

before God. You have a freedom to make a choice. You have a responsibility. No man can say, "I am what I am and have no choice in the matter." Everyone everyday makes repeated and frequent and constant choices and the sum of those choices have a tremendous amount to do with what you are the next day, or the next year, or the next decade. The freedom of man is clearly implied in the Scriptures. The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. You can't have both the wages and the gift of God. You have a freedom of choice.

I think that we must not turn this facet over without noticing that it could be easily misunderstood. I think that verse 30 shows that the freedom which we have is a limited freedom. It is not a complete freedom. It is easy for a man to say, "I am the master of my fate; I am the captain of my soul" when he knows very well that he isn't. There is no man but who is greatly limited. There is no man, no matter how greatly talented, no matter with how good an ability, no matter how great his wealth, how great his good fortune in many ways, but who is greatly limited. The freedom which we have is a real freedom but it is a limited freedom. It is a freedom in limited terms. We note here that we have these two alternatives but there are not exactly parallel. Here are the wages of sin and here is the gift of God. One you earn, the other you receive as a gift. They are not equal. The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life. You cannot have both. You can't have the sin whose wages are death and have this eternal life which is the gift of God. The alternative is not exact, and that is true in many choices we have to make. It is strictly a freedom between terms. There may be man who says that I would like to live in Florida and enjoy the sunshine and have the pleasant air, and freedom from wearing hats, coats and all this sort of paraphernalia. He would like to have all of that which he could get in Fla. But he would like also the bracing air of the north and the mountains--the hills of Penna. You cannot combine the hills of Penna. with the warm and flat area of Fla. You cannot do that unless you find another place that has that particular combination. You have certain circumstances in one place and certain in another and you live here or you live there and you take the circumstances which are in that particular area. Say a man is in a burning building. And the man says, "O, how I love this place here. All these treasures that I have gathered--I need them so I am going to stay right here with them." But you tell him that the building is burning