

I. Introduction.

II. The wages of sin is death.

A. The boss: Sin wants to rule over you.

1. Sin is personified as a slavemaster. 6:16-17,20
2. What is sin? 3:10-18,23 1:21 Isa. 53:6 Mt. 23:34-40
3. Sin is enslaving: demanding your full allegiance. 6:16,20 John 8:34 II Pe. 2:18-19

B. The pay: Sin deceitfully promises you wages.

1. Sin claims to pay well. Ge. 2:5 Pr. 7:15-18 12:11 18:8 23:31 1:13 II Pe. 2:18-19
2. There is no more dangerous sin than self-righteousness. Phil. 3:4-9 Rom. 3:20
 - a. Many are self deceived in thinking their works are gaining them merit before God for which they expect to be paid wages. Isa. 64:6
 - b. They will learn that all their supposed assets are actually liabilities.

C. The prospects: The currency in which sin pays you is death - now, and forever.

1. Sin is a wretched paymaster.
2. The wages of sin are determined by the law. 5:20 4:15 8:2 I Cor. 15:56
3. Death is the natural result of all sin. Every time you sin you lose. 5:12 Gen. 2:17
4. Sin pays you in regular installments.
5. Sin pays deadly wages 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
 - a. Sin places you in bondage. John 8:34 3:19 II Pe. 2:18-19
 - b. Sin never satisfies. 6:21 Isa. 55:1-2
 - c. Sin deadens you spiritually. I Co. 2:14
6. Sin may lead to your premature physical death.
7. The ultimate wage of sin is eternal death. Mt. 25:41,46,30 16:26 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.

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

A. The boss: God is the only true Lord of all men.

B. The pay: We receive not wages, but an undeserved gift from our Lord. 3:24

1. God is self sufficient. You can offer Him nothing He needs. Rom. 11:35-36
2. God deals with His servants not according to what our sins deserve, but according to grace. 4:5 3:21-26 Ps. 103:10
3. Salvation is a free gift. 5:21 3:24
4. Human works have absolutely nothing to do with God's gift. 4:5 3:20-21 Phil. 3:9 Eph. 2:8-9 Titus 3:5

C. The prospects: 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! 6:4,11 12:1-2 I Cor. 6:9-11 10:31
3. We will live forever with God. Ps. 23:6 Mt. 25:46 I Jo. 3:1-3 Eph. 2:7 II Ti. 4:8

D. The free 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 II Cor. 8:9**
- 2. Our Lord Jesus has received the wages our sin deserved. 3:24-25 5:9 II Co. 5:21**
- 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**
- 5. Put all your trust in Christ. 10:13**

IV. Concluding application: Whom are you serving?

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?

3. Who deserves death?

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

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

6. What will eternal life be like?

7. What must we do to receive eternal life?

8. What did God do that we might receive life?

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

10. What is the key to living a holy life? 6:11