

Wages of Sin

Bulletin Article from April 22, 2018 – Rock Messenger.

Author: Caleb Wray

Romans 6:23 — “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” In Romans 6, Paul is talking about no longer being slaves to sin, but slaves to righteousness through obedience. The obedience he refers to is found at the beginning of the chapter when he discusses that baptism is into Christ’s death.

The interesting statement found here is that sin has as price and that is death. We cannot be alive in Christ if we are dead in our sins. What is remarkable is there is a wage for sin. Paul doesn’t say the wages of lying is **x** and the wages of murder are **y**. He simply states that sin equals death. In Mathematics, sometimes equations have requirements. For example, $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ in order to find the length of the long side of a triangle ONLY if it is a right triangle. This is a very simple equation in that the wages of sin equal death or a separation from God. In our judicial system, different crimes have different punishments and have different degrees. Some carry jail time, some only a fine. There is a wide variation of interpretation on the statutes one can be charged with due to the crime.

We might find ourselves with the tendency to letting this drift into the church. There is no interpretation of what sin is greater. Sin is sin regardless. As the old cliché says, “You can put lipstick on a pig, but it is still a pig.” In the sight of God, sin is sin. It is a transgression against His law & separates us from Him.

Sometimes people might say, “Well, I might tell the occasional fib, but at least I’ve never committed murder.” or “I may have been jealous, but at least I’ve never committed adultery.” Trying to justify sin is the reason that so many places are in the trouble they have now. When we compromise to make lesser sins okay, we compromise the entire Word of God.

Comparing sins does not help solve the problem. True, I might not practice homosexuality, but I might sin with my eyes. Paul in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 laid out

several sins — sexual immorality, idolatry (best defined as putting anything before God), adultery, homosexuality, thievery, greed, drunkenness, reviling, swindling. All share the same, they will not inherit the kingdom of God unless they are cleansed, changed, and live right.

Thought to Consider

When we try to teach others about the Bible, do we signify other sins as greater than all the rest? Do we get upset about gay marriage & abortion but hide all the other sins under the table? Do we excuse sexual immoralities that are brought many years later as if there is a statute of limitation on sin? We need to teach the word in all the manners, but lets be mindful all sin leads to death, and we need to teach against all of it & not just a portion. —**CW**