I have light in my soul for which long I had sought, since Jesus came into my heart!
Since Jesus came into my heart, since Jesus came into my heart,
Floods of joy o'er my soul like the sea billows roll, since Jesus came into my heart.

D. Romans Road (Rom 3:10, 23; 5:8; 10:9, 13)

Memory Verse:

“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief” (1 Tim 1:15).

From the Teaching Ministry of:
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“...he word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).

