

Now this morning I'm going to speak about one verse of the Scripture. Ordinarily I don't like to talk about one verse. It is sometimes said that a text without a context is only a pretext, and this can easily be the case. In more cases we have to interpret verses of the Scripture in the light of the context. And I have heard many sermons that have utterly misrepresented what the Script. teaches because they have not taken the context into consideration. If you're just going to take a few words out of Bible and talk about them not giving what they actually mean in context, I believe you are misrepresenting the Bible. I think we should study the Bible to see what it really teaches.

But every now and then you find a vs. in the Script. that gathers together into itself a grt. amt. of Scrip. truth. Something that can stand absolutely alone and give you a clear presentation of a vital subject. Some of these verses, it seems to me, are like beautiful gems that have many facets, and as you look at them from different sides you see different aspects of Christian truth. One such wonderful verse I want to speak of this morning. That is Rom. 6:23: For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life thro Jesus Christ our Lord. The wages of sin -- the Gk. the opsenia of sin. Now this word opsenia originally meant the provisions and supplies that were given to soldiers. It is originally a military term. It is used comparatively infrequently in the NT. It has this idea of supplies for a work beginning with military and then extending to -- later on to usage in other regards too. Paul says in one place: "No man goes to warfare at his own charges" and there is this same word. It represents that which you receive to enable you to carry on your service military or otherwise. And so we have here the wages of sin -- it is not strictly the reward, though it comes to cover reward and pay also, but it is ~~that~~ that which enables you to continue, and that ~~of~~ of course which you receive for it. The wages of sin is death. But the charisma of God is eternal life. Now this word charisma is like the Gk. word charis which means grace. But charisma is a gift, but it is used of spiritual gifts. It is used of gifts from God. The doran would be the word used if it was speaking of the ordinary type of gift, that a man can give.