

The Romans Road

Part 2: Romans 6:23

Context

- Between 3:23 and 6:23 Paul discusses justification and sanctification
 - The third verse of the Romans Road lives in this section (5:8)
- Chapter 6 looks at our union with Christ (vv. 1-14) and the fact that we are slaves to righteousness (vv. 15-23)

From Sunday: Why did the rich man end up in hell?

How does your pay for work differ from a present that's given to you and how do you react to each of these?

For the wages of sin is death

- “wages” refers to a soldier’s pay...EARNED (note Galatians 5:19-21)
- Contextually, “death” means condemnation (5:18) and authority (Chapter 6)
 - Consider the rich man from Luke 16: separation from God FOREVER
- “Since in practice wages are not paid in a lump sum but regularly and periodically, death is not to be regarded merely as the final payment, but as that which already casts its dark shadow over life, a portent of the deeper darkness to come” – Everett Harrison (EBC, *Romans*, paraphrasing H.W. Heidland, TDNT)

In what ways does death cast a shadow over unbelievers?

but the gift of God is eternal life

- “but” – a small but consequential word here (Lazarus and the rich man)
- “gift” = *charisma*, a form of *charis* (“grace”) – something we cannot earn
- Having eternal life is actually a promise – *Of what?*

through Christ Jesus our Lord

- Romans 5:18-19 explains this very well
- We receive the gift because Jesus paid the “wages” for us
- Recall Eve and her relation to 1 John 2:16
 - Contrast that with Jesus’ temptations in Luke 4:1-13
 - All that was broken by Eve and Adam was restored by Jesus

How can you respond to someone who says that God’s punishment of hell for eternity seems too harsh for a “few years” of sin here on earth?