

November 1, 2020

Intro: What is the greatest gift you have ever received? When did someone give you something: LOVE
Bible College: Roommate and I broke: Cabinets were empty: Last meal: Prayed: OK GOD: Dinner?
Couple hours later: BEFORE Dinnertime: Knock on Door, My sister Jane: Strangest thing 3-4 bags!

Continue our series on the "Road To Hope" 2 Goals:

- Encourage You: *Never committed life to Jesus Christ, do that today*
- Equip You: *Give you some tools to help you in conversations with people in your life*

Today: God's Greatest Gift!

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

3 Truths About God's Gift Of Eternal Life

1. Eternal Life is Given, NOT Earned.

If you have been around church for a while, then this is very familiar language to you. But, I want you to look closely with me at the way this verse is worded. It's important to analyze it carefully.

- Wages of Sin is Death:

~Wages: Lit = the word the Romans used to describe what a Roman soldier earned daily
This is what you have EARNED....You did something....and You got paid!

~Sin: We have talked about it, so I won't go into detail again, but Sin:
Those things we DO that are not pleasing to God:

"You get what you deserve..." "Reap what you sow...."

~Death: Lit: When I sin, I have EARNED the Payment of Death!

Temporal: This life; Spiritual: God Eternal: Forever Relational

- Gift of God is eternal life:

When Paul moves on to life, and away from death, Notice what he says:

~Death is earned/Deserved (wages)

~Life is GIFTED....NOT DESERVED...NOT EARNED.

If we could earn or deserve eternal life Paul would have said:

"For the wages of sin is death...AND the wages of righteousness (doing right thing) eternal life!"

Then we would be earning it! But that isn't the case:

Bible says: Rom 3:10-12 *"No one righteous, no one does good, no one seeks God, no one deserves"*

TRUTH#1: *A sinner goes to hell because he has earned it and deserves it.*

A righteous man goes to heaven because Christ Jesus died for him!

2. Eternal Life Is IN Christ...And Christ Alone

The second thing I want you to see in this verse about the God's gift of eternal life is that it is found in Christ, and Christ alone. Now, I know that in today's world, saying that there is only one way to God is not a very popular statement. But...regardless of how popular it is, it is BIBLICAL.

- Prepositions are very important in the Greek language. If you look at original it says IN

~Some translations use "through" because salvation comes through Christ: TRUE: NOT HERE

~IN: Lit = *"a fixed position or state; a position of rest"* to be in relationship with;

So what Paul is saying is: When I am in relationship with Jesus...I am in state of eternal life!

When I am NOT in a relationship with Jesus, I am NOT in a state of eternal life.

AND

It is ONLY as I am in relationship with Jesus that I have eternal life.

Acts 4:12 *"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."*

- Also, bible very specific WHAT Jesus we are talking about:

~Christ: The promised Messiah of OT; One God said He would send to save/deliver His people

~Jesus: Jesus of Nazareth: Fully Human...Heb says: Tempted in every way: "Gets Us"!

~Lord: The one who is supreme in authority...The Lord God Almighty!

TRUTH: *"I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me!" Jn 14:6*

3. Eternal Life Is Forever

Now you would think that this would go without saying, but in our world today we need to be very clear about the biblical position on different areas. Here is the key. Both those that know Jesus and have received the gift of eternal life, and those that do NOT know Jesus live forever.

Key: We just live in different places...and with a different **QUALITY** of life!

- **Eternal Life:**
 - ~Quantity: Ongoing, Eternal, without End Rev 22:1-5
 - ~Quality: Not just more of the same! Imagine 2020 forever!
Jn 10:10 *"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."*
Life as God intended; Grace; Peace; Blessing; Hope; Joy; Fullness
Fullness of life as God created it, Unrestricted fellowship with Him, Perfect Place!
- **Eternal Death:**
 - ~Quantity: Just like eternal life, eternal death...separation from God is forever. Doesn't end
 - ~Quality: Mt 25:41 *"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"*

Illus: One of the things I hear people say all the time in our culture is something to the effect off, Oh, it doesn't matter what you believe, as long as you are sincere.

Bible Fundamentally disagrees with that...Here is reality...You can be sincerely wrong!

I grew up in a mill town. Paper mill, where all the "good jobs" were.

But, as good as it was...it was a very dangerous job.

Still remember the day I heard of an electrician at the mill who was working in dryer.

High voltage, very dangerous piece of equipment...Need repair or service....Went to the electrical panel

"RedTag" or "TagOut" put the Red tag on the breaker, put a padlock on it...Man working:

Someone went in, took tag off...CUT the lock off...turned it on while he was inside! **KILLED INSTANTLY**

The one who did it...was sincere...but he was sincerely wrong...cost a man his life.

It's not enough to just be sincere...need to be **RIGHT!**

TRUTH: Both eternal life and eternal death are forever, One for better...the other for worse!

CONCL

For the wages of sin is death...but the **GIFT** of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord!"

Today I want to ask you...Have you received the Free Gift of Eternal life?

If not

1. Encourage you: If you haven't yet come to a place in your life where you have accepted Christ, In a moment I'm going to pray...If you are ready...do that with me. Sense a desire: It's God!
Proactively Looking for you; Publicly Shown you; Personally Cares; Paid Great Price

If So

2. Equip you: We all have conversations...this give you the basics!
Who in **YOUR** life needs to hear about God's love?
Who do **YOU** need to pursue...the way God pursued you?
Who do you need to pray for, share with, reach out to, tell about God's love?
As I pray with those that need to open their heart to God

Challenge you...pray for those in your life that need to know Him
Ask God to open the door.

Prayer of Salvation

Father I know I am a sinner. Please forgive me for my sins.

I believe that your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ died to pay the price for my sins.

I trust Him now as my personal Savior and Lord.

I ask Him to come into my life and commit to follow Him all the days of my life as He gives me strength.

Thank you for hearing my prayer...and answering it.

Amen