"THE WAGES OF SIN"



Romans 6:15-23
1/26/2020

*Deuteronomy 30:19 - I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore **choose life**, that both thou and thy seed may live:*

THE HIGH COST OF SIN:
Sin will *TAKE YOU* where you never thought you would STRAY
Sin will *KEEP YOU* longer than you ever thought you would STAY
Sin will *COST YOU* more than you ever thought you would PAY

All Sin does is Kill. Sin kills:

- Relationships/Friendships
- Marriages
- Churches
- Christian Growth & Fruitfulness
- Joy & True Happiness
- Health & Wholeness
- The Attainment of Wisdom
- The Eternal Soul of Man

***It is foolish to think you can sin once in a while and have no ill effects!**
[Salvation by grace does not justify occasional sin in the life of a believer]

I. Don't you know that SIN IS ENSLAVING? (v. 16, v. 19b)
(The RULE of sin)

A. Choosing to sin is choosing a master (v. 16)

B. Choosing to sin leads to more sin (v. 19b)

II. Don't you realize that YOU WERE SET FREE? (v. 17-19)
(The RELEASE from sin)

A. Our release from sin changed our life (v. 17)

B. Our release from sin changed our master (v. 18)

C. Our release from sin changed our dedication (v. 19)

III. Don't you remember that YOUR LIFE WAS MISERABLE? (v. 20-23)
(The RUIN of sin)

A. Sin resulted in shameful "fruit" (v. 21-22)

B. Sin results in deadly "wages" (v. 23)

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The word “sin” occurs 389 times in the KJV Bible

The Bible's definition of sin:

"Sin is any lack of conformity to the moral law of God, either in your actions, your attitudes or your nature."

Definition explained:

a. **"Lack of conformity"** - To fall short of God's standard or to miss the mark either by sins of omission or commission (Rom. 3:23).

b. **"Moral law"** - All that God demands of men because of His holiness, whether explicitly recorded in Scripture or implicitly "written on their hearts." (Exodus 20; Rom. 2:15)

c. **"Your actions"** - To intentionally or unintentionally do some wicked action (I John 3:4)

d. **"Your attitude"** - To sin in your thoughts, motives, and internal desires (Jer. 17:9; Is. 1:5; Heb. 3:12).

The New Testament often focuses more on the man's internal disposition because it is from such that outward actions stem (Mt. 15:19).

e. Your **"nature"** - The state or disposition of the soul which gives rise to wicked desires and acts is expressly called "sin" (and refers to the state of being a sinner).

Ephesians 2:1ff -
Romans 3:9-10 -
Romans 7:6, 8-11 -

NOTE: The Bible teaches that sin existed in the soul of man before he was aware of it, and that the Law simply makes man conscious of sin which already dwells in him (Romans 7:7-14).

*Men are guilty first of all because of what they are ("sinners") and only secondarily because of what they do ("sin").

The Flow of Sin

1)	**Your Nature** _	2)	**Your Attitude** _	3)	**Your Actions**
	Soul/Spirit		Heart/Thoughts		"Hand"
	State of being		Disposition		Deed
	The principle of sin		The plot of sin		The practice of sin

The Bible says:

"The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23)

a. "Wages" = Payment; price; paycheck
(The paycheck one receives matches the deeds he performed)

b. "Sin" = The Greek word "hamartias"
(Genitive singular, meaning: "sin's wages" - i.e. the wages that sin pays. The word "hamartias" means to miss the mark or to fail to reach God's holy standard - Rom. 3:23)

c. "Death" - Theologically the word "death" basically means separation

The Bible speaks of three phases of "Death."

1) Physical death - Separation of the soul/spirit from the body (James 2:26; Ezek. 18:4)

2) Spiritual death - Separation of the soul/spirit from God (Gen. 2:17; Eph. 2:1)

3) Eternal death - Separation of the soul/spirit/body from God forever (called the "second death" [II Thes. 1:9; Rev. 20:13-15, 21:8])

Chart:

"The wages of sin is death"		
Physical Death	**Spiritual Death**	**Eternal Death**
MAN'S SPIRIT	GOD	GOD
Sin Separates	**Sin Separates**	**Sin Separates Forever**
MAN'S BODY	MAN'S SPIRIT	MAN'S SPIRIT & BODY

3. Hell and the Lake of Fire

Perhaps the hardest concept for a man to accept is what the Bible says about sin and the condemnation of the sinner.

