

I. Introduction and review.

II. The wages of sin is death.

- A. The master. Sin wants to rule over you. 3:10-18,23 Isa. 53:6
- B. The conditions of service (contract). Sin pays (promises) you wages.
 - 1. The word *wages* refers to the daily pay of a soldier.
 - 2. The wages of sin are deceitful: Promising you prosperity, pleasure, and freedom. Ge. 2:5 Pr. 7:15-18 23:31 1:13 II Pe. 2:18-19
 - 3. Many are self deceived in thinking their works are gaining them merit before God for which they expect to be paid wages.
- C. The outcome: The currency in which sin pays you is death.
 - 1. Sin is a wretched paymaster.
 - 2. Death is the natural result of all sin. Every time you sin you lose. 5:12 Gen. 2:17
 - 3. Sin pays wages of death right here and now. Pr. 23:19-21,29-35 20:1 6:26-35 7:22-27 12:11 28:19 13:11 23:20-21 Ec. 5:12. I Ti. 5:6
 - 4. Sin may lead to your premature physical death.
 - 5. The ultimate wage of sin is eternal death. Mt. 25:41,46,30 8:12 13:42,50 24:51 Rev. 20:15 21:8 II Th. 1:6-9
- D. The wages of sin are just and deserved. It is exactly what you have earned.
 - 1. Many people think their works have earned God's favor.
 - 2. They do not realize their works are worthless. 3:10-20,23 Isa. 64:6
 - 3. Hell is a measure of what our sin deserves from a just God.

III. The gift of God is eternal life. v. 23b

- A. The master. God is the only true Lord of all men.
- B. The conditions of service (contract). God deals with His servants not according to what they deserve, but by grace.
 - 1. God is self sufficient. You can offer Him nothing He needs.
 - 2. Salvation is a free gift. 5:21
 - 3. Human works have absolutely nothing to do with God's gift. 4:5
 - 4. There has never been a person (other than Christ) who has merited God's favor.
- C. The outcome: The gift of God is eternal life.
 - 1. Life is much more than the mere continuance of physical existence. Jo. 17:3,22
 - 2. We enjoy the very life of God right now: alive and free in union with Christ! 6:4
 - 3. We will dwell forever with God. Ps. 23:6 Mt. 25:46 I Jo. 3:1-3 Eph. 2:7 II Ti. 4:8
- D. The gift of God comes through Christ Jesus our Lord.
 - 1. The gift of God is free to us, but costly to the Giver. John 3:16
 - 2. Our Lord Jesus has received the wages our sin deserved. 3:24-25 5:9 II Co. 5:21 Col. 1:13 Mark 10:45
 - 3. He has provided His very own righteousness for us. 5:19 Phil. 3:9
 - 4. There is *no* other way to gain eternal life. Acts 4:12 John 14:6 10:7-9

IV. Concluding applications: Whom would you rather serve?

Discussion questions for family worship

1. In what sense does sin pay its wages even to those who are physically alive?

Give examples.

2. What is the ultimate wage of sin?

What would that be like?

3. Who deserves death?

4. On what basis does God deal with His servants (as opposed to wages)?

5. In what sense do we enjoy life right now?

6. What will eternal life be like?

7. How do we receive eternal life?

8. Why should we serve God if eternal life is a gift (and not a wage)?