

Gift Of God – Romans 6.20-23

²⁰ When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. ²¹ What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death!

²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6.15-23).¹

Memory Verse: For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6.23).

Here we are, making a choice between Jesus Christ, the One Who died in our place on the cross, paying our price for sin, in return giving us eternal life as a free gift. Or we can continue to follow Satan, who will lead us nowhere but straight to hell, separated from God for all eternity. To a place where weeping and gnashing of teeth is a daily activity, where we will be tormented forever and ever and ever, never having the satisfaction of knowing the love of God ever again.

The question is “what advantage did we get from the things which we are now ashamed of?” (Romans 6.21, NRSV, my emphasis).² Consider this question, think very hard because the decision we make is not a simple one, yet it is. For choosing Christ is just as easy as calling on the name of the Lord and we can be saved (Romans 10.13).

However, this question should cause every one of us to stop and think about where we came from and what might have happened had God not changed our lives for His righteousness. How did we benefit, how were we made any better in our old life style? This is the question Paul is posing to us; what is our answer, our response to such a pointed question? See, the results of all those things is death (Romans 6.21), both physical and spiritual.

“But now...” are the opening words of verse 22, after Paul asked such a pointed and sharp question about our former lives, causing us to think back, to reflect, and hopefully understand all God has done for us. Then we come to verse 22, ‘But now...’ This is a big ‘But,’ there are many of them in the New Testament, Paul likes to use them, and normally there are plenty of good and glorious things to follow these ‘But’s.’

This one is no exception, “But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life” (Romans 6.22, ESV).³ There are three amazing things that happen after this big ‘but,’ first, we are set free from our sins. This is something we have been discussing throughout these lessons. However, here are some additional verses we should also consider and meditate on when it comes to being set free from sin’s powerful hold on our life.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one-man Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. For if, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one-man Jesus Christ. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many

¹ [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Ro 6:10–23). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

² [The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version](#). (1989). (Ro 6:21). Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

³ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ro 6:22). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

will be made righteous. Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,⁵⁰ that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 5.15-20).⁴

As we have been set free, we are then bound to God, through Christ Jesus. To use Paul's words, we are 'enslaved to God.' What a great thing, we went from serving a wicked master, who only loved himself, to serving a loving, caring, gracious, and merciful God, Who cares for us, and watches over our every move, knowing all that will happen to us before it ever happens.

Second, because of engagement to God, we now have access to His holiness, righteousness, as well as better understanding of Who God is. As we grow in our relationship with Him, we are drawn closer to Him giving us a better understanding of Who God is and what He wants and desires from us. This process is called sanctification, becoming more Christ like and is a process we work on our entire lives.

Third, we get eternal life, the victory won by Jesus Christ because God raised Him from the dead (Acts 2.24; Romans 10.9; I Peter 1.21). Paul encouraged the church at Corinth concerning Christ's resurrection, and what it means to each of us, when he said, "then shall come to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.⁵⁵ O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin; and the power of sin is the law:⁵⁷ but thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 15.54-56).⁵

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6.23).⁶ The cost of sinning, there is a price we must pay for our sinful life style, what is the price for such a life style. It is death—both a physical and spiritual separation from our Creator, Lord, and possible Savior. Possible Savior because if we are paying for our sin, then we have not accepted God's free gift, which is the second part of this verse. Again, there is a 'But,' but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. See there is a way out of our payment. We are always looking for a way out, some way we do not have to pay, here it is. Jesus Christ paid our debt with His very life, all we have to do is take the gift He is offering and we will have freedom, a life that leads to holiness (sanctification) and eternal life (Romans 6.22). The choice is yours what will you choose?

Application

1. What did you get out of your old life? Please explain.
2. What kind of life do you now have under Christ? Which life is better? Please explain.
3. **Deeper Thinking:** Explain what it means to be set free from sin but enslaved to God. Use some scriptures to back up your position.
4. Make a commitment to share the gospel with at least one person today and continue to memorize Romans 3.23, 5.8, and 6.23.

Prayer

Our dear Heavenly Father, thank You for loving me. For sharing Your Son with me, a slave to sin. Thank You for setting me free. Help me to remember my freedom and look for and walk in Your righteousness. Help me to never forget the cost of Your love and the price paid to set me free. May I share it with others today as You give me opportunities to share Your gospel today, all this I pray in Your Son Jesus Christ's Name, Amen.

⁴ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. (2016). (Ro 5:15–21). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

⁵ *American Standard Version*. (1995). (I Co 15:54–57). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

⁶ *The New International Version*. (2011). (Ro 6:23). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.