

“For The Wages Of Sin Is Death...,”

Rom. 6:23

October 4, 2009 am

Introduction:

1. Good morning – welcome to our assembly for this Lord’s Day.
2. In your Bible reading, and in listening to sermons – **do you recall this statement of the apostle Paul? “The Wages Of Sin Is Death!”**
 - A. We’re going to study what that means this morning.
 - B. There is one reason for this kind of study: **We need to know the full impact of sin.**
 - C. Everybody knows that sin is bad; sin is to be avoided; it is not a good thing.
 - D. But we need to know the full extent of what sin does to the sinner, to others and to God.
 - E. That will be our purpose.
3. So here is this statement, found in your Bible in Romans 6:23.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Body:

- I. What was Paul talking about, when he said this?
 - A. First, he was saying this to Christians.
 1. In the first part of Romans 6 – he says: "as many **of us** as were **baptized** into Christ."
 2. He says, "**we were buried with Him through baptism,**" and he says now – after baptism, we must "walk in newness of life."
 3. So this was written to Christians.
 - B. Second, he is telling Christians – now that you are Christians . . . since you have been baptized into Christ → **You must not fall back into sin! You must be a servant of God.**
 1. In making this point he says things like:
 - a. "Shall we who died to sin" go back into sin? **The answer is NO.**
 - b. He says, "we should no longer be slaves of sin."

- c. He says, “reckon yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God.”
 2. So in this part of his letter to the Romans – he is talking to Christians, *people who have been baptized . . .* and he is warning them not to go back into the way of life Christ saved them from.
- C. As he wraps this up – near the end of chapter six – he makes the point: **As Christians, we are no longer slaves of sin – we are now free, to be righteous people.**
- D. Listen: **Rom. 6:20-23.**
1. Here’s what we need to get from this.
 2. After being baptized into Christ, I must understand that **sin is no longer my master.**
 3. **God is my master, and the stakes are high.**
- E. If I fall back into sin – it’s going to kill me.
- F. If I walk in newness of life, under the authority of Jesus Christ – *not only do I enjoy the fruit of holiness now, but in the end, everlasting life.*

- G. One thing that will help me walk in newness of life is – a deep and continual awareness of what sin does . . . the full impact of it.

II. It can be scripturally argued – **Sin is a Killer!**

- A. That doesn't mean, if you disobey God, you immediately drop dead!
 - 1. Wouldn't that make this world a different place?
 - 2. Can you imagine? Some kind of population control, right??
 - 3. A person disobeys God, and drops dead on the spot. *There would be death everywhere.*
 - 4. That's **not** what Paul is saying in Rom. 6:23.
- B. And while it is true – that sin brought death into the human race – as written by Paul in Romans 5 – *That's not identical to Rom. 6:23.*
- C. This is about what sin does to the sinner;
And I think a good way to understand this is – SIN IS A KILLER.

III. Here are some examples:

- A. Sin kills your self-confidence, if your conscience is still active.
1. If you know what God expects of you – but you also know you are not obeying Him - - **doesn't that bother you? Doesn't that work on you emotionally and kill your confidence?**
 2. I believe this is part of what Paul was talking about in Romans 7, the next chapter.
 3. He said – in **Rom. 7:15-21.**
 4. Before Paul obeyed the gospel – as a sinner, this is how he felt.
 - a. He knew what was right.
 - b. The training, the knowledge, even the will to some extent.
 - c. But he didn't do it – and he knew he wasn't right with God.

- d. There was no relief for Paul, no resolution of this conflict, **until he came out of sin and into Christ.**
 - e. He speaks to this in chapter eight – where it says, “now,” there is no condemnation . . . in Christ Jesus.
5. Sin kills your confidence about your standing with God – knowing what is right, doing what is wrong – **is a killer.**
 6. Life and assurance can only be found by abiding in Jesus Christ.
 7. Outside of Him – indifferent to Him; in love with the world – **you are dying spiritually, and as long as your heart holds a sense of conscience . . . your self-confidence in regard to God and spiritual things – is dead.**
 8. Sin is a killer.
- B. **Sin kills your ability to be a good servant to others.** *I'll take us to Romans 12 in a minute – first I want to say...*
1. Disobeying God is a negative in every aspect of living!

- a. Sin brings you nothing positive.
 - b. It adds nothing to your quality of life.
 - c. It supplies no permanent happiness or pleasure.
 - d. It is an all-around negative.
2. And one area where this is true is, in your relationships with people.
 - a. Sin is a killer of human relationships.
 - b. Name anything you can – that tears people apart . . . then engage in some analysis and very quickly you will see – **Sin is the problem.**
 3. One of the many biblical statements of spiritual service to others – is this statement in **Rom. 12:10-16.**
 4. If you are not living this way . . . if you are not serving others as described here – **that deficiency in your service to others gets back to the selfishness of sin.**
 4. Sin kills your ability to serve others in the highest way.

