



"Free Is for Me"

By Derek Kiser on June 9, 2021

TODAY'S READING: Romans 6

What was your first job? What hourly wage did you make? As adults, these are fun conversations because those first jobs helped us with clarity. I made \$5 an hour and pulled weeds on black plastic at a plant nursery during the summer. I, therefore, do not have a job working outside. I then bagged groceries and cleaned bathrooms at a grocery store. At my next job, I handled customer service at a now-closed, major electronics store (Circuit City). In customer service, I learned people are not so nice around holidays. What does this have to do with Romans 6? The concept of wage. I worked for a wage when I worked. I did not enjoy those first three jobs that much. I did it for the wage I would earn.

Romans 6:23 says *"For the wages of sin is death."* I am thankful that Romans 6:23 does not stop there. The first part of the verse is scary, real and honest. What do I deserve as a wage for working at sin and living a life of sin? Spiritual death, spiritual separation from a Holy God who cannot be in the presence of sin. My paycheck for that life is hell. This is what we all deserve. Thanks to God and His Son Jesus Christ the verse continues, *"but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* We used to have a staff member who would often say, "cheap is good, but free is for me." That is the reason I titled this devotional "Free Is for Me." The reality of this passage is: Salvation is free to me because I cannot earn it and Christ earned it for me. Jesus offers salvation to me as a free gift that he bought.

The flipside of this is nothing is ever truly free -- someone has to pay for it. In this case, Christ died on the cross to pay for my sin debt. He was buried and raised from the dead so death and sin no longer have power over those who belong to Him. Eternal life is free to me in Jesus Christ because He died in my place. I get to spend forever in Heaven with God because I have received the free gift of salvation.

PRAYER: God, help me be aware of what a high price Your son paid for my salvation. Help me live a life that honors You. Help me value the free gift given to me because it was a costly gift that I do not deserve.

TOMORROW'S READING: Romans 7

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