The doctrine of eternal condemnation is a "hard pill to swallow," but nevertheless it is clearly taught in Scripture and must be accepted by faith.

a. How did Jesus Christ describe the condemnation of the unbeliever?

1) "Gehenna" (referring to a place of burning - Mt. 5:29-30)
2) "Destruction" (Mt. 7:13)
3) "Outer darkness" (Mt. 8:12a, 22:13)
4) "Weeping" (Mt. 8:12b)
5) "Gnashing of teeth" (Mt. 8:12c)
6) "Destruction of soul and body" (Mt. 10:28)
7) "A furnace of fire" (Mt. 13:42, 50)
8) "Everlasting fire" (Mt. 25:46)
9) "Everlasting punishment" (Mt. 25:46)
10) "Their worm dieth not" (Mk. 9:44a)
11) "The fire is not quenched" (Mk. 9:44b)

12) Luke 16:19-31:

a) Eternal conscious torment (v. 23)
b) Eternal unfulfilled desire (v. 24)
c) Eternal memory (v. 25)
d) Eternal hopelessness (v. 26)
e) Eternal loneliness (v. 19-21)

"As spiritual life is "conscious existence in communion with God," so spiritual death is "conscious existence in separation from God" (Vine, p. 276).

b. Other New Testament teaching on the eternity of the unsaved:

1) "Unquenchable fire" (Mt. 3:12)
2) "Everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord" (II Thes. 1:9)
3) "The wrath of God which is poured out without mixture" (Rev. 4:10)
4) "Tormented with fire and brimstone" (Rev. 14:10)
5) "Torment. . . forever and ever" (Rev. 19:11)
6) "No rest day nor night" (Rev. 14:11)
7) "Lake of fire" (Rev. 19:20, 20:10, 21:8)

c. The sequence of events for those who die without Christ:

1) Hell (Hades - Lk. 16; II Pet. 2:4) → **2) Judgment** (Great White Throne - Rev. 20:1-13) → **3) Lake of Fire** (Rev. 20:14-15; 21:8)

Illustration:

1) Local jail cell → **2) Court trial** → **3) State Penitentiary**

d. Two hard questions:

1) Why must there be a penalty for sin?

Answer: God is holy and just - His holiness demands that sin separate all who are infected with it from God's holy presence (Hab. 1:3). His justice demands that a violation of His law be paid for without partiality.

2) Why must the penalty be so severe?

Answer: God is holy and just - The severity of God's judgment will match the severity of man's crime (Rom. 2:5-6, 11).

Man's sin is more hideous, more abominable and more extensive than our wicked, deceitful hearts allow us to believe (SEE: Is. 64:1-6; cp. Ezek. 36:17).

God's standards are not our standards, i.e. the way He sees things does not always match ours. From God's perspective, every sin is seen as an enormous, putrifying, ugly blot of darkness against the backdrop of His pure, brilliantly white holiness.

The Judge of all the earth will do right! (Gen. 18:25)

Important thought: If there is no great penalty for sin, then there is no great need for salvation! The extreme urgency for man to be saved is based on the reality of a holy God and an eternal judgment.

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INTRODUCTION: Romans 6:15

READ verse 15.

Whereas 6:2-14 revealed sin to be inconsistent with the believer's position (in union) to Christ, 6:16-23 reveals sin to be inconsistent with a believer's practice as a servant of Christ.

In verses 16-22, the word "servant" appears 8 times.

Cp. 6:1 - "Shall we continue in sin?"
6:15- "Shall we sin?"

Whereas 6:1 questioned the continued practice of sin, 6:25 questions the committing of isolated acts of sin.

Many wrongly take a deep sigh of relief, figuring now that they are under grace, an occasional fling into sin won't hurt anything.

What's so bad about voluntarily committing a single act of sin every now and then?

After all, we are not under a legalistic law code anymore!

What could a wrong decision every now and then possibly do?