5. I tell you – sin negatively impacts who you are and what you do - -
 - a. As a neighbor, a friend, a citizen.
 - b. As a spouse, as a parent, as an employer or employee.
6. God calls us to be servants – serving Him, then as a result of that relationship, serving others.
7. Sin kills that.

C. **Sin kills hope!**

1. Hope, Paul said in Romans 8, is that expectation we have about our future, our destiny – he said, “we hope for what we do not see, then we eagerly wait for it with perseverance,” (Rom. 8:25).
 - a. We are a people who need hope, and long to have it on some solid basis.
 - b. We like happy endings.
 - c. We want to know, it will all turn out OK in the end.

2. Most of us – at some point, even if briefly and not often – **think about what might be our condition, if we suddenly died.**
 - a. Car accident.
 - b. Sudden onset of disease.
 - c. Unexpected heart attack.
3. When you have those thoughts, is there hope?
 - a. Could be those thoughts can help you.
 - b. If you have little certainty, or if you know you are not ready to die - - -
 - c. You should allow those thoughts to prompt the changes you need to make.
4. Sinners may have false hope . . . but not the hope of the gospel.
5. Here's the situation of the sinner, as written by Paul in another passage; in **Eph. 2:12.**

- a. *Without Christ.*
- b. *Aliens, Strangers . . . without God.*
- c. *And Paul says, "having no hope."*

6. Sin kills hope.

D. So to whatever extent you are disobedient to God – involved in sin – to that extent, you are being paid the wages of sin, which is death: **SIN IS A KILLER.**

- 1. Kills your confidence.
- 2. Kills your ability to serve others.
- 3. Kills your hope.

E. But, I'm not through - - I have to tell you it gets worse!!

III. In addition to the wages I've already brought up – earned by sinners – **the worse thing about sin is – BEING SEPARATED FROM GOD.**

A. Sin kills your life with God.

B. It is **the absence of life with God!**

- 1. The sinner not only suffers inner conflict and low self-confidence.

2. The sinner not only lives against the high standards of serving others.
3. The sinner not only experiences the absence of hope.

C. But also – **Separation from God.**

D. **Isaiah said:** "...Your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear," (Isa. 59:2).

1. This is the worst thing about sin.
2. It separates us from God.
3. He is hurt – He is disappointed – He is offended . . . and we, by our sin, have stepped away from our Creator.

E. And I want to identify two dimensions of that separation: *The earthly dimension, and the eternal dimension.*

1. Living in sin – you have no relationship with God here on earth.
2. Living in sin – and dying without His forgiveness – you have no relationship with God forever . . .

3. **Separated from God forever!**
4. "For the wages of sin is death!"
5. Life without God is so bad – it is called "death!"

[Let me take us in this direction . . .]

F. All those men in the Bible – who caught a glimpse of God's glory – reacted dramatically in an overwhelming consciousness of their own sins.

1. **Moses** – to whom God appeared in the bush that burned but was not consumed, "hid his face for he was afraid to look at God."
2. **Job** – to whom God spoke "out of the whirlwind," in words which exalted His transcendent majesty - - Job's response: "I had heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees Thee; therefore, I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."

3. ***Isaiah*** – a young man at the threshold of his career, had a vision of God – “sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up,” surrounded by worshipping angels who sang of His holiness and glory . . . Isaiah said, “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

4. When ***Ezekiel*** received his strange vision of living winged creatures and whirling wheels, and above them a throne – on the throne One like a man, enveloped in the brightness of fire and of the rainbow, he recognized it as “the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord,” and he added: “When I saw it, I fell upon my face.”

5. ***Saul of Tarsus*** – traveling to Damascus, made with rage against Christians, was struck to the ground and blinded by a brilliant light which flashed from heaven more brightly than the noonday sun – wrote later of the risen Christ and said, “He appeared also to me.”

6. *The Aged John* – exiled on the island of Patmos, describes in detail his vision of the risen and glorified Jesus – whose “eyes were like a flame of fire,” and whose “face was like the sun shining in full strength,” and he tells us – “When I saw Him, I fell at his feet as though dead.”

G. What does all this mean?

1. If the curtain which veils the majesty of God – could be drawn back for a moment today, *we too could not bear the light of deity.*
2. Surely we should know – that one guilty of sin can never approach the Creator, the Holy God.

H. A great gap of distance – stands between the righteousness of God and the sinfulness of man.

1. It caused Paul to say one time, “What fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness?” (2 Cor. 6:14).
2. So in my participation in lawlessness, I kill myself – insofar as spiritual life with God is concerned.

Conclusion:

1. Sin is a killer, and in many ways we've not had time to describe this morning: "For the wages of sin is death."

2. What an injustice I would do – to stop here, without speaking of the positive part of this verse; listen again -

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

3. See, we don't have to sin ourselves away from God; we don't have to serve that master.

A. Because of what Jesus did, we can turn from sin – give it up...

B. And give ourselves to Him, who died for us, and in that activity of faith – receive "the gift of God....eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

4. It is this simple - - *Plan of Salvation*.

5. You were made in the image of God.

A. Own that truth.

B. Obey Christ, and be ready for whatever is ahead.

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