

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Romans 6:19-23**.
- B. The entire 6th chapter of Romans deals with being dead to the world and being made alive in Christ (by baptism).
- C. One is a slave to the devil or to X. The slave is paid wages, but are the wages worth it?
- D. This morning's lesson will deal with all of the "parts" of Rom. 6:23, and see the wonderful blessings in store for the one who is in X.

## I. THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH.

- A. Many would like a "buy now, pay later" scheme of life so that they could enjoy sin for a season and then hope to pay it off before death.
- B. This won't work, for many reasons, one being that as one sins he is dying spiritually all the time.
- C. Paul did not categorize sin here. All sins (from the least to the greatest, if you will) will have their rewards--death.
- D. The idea of wages means that the sinner is working for something, even though he may not like the payment! (1Kgs. 21:20).
- E. Therefore, those who consent to live a life of sin work not for something beautiful, but for the horribleness of spiritual death.
- F. Paul does not say "spiritual death" because we can apply three different kinds of death as a result of sin. They are:
  - 1. Physical death (Rom. 5:12).
  - 2. Spiritual death (Rom. 5:18).
  - 3. The second death (Rev. 21:8).

## III. THE FREE GIFT.

- A. The Greek here is "charisma" and gives us the concept that this gift to be given is done w/o respect to the merit of the one whom is to receive it.
- B. It is free because nothing on the part of the recipient can be done to merit his receiving such a gift. Since no price can be paid for it, it is freely received.
- C. Mankind has done nothing to merit the free gift of eternal life. What man has done is the above, harvest the wages of sin.
- D. Since man cannot merit such a gift all he can do is put himself in a position to qualify for it. Like a applying for Homestead Exemption. See Lk. 17:10; 1Tim. 4:10.
- E. Therefore, man cannot be worthy of the gift but can by his own desire to be saved eternally do what he can so that Christ can give the gift. This is to be "in Christ" or an obedient believer (Jn. 3:36; Eph. 2:8,9).
- F. The entire plan of salvation is brought about by grace. God has freely given it to us, we just put ourselves in a position to qualify for the gift by being obedient to X.

## III. (THE FREE GIFT)... IS ETERNAL LIFE.

- A. I do not want eternal life here on this earth. This life is full of pain, heartache, disease, tragedy, death and sin. In this life I am constantly under attack by the devil and must suffer in the limitations of the flesh. There is both a physical and spiritual warfare going on.
- B. The eternal life which is promised here is that of life in the heaven, where all things are eternal. Each soul has an eternal existence, but I desire eternal life in that existence, not eternal death.
- C. Everything in heaven will last forever; God, JC, HS, treasures laid up there, fellowship, and love.
- D. In this eternal life there is no temptation, no sin, no suffering, no death and no pain or heartache.

E. This is the eternal life spoken of here, which all should desire (Rev. 21:6).

#### IV. **IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.**

- A. The key to all of this and to what Paul has been saying in Romans, chapters 5-8 is that all spiritual blessings including the salvation we desire and the eternal life we hope for are in X (Eph. 1:3).
- B. And once again, we must qualify for this wonderful gift by being in X. Then all of these blessings will come our way.
- C. John states that God has given us eternal life and this life is in His Son (1Jn. 5:11-13).
- D. Eternal life is only for those in Christ (Ac. 4:12; Jn. 14:6).

#### **CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.**

- A. The questions are:
  - 1. "What are you working for?"
  - 2. "What are the wages you are currently receiving?"
  - 3. "Are you in Christ, that you might receive the free gift?"
- B. We beg you to stop paying the price of damnation with the wages of sin.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.