"There is a subtle poison which insinuates itself into the heart even of the best Christian; it is the temptation to say: 'Let us sin not that grace may abound (6:1), but because it [does] abound (6:14-15)" (Godet, cited by Thomas, p. 176).

***It is foolish to think you can sin once in a while and have no ill effects!**

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I. Don't you know that SIN IS ENSLAVING? (v. 16, v. 19b)
(The RULE of sin)

A. Choosing to sin is choosing a master (v. 16)

v. 16 - "Know ye not?" (cp. v. 3a)

Whereas Paul in 6:3-14 questioned the believer's ignorance regarding his union with Christ; in 6:16-23, Paul questions the believer's ignorance regarding the slavery of sin.

"Servants" = doulos - bondslave

"Yield" = to present or offer yourself to the disposal of. Lit. - ( ) to stand alongside of

--Someone offering your service (EX: military man standing at the attention of his commanding officer awaiting orders).

When you choose to sin, you are not merely choosing an act . . . You are choosing a master.

You do not only choose a particular sin, but you choose a ruling force (or controller). When you sin, you thereby associate yourself with sin, join the ranks of sin, and volunteer to submit to the wishes of sin.

The only choice we make is whom we will serve. After this choice is made, we do not make any more choices. The choices are then made by our master (whether sin or God).

One wrong decision . . . The Result = a perpetually mixed marriage (believer with unbeliever - resulting in "hell on earth," a never-ending nightmare.

One wrong decision . . . The Result = Addiction (Crack is addicting from the first fix).

One wrong decision . . . The Result - AIDS!

One wrong decision . . . The Result - Teen pregnancy

One wrong decision . . . The Result = a defamed character, no longer blameless.

You would not be a drunkard if it was not for that first drink!

You would not be a chain smoker if you had not taken the first puff!
You would not be a liar if it were not for the first "white lie" leading to a chain of others to cover up the first!
You were not have perverted thoughts if you had stayed clear of the porno books!

The Slavery of Sin:

"Sow a sinful thought . . .
Reap a sinful act . . .
Sow a sinful act . . .
Reap a sinful habit . . .
Sow a sinful habit . . .
Reap a sinful character . . .
Sow a sinful character . . .
Reap a sinful destiny."

"No man can serve two masters!"

Why do people stop serving Christ? They are busy attending another master!

Why do people stop coming to church? They are busy catering to another cause!

There is no middle ground.

--You are either living a life of sin or obedience.

--You are either under the domain of sin or obedience.

--You are either heading toward death, or practical righteousness.

B. Choosing to sin leads to more sin (v. 19b)

Cp. v. 19 - "Iniquity unto iniquity" Lit. "Lawlessness leads to more lawlessness."

Bondage to sin only leads one deeper into slavery so that it becomes harder and harder to do what is right. (Wiersbe, p. 533).

Sin is like a whirlpool; it sucks you down very quickly.

Sexual sin is the quickest way down (Prov. 2:18, 19).

II. Don't you realize that YOU WERE SET FREE? (v. 17-19)
(The RELEASE from sin)

A. Our release from sin changed our life (v. 17)

"Were the servants of sin" - serving sin should be a thing of the past.

Paul reminds us of our unholy allegiance prior to salvation, in contrast with our righteous allegiance after salvation.

"Obeyed" = lit. to listen with submissiveness; it describes a responsive heart that gladly embraces the Gospel.

"Form" = "tupos" - a pattern or mold.

"Which was delivered you" = lit. "into which you were handed over, or given over into" (Passive - we did not change ourselves; we were changed by the transforming power of the Gospel).

The imagery is that of "a cast or frame into which molten material is poured so as to take its shape (Vine, p. 124). (ILLUS: putting plaster of Paris, chocolate, plastic, metal into molds).

The doctrine of the Gospel is what molded us! We took on a different shape; we were changed! Transformed!

B. Our release from sin changed our master (v. 18)

"Free" - released (unshackled; unchained).

No more "ball and chain" of sin to confine us.

Why anyone would want to go back is absurd!

Lit. "after being freed (Aor. pass. pt), away from
[ ] the sin, you were made slaves of righteousness."

The phrase: "servants of righteousness" is practically synonymous with "servants to God" (v. 22).

