

THE GOOD NEWS: ROMANS 6:23

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (ESV)

1. WAGES (Sin → Death)

“For the wages of sin is death...”

- **WAGES** are what you earn. They’re not random or unfair. They’re the natural result of your choices. In real life, if you work a job, you get paid. Spiritually, our choices also lead somewhere.
- **SIN** isn’t just about breaking rules. It’s living life disconnected from God, trusting ourselves instead of the God who made us. Sin appears in selfishness, pride, control, and trying to define good and evil on our own terms.
- That disconnection isn’t just theoretical. We see it in broken families, anxiety, shame, injustice, and the feeling that something isn’t right—both in the world and inside us.
- **DEATH** in the Bible means more than physical death. It’s spiritual separation from God, the loss of the life, peace, and wholeness we were created for.
- This isn’t saying God is cruel; it’s saying God is honest and just. When we turn away from the source of life, the result is death—just like cutting a branch off a tree eventually kills it.

2. GIFT (God → Life)

“...but the free gift of God is eternal life...”

- A **GIFT** is the opposite of wages. You don’t earn it, deserve it, or pay it back; you either receive it or reject it. That’s why the gospel isn’t about trying harder.
- This gift is free, but it isn’t cheap. It costs us nothing to receive, but it costs God everything to give. Grace means God does for us what we can’t do for ourselves.
- **GOD** isn’t a distant force or energy. He’s the personal Creator who knows you, sees your story, and desires a relationship, not religion.
- **ETERNAL LIFE** doesn’t just mean “life after death.” It means real life starting now—forgiveness instead of guilt, purpose instead of drift, hope instead of despair, and life that continues beyond the grave.

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- *Where sin leads to death, God offers life—not as a reward for good behavior, but as an act of mercy and compassion to people who need rescue.*

3. JESUS (His Death → Our Life)

“...in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

- **JESUS** is a real historical person who lived, taught, was executed, and rose from the dead. He's not a myth or merely a moral teacher. His resurrection from the dead is why people have been talking about Him for 2,000 years.
- **CHRIST** means Messiah. It's God's chosen one and King. It points to Jesus as the one God promised to send to fix what's broken—not only in the world but also in us.
- Jesus lived the life we were meant to live—trusting God fully—and then died in our place, bearing the consequences of sin onto Himself.
- When Jesus rose from the dead, it proved that death doesn't have the final say and that God accepted what Jesus did for us.
- Calling Jesus **LORD** means trusting Him to lead your life—not because He controls, but because He guides us toward freedom, healing, and truth.

OUR CHOICE: WAGES OR GIFT

Romans 6:23 shows us that we have a choice to make.

- 1) Keep earning wages that lead to death
- 2) Or receive a free gift that leads to life

Trusting Jesus, or having faith in Him, means turning from running your own life your own way and placing your reliance and confidence in Him. It's not just believing facts about Him, but building a relationship with Him and letting Him lead your life.

A PRAYER YOU CAN PRAY: A.B.C.D.

Dear God,

A — ADMIT

I admit that something in me is broken. I admit that I've lived life on my own terms and pushed You away. I admit that I've sinned — not just through my actions, but also by

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craving control instead of trusting You. I can't fix myself, and I admit I need help!

B — BELIEVE

I believe that Jesus is real — that He lived, died and rose again. I believe that when Jesus died on the cross, He took my sin and its consequences on Himself. I believe His death was more than enough to restore my relationship with You. I believe His resurrection means true new life is possible.

C — COMMIT

I choose to trust Jesus. I commit to turning away from my old way of living and learning to follow Him instead. I'm not just asking You to help my life, I'm inviting You to lead it. I want Jesus to be my Lord, the one I trust and follow every day.

D — DEPEND

God, I'm depending on You now. Forgive me, make me new, and teach me how to walk with You. Help me grow, change and trust You, even when it's hard. Thank You for loving me, welcoming me to the family, and giving me new life through Jesus.

Amen.