

**Sin Pays;  
Grace Does Not**

**Romans 6:23**

# I. Wages

For the **wages** of sin is death,  
but the gift of God is eternal life  
in Christ Jesus our Lord –Romans 6:23

# Wages

Pay, wages < cooked food + to buy

Sin personified: pays wages  
(what is deserved)

1. General pays wages to soldiers (v.13  
– instrument, weapon, Jn.18:3).  
Lk.3:14. 2 Co.11:8
2. Master pays slaves an allowance;  
Ro.6:16-22

# Society insists on 'debt' laws

Luke 12:59

- Criminals must pay debt . . .
- Grudge: 'I'll pay you back'
- Workers insist on wages, Mt.20
- Judgment, Hb.10:30-31, [eternal]  
pay back

## II. Sin

For the wages of **sin** is death,  
but the gift of God is eternal life  
in Christ Jesus our Lord –Romans 6:23

# 'Sin' in OT

TO MISS, TO ERR FROM THE MARK, speaking of an archer (the opposite idea to that of reaching the goal, to hit the mark...) to sin (to miss or wander from the way...) – Gesenius

Miss (a goal or way), go wrong, sin...  
*miss the mark, miss the way...* miss the goal or path of right and duty... – BDB

# 'Sin' in NT

A failure, a fault; generally, guilt,  
sin – IGEL

Fifty-one times in Romans (3:9,  
20, 23)

A soldier **missed** Clearchus with axe –Anabasis

To say Athenians were saviors of Greece does  
not **miss** the truth – Heroditus

# Man made in God's image should be like Him

Every departure from His law comes  
short of His purpose for making us –  
we miss the goal

God cannot approve /praise those who sin, 3:23

We must learn / do His will, Ep.5:17; Ja.4:17

Sinner is lawless (an outlaw), 1 Jn.3:4

Unrighteousness is missing the mark, 1 Jn.5:17



# Bad attitudes about sin

Ro.6: 'sin' [seventeen times]

'If grace is so great, we should sin...'

'Jesus died for sin. If we don't sin, He died for nothing'

- How can dead man live (1-2)?
- Die to sin; raised to new life (3-4)

'No man is free who is a slave to the flesh' – Seneca

## III. Death

For the wages of sin is **death**,  
but the gift of God is eternal life  
in Christ Jesus our Lord –Romans 6:23

# Death: the wage that sin pays

## Death is separation: sin kills

- Body: James 2:26
- Soul: Ro.6:11, 16, 21. Is.59:1-2

## Second death: eternal separation

- Rv.20:14-15; 21:8

‘Born once, die twice;  
born twice, die once.’

## IV. Gift

For the wages of sin is death,  
but the **gift** of God is eternal life  
in Christ Jesus our Lord –Romans 6:23

Gift: what is freely and graciously given, *favor bestowed*

'Gracious' gift; no ulterior motives

Gift can be <sup>1</sup>conditional, <sup>2</sup>unconditional

**1.** Josh.6:1-2, 16 (20; Hb.11:30)

**2.** John 6:27, 'work' yet 'given' . . .

**3.** Ac.27:24, 'given' yet (v.31)

**4.** Ro.6:3-4 = 5:15-16

## V. God

For the wages of sin is death,  
but the gift of **God** is eternal life  
in Christ Jesus our Lord –Romans 6:23

# God: Gn.1:1

God does not delight in finding fault.

- Mt.7:7-11, **Fatherly love**
- Jn.3:16, **Fervent love**
- Ja.1:17, **Faultless love**

Anyone who promises salvation on different terms than God is offering counterfeit salvation.

## VI. Eternal Life

For the wages of sin is death,  
but the gift of God is **eternal life**  
in Christ Jesus our Lord –Romans 6:23



# Eternal life

One path is death; the other, life

- Eternal death: separation from God
- Eternal life: fellowship with God.

Mt.25:46

One who comes to God receives  
the most for the least:  
everlasting life for nothing

Conclusion:  
In Christ Jesus  
our Lord

For the wages of sin is death,  
but the gift of God is eternal life  
in Christ Jesus our Lord –Romans 6:23

# In Jesus Christ our Lord

6:11; 5:1, 11

WAGES

GIFT

SIN

IN CHRIST  
JESUS  
OUR LORD

GOD

DEATH

ETERNAL  
LIFE