No one serves God until they are released from serving sin.

Upon salvation, we simply changed masters. We were not released from sin into nothing (libertineism).
We are free from sin, but not free from slavery.

The believer is a slave of Christ! There is no middle ground! (Robertson, p. 364).

Every true Christian is a servant of God.

--A servant has no choices to make; they are made for him.

--A servant is not free to do as he likes.

--Every moment of a servant's life belongs to his master.

The believer has new obligations. We are no longer under the domination of sin (cp. 6:14), but grace joined us to righteousness.

To go back (to our old master) is to be a traitor (to our new master)!

C. Our release from sin changed our dedication (v. 19)

"I speak after the manner of men" - Paul is saying, "Pardon the expression, but I am trying to put this in human terms because of the difficulties our depraved nature ("flesh") has in comprehending spiritual things."

God, knowing that we have defective spiritual insight, uses the harsh, somewhat crude analogy of being a "slave" - even in regards to righteousness (v. 18).

Just like you freely and voluntarily offered yourselves to sin when you were unsaved, now voluntarily offer yourself to righteousness.

"The Christian ought to be as enthusiastic in yielding to the Lord as he was in yielding to sin" (Wiersbe, p. 533).

"Members" - body parts.

--Our eyes that once beheld that which is disgraceful (wrong TV, porn, etc.) now are to be steadfastly fixed on what is right.

--Our ears that were once channels through which ungodly messages entered our minds, are now to listen to that which is true and virtuous.

--Our hands that were tools for destruction or selfish gain, are now to be used for the edification of God's work.

--Our feet that once propelled us into trouble and mischief are now to move us to the needs of others (EX: Rom. 10:15).

"Unto holiness" - the goal of our present life.

NOTE: "practical "sanctification" (holiness) is a life process, not an instantaneous act (Robertson, p. 365).

III. Don't you remember that YOUR LIFE WAS MISERABLE? (v. 20-23)
(The RUIN of sin)

v. 23
"Sin" and "righteousness" are mutually exclusive. They can't be put together. They repel each other.

Before salvation, we were alienated from God. Separate from God. We were not connected to doing right (as God sees it).

A. Sin resulted in shameful "fruit" (v. 21-22)

"Fruit" = the outcome of sin; the harvest.

V. 21
When you sign up to serve sin, expect to receive the "fringe benefits" of sin.

"The fruit of sin":

--hangovers from drinking
--divorce, split homes (fractured relationships)
--divided friendships
--no order to life (chaos)
--no peace of mind (headaches)
--guilt
and finally, death!

A believer will be ashamed of his past, not boast about it.

Sin only leaves sad memories!
What good is sin? What benefit comes from sin?
What good was your life before Jesus saved you?

NOTE: Contrast between v. 21 "Then" and v. 22 "Now"
"Then" - servants of sin --- shame --- death
"Now" - servants of God --- holiness --- eternal life.

v. 22
Why would anyone choose to serve sin when the benefits of serving God are so much better!

"Holiness" - the feeling of being clean is so much better than being dirty.

"Everlasting life" - In contrast to eternal death - NOTE: Eternal life is not given because of how we served, but Whom we served

- Every believer is a servant of god. As such, we receive a gift, not wages (v. 23), since we could never earn eternal life.

B. Sin results in deadly "wages" (v. 23)

No one employed by sin, escapes the paycheck of sin (v. 23)

"Wages" = pay, rations, or provisions that a soldier received for his duty.

"Death" = spiritual; physical; eternal.

Even for the Christian: "There is a sin unto death" (I Jn. 5:17) . . . "For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep" (I Cor. 11:30).

Sin pays wages -- death!

Sin gives you what you deserve, but God gives you what you don't deserve - eternal life!

NOTE Contrasts:

"Wages" (what is deserved) - "Gift" (what is not deserved)

"Sin (the one who gives the wages) - "God" the one who gives the gift)

"Death" - "Everlasting life"

De 30:19 - I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore **choose life**, that both thou and thy seed may live:

CONCLUSION:

It is foolish to think you can sin once in a while!

--Don't you know that sin is enslaving?

--Don't you realize that you were set free?

--Don't you remember that your life was miserable?