

two young fellows they knew this man had more money than they had and they wanted to share the wealth and so they stepped up and pulled a gun on him and he gave them his watch. He gave them a little money that was in his pocket, and then one of them got nervous and pulled the trigger when he hadn't intended to and Sen. Stennis of Mississippi was shot twice. He managed to stagger into the house. He is now lying in the hospital in desperate condition. Well, I suppose our psychiatrists will explain to us how it is the way these poor fellows were brought up and they had not had the opportunities the Senator had had in life. After all we shouldn't be too hard on them." That's the attitude today but that's not God's attitude. The wages of sin is death, and whether they happened to pull the ~~trigger~~ trigger or whether they didn't, whether your failure to pray results in terrible misery for somebody else or whether it doesn't, the attitude of sin is what God sees as ~~the~~ deserving the penalty. Maybe

Lady Macbeth you remember in Shakespear's account. Lady Macbeth in the sleep walking scene rubbing her hands together as if she was trying to wash them. She said, All the water in all the seas can't wash these hands clean, As she looked back on the murder of Duncan. All the water in all the seas cannot wash one clean from the penalty of sin. The modern attitude is, Oh let him have remorse, that's sufficient. Let him feel regret, that's sufficient. Here's a man that committed a murder. Let him have a sleepless night, that's sufficient. But that's not what the verse says. The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life, eternal life, continuing life parallel with the wages of sin is dying, perpetual dying, eternal dying. We don't know to how great an extent the words about fire in the Script. are a figure, or to how great an extent it is literal. We do not know, but certainly they represent something very real. An equally good representation would be "eternal dying." Imagine a man dying in misery, dying in pain. You say, Oh let's hope it doesn't last much longer. Let's hope he is soon out of his misery. But imagine that going on and on and on through all eternity. The wages of sin is death.

Now we have looked at five sides of this gem -- the dark side of the gem. Now there is a bright side of the gem. Thank God it doesn't stop there. But we need to emphasize that side. The world today is all too ready to forget it. We need to think about it. We need to relate it to our own lives and to our acts. But thank the Lord there is the other side