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Reading: Romans 6v23

“For the wages of sin is death but the (free) gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”

This verse makes us consider a choice that we all must make. On one hand we have sin, with its wages: death. On the other hand, we have the gift of God, which is eternal life. They are brought together in Jesus Christ.

Wages are paid for effort expended. It is something that is owed to you for what you have done. We may not know all know what sin is. Many have different concept from the Bible.

A university graduate whose grandparents were believers was asked if he was conscious of sin. He replied that he could remember one sin in his life. He did not understand the Bible meaning. He thought that he had lived a good life. He did not realise he was a sinner.

The Lord Jesus said, “I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Matt. 9:13)

What is your answer to the question, Are you a sinner?

You might ask, What is a sinner? It is any one who is disobedient to anything God says. Anything contrary to mind of God is sin.

Adam and Eve placed in Garden of Eden. What must it have been like in the perfect creation? We don't know what the first man looked like yet he was made perfect. In the cool of the day in the garden the Eternal God came down and spoke to Adam. All animals created were in harmony and peace. Something came in to mar the scene. The devil came in the form of a serpent.

Put a child in a room of toys and a box of toys and tell them to play with anything but not the toys in the box. What would it do? It would want to know what is in the box.

In Romans 7:9, we read, “For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died”

In Ezekiel 18:20, we are told “The soul that sinneth, it shall die”

In the beginning, God gave one commandment to man, “But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” (Gen.2:17)

Eve was deceived by the serpent and took the fruit. Adam followed her example and disobeyed

deliberately.

In Romans 5:12, we learn that “By one man sin death entered into the world”. A little later, it is emphasised that this was just by one act of disobedience (Rom.5:19).

We all need to acknowledge that we can have no claim upon God today because of sin.

The Pharisees thought they were good. The Lord Jesus spoke about one who said, “God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are” (Luke 18:11)

You may think you are not as bad as someone else but God cannot accept that.

The word of God says, “For we must needs die, and are as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither doth God respect any person: yet doth he devise means, that his banished be not expelled from him” (“ Sam. 14:14), and “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Rom.3:23)

Romans was written to show God's righteousness. From Romans Chapter 1 verse 18 to Chapter 5, we learn about God's condemnation and His means of justification.

What is justification? It is bringing man back to a place where can be accepted to God.

Romans 8, we learn of the future glory that the believer will share with God.

Fundamental truths of gospel are all found in the Roman epistle.

The message of God is that salvation is free. John 3:16 teaches us that God only had one Son, not a host of sons, but He gave Him up for us. As a result, whosoever believes can have everlasting life. Whosoever takes in everyone, no one is excepted from the scope of God's salvation.

On the cross around 2000 years ago the Roman nation put Jesus to death, but the Jews were behind it so Peter says, “ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain” (Acts 2:23)

Paul could say, “The Son of God loved me and gave Himself for me” (Gal. 2:20). Had Paul been the only sinner he knew that Jesus would still need to die. To deal with sin, God's righteousness demanded the death of His Son. His death provides a way for all: man, woman, boy or girl. A means has been made that man separated from God can be brought back.

God promised this through Isaiah, when He said, “the Lord made the iniquity of us all to meet on him” (Isa 53:6, margin). Paul teaches this, “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.” (“ Cor.5:21)

We stand accepted in all the acceptability of Jesus Christ, the Son of God

In Luke 16:23-30, the doors to hell are opened so that we can look in. We see a man who, on earth, had enjoyed everything riches can bring. He died and ended up in hell where he is in the tormenting flame. In hell, there is no alleviation of pain. That man will be there for all eternity. Eternity will never end, he is enduring eternal torments because in life he left God out.

Paul looked at life and all he was going through and speaks of the position he was in. "For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better" (Phil. 1:23)

The Lord Jesus promises eternal life to all who come to Him. In His prayer recorded in John 17:3, He tells what eternal life is, "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent"

On earth things come to an end but eternity will not. The decision that we make in this life will seal our destiny for eternity.

"Choose you this day whom ye will serve" (Joshua 24:15)

Pilate asked the question, "What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?". The crowd answered, "Let him be crucified" (Matt. 11:22). This was the same crowd who days before had said, "Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest" (Matt.21:9)

Now each person must either say "Jesus Christ is Lord" (Phil. 2:11) or "away with him, crucify him" (John 19:15). This is made clear in Romans 10:9, "if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved"

What you decide to do with Christ in time will determine what He will do in eternity.

He said, "I give unto them (My sheep) eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand" (John 10:28).

The believer is held in Almighty God's hand, the hand that holds creation. He is safe in Christ. Know will go to heaven when he dies or the Lord comes.

Only a step to be with Christ or in a long lost lonely unending eternity.

What then will you do with Christ?