

## THE WAGES, OR THE GIFT

Bible Reading: Romans 6:14-23

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

Today many a man insists that he wants only his "just deserts." Many declare that they are ready to face God and to receive what they have earned. How shallow such thinking is! If one truly examines his heart and his actions, he finds that they fall far short of that which a holy and just God must require. If we receive our proper wages, we must receive death--eternal death, endless suffering, infinite misery. This is the wages of the sin and our wages must be paid.

Fortunately, another has intervened on our behalf. The Lord Jesus Christ received the wages of sin which He Himself did not deserve. He died on the cross in order to take upon His back the stripes of those who deserve punishment and death at the hands of God. Jesus Christ bore our sins on the cross in order that God might give us a free gift through Him. Let us think this matter through carefully, each one of us. Are we seeking our just deserts? Are we wanting the wages which belong to us, the wages which are death, or are we throwing ourselves at the feet of God and seeking mercy and claiming the gift which God has promised to all those who believe on Jesus Christ? Jesus secured this gift for us by paying the demands of the law. He suffered the cruel death on Calvary's cross in order that all who believe on Him might not perish but have eternal life. Which will you receive, the wages of your sin, or the free gift of God?

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