

## *Free Gift*

### **Romans 6:23**

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

Wages are the reward that we get for the work we do. Wages supply us with clothing, food and the needs in this life. In the spiritual it quite the opposite. We were born sinful and daily sin much, and therefore we earn nothing but punishment. Sin is a tyrant. All preparation for condemnation is by the devil and a person, through sin. In no way does it come from God, who does not want any person to be damned.

What God wants is quite the opposite. The following passages express his will quite well: “As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live.” (Ezekiel 33:11) AND, “who (God) desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (1 Timothy 2:4)

God is the giver of the free and unearned gift, the dealer-out of blessings to his own. Free and gift are two sides of the same coin. Free means that there is no cost on our part. Gift is something that is given to us with no obligation on our part. Nothing can earn God’s grace. He gives it to people who can never deserve it, for Christ’s sake. Ephesians 2:8-9 sums it up extremely well: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

Although many people consider freedom to be the ultimate human right, no one is truly free spiritually. We were slaves to sin and bound to death. Knowing this, Jesus came to serve us by giving His life on the cross and rising for us. Freed from sin, we can now serve God. Only when we are “slaves” to God will we have freedom to be the people He created us to be. (TLSB)

Prayer: My Savior, thank You for serving me. Lead me to serve You and others. Amen. (TLSB)