

Title: The Divine Contrast!
Text: Romans 6: 23
Date: July 8, 2012
Place: SGBC, New Jersey

Romans 6: 23: For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our text tells us of two very different things obtained—death and eternal life. Our text tells us two very different ways that these are obtained.

Romans 6: 23: For the wages of sin is death;--the sinner who perishes in death—spiritual, physical and eternal—will have earned it as a wage owed for his labor; **but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**—the sinner who is saved will have been given eternal life as the free gift of God, not by anything we have done, but through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Title: The Divine Contrast!

1) Notice the contrast in the way these two are obtained—23: For “the wages”; but “the gift”—death are wages earned, eternal life is “the gift” given;

2) The contrast “in the reason” these two are obtained—23: For the wages “of sin”; but the gift “of God”—death is the wages OF SIN—sin being the master you have served; but eternal life is the gift OF GOD

3) The contrast through who these two are obtained—sin is “the work of the sinner” so the sinner himself gets all the glory for earning death; but God’s gift of eternal life is “through the Lord Jesus Christ” so that Christ gets all the glory.

I. THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH

Sin is described here has a master and the sinner as the servant of sin.

Romans 6: 16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?...19: I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants TO uncleanness and TO iniquity unto iniquity;

Sinners without the Spirit of God are servants to a master named “sin,” servants to “uncleanness,” servants to “iniquity.” That master Mr. Sin is a tyrant. Those under him are slaves—they labor and work hard under sin. But they are his willing slaves. We liked all the labor under that master sin. We called it “the pleasure of sin

The sinner who is under the rule of that master called sin is not the servant of God.

Romans 6: 20: For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.

When ye were under that master, called sin—we were the servants of sin. But while under that master we were not the servants of God, not the servants of righteousness.

Sinners only have one master—sin. And believers only have one master—Christ. No man can serve two masters. Either sin has the rule of our hearts or Christ has the dominion. Some here are under the rule of sin.

Some are under the rule of Christ. But no one here is under the rule of both. Those under the rule of sin—hate the thought of having Christ as their Master—“**the carnal mind is enmity against God.**” (Rom 8: 7) But those in whose heart Christ dwells as Master—we hate the very sin we once loved-- “**O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?**” (Ro 7:24)

Application: What do you really enjoy? In what direction are you really going? Who is really your Lord? If sin masters us, if we delight to do evil, if we enjoy evil companions, if we walk in darkness, then Christ is not our Master.

The wage that “master sin” pays is death.

Romans 6: 21: What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.

Mr. Sin, is in the iniquity business—the only thing his servants produce is sin and iniquity. The end—the wage--which sin pays his servants for all their labor—is death—**Romans 6: 23: For the wages of sin is death;**

- **The wages of sin is spiritual death**—no sinner can earn spiritual life—spiritual life cannot be earned—God must give it. But when God gives the sinner the light of the gospel and that sinner goes on laboring in sin, working to put God out of his mind, laboring for his master sin, that labor will earn you the wages of more spiritual death.

Romans 1: 21: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, [that takes labor and it earns its wages] and their foolish heart was darkened....25: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. [it takes labor to do that and it earns a wage]26: For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections:... 28: And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, [it takes labor and earns a wage] God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

The wages of sin is physical death—laboring in sin will earn you the wage of a body wrecked with sickness, sorrow and pain and will eventually end in physical death.

The wages of sin is eternal death—if we labor all our days for that master sin—having never obeyed the gospel—we will have earned eternal separation from God in the torments of hell as a wage which we rightfully earned for all our labors.

Application: Sinner, there is no good fruit, no good end in continuing with sin as your master. If you earn the wages of death, you will have no one to blame but yourself. Now listen very closely...**NOW THE DIVINE CONTRAST.**

II. But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God gives the gift of eternal life.

Romans 6: 17: But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

- **v17: But God be thanked**—the free gift of God

- **v17:...Ye were the servants of sin**—None but the Spirit of God could dethrone that master in your spiritually dead heart. None but the Spirit of God could break those chains and free you from that tyrant called sin. Through what means did he do so?
- **v17:...but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.** God delivered the doctrine of Christ and him crucified to you—**that form of doctrine which was delivered you**—A new heart was created within you—John 3: 5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. He revealed to you your vileness and revealed the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus—(Rom 6: 6-11) He gave you the gift of repentance and the gift of faith to believe on Christ—you obeyed from the heart, from the heart, from the heart—the good news of Christ finished work.

Romans 6: 18: Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

In verse 7 the word 'freed' means 'justified'—freed from the guilt, penalty and condemnation; Here in verse 18 it means 'liberated'—no longer a slave under that old master called sin—freed from the control and servitude of sin. Its hold over us is broken. A new Master—a good Master—a loving Master—Christ Jesus took control in that new spirit--ye became the servants of righteousness.

What a divine contrast!

- Not a wage earned—but the gift given
- Not of sin—but of God
- Not death—but eternal life
- Not of us—but through the Lord Jesus Christ

V23: But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. He that glories let him glory in the Lord!

Application: Brethren, you and I are not wholly free from sin. We carry about a body of sin and death. In thoughts, and words, and actions, we feel the working of sin in our old nature constantly. I feel so far from being a servant of righteousness, that I find myself constantly asking God to forgive me. But by virtue of the redemption in CHRIST, we are delivered from the condemning power of sin, and are brought into the glorious liberty of the sons of GOD. The holiness of GOD our SAVIOR is ours by virtue of our union and communion with Christ. By the gift of God we now have eternal life in Christ and the end shall be everlasting life in glory with him when we pass from this world.

Romans 6: 19: I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness...

As you have in the past cheerfully yielded your minds, hearts, tongues and hands to do evil, now cheerfully yield them to God and holiness. We produced no fruit under our old master sin. All was earned and nothing given.

Romans 6: 22: But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

We are not under the law but under grace. We have the fruit of the Spirit:

Galatians 5: 22...love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 25: If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Application: Believer, before God gave us this gift, the end we earned was—unto iniquity unto death—spiritual, physical and eternal. Our sin was of no profit to anyone and especially not ourselves. But now, the gift of God is unto holiness—the fruit of the Spirit is useful and profitable in many ways:

- God is glorified with all our members
- The doctrine of Christ is adorned, honored and commended before all
- Our spiritual, even physical, well-being is better by the fruits of the Spirit: our reputation is better than it was, our own peace of heart and we are peace toward others, our neighbor and friends and loved ones are all beneficiaries of God's grace in taming the wild beasts we were.
- **And the end**—spiritually, physically, eternally—now and hereafter—is everlasting life.

Sinner, which sounds better to you—

- Work or rest;
- Death or life;
- A wage earned or a gift given?

John 6: 27: Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

Go home and get your bible. Listen to these messages on your computer and look up the scriptures to see if what God says—if what I am telling you now—is according to the word of the Lord.

- Ask God to have mercy on your soul.
- Ask God to reveal true righteousness, true satisfaction, to you.
- Ask God to make his power known to you.
- Ask God to reveal Christ in your heart.
- Come to him bowed down seeking unmerited mercy

Hebrews 4: 9: There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. 10: For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. 11: Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest,...

Romans 6: 23: For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen!