

# **Skegness Community Church - Weekly Bible Study 2025**

## **52 passages of Scripture that every believer should know**

### **Week 37 - GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS: Romans 6:23**

**“For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”**

When we read Romans 6:23, which is one of the most informative and inspirational verses in the Bible, we find some good news and some bad news. The bad news is that “the wages of sin is death”. But the good news is that “the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”.

#### **THE BAD NEWS**

There is some bad news in this verse: that “the wages of sin is death”. A wage is what we get for doing something. We work a certain number of hours, and our employer pays us an agreed-upon wage. It's something we have earned, something we deserve. It is something we have coming to us. The Bible says, “the wages of sin is death”. It's strange how many men and women sin, thinking it's going to pay dividends of fun and pleasure. But satan is a liar. Sin pays it's wage all right, but its wage is death, which is separation from all that is good. Pay-day is coming someday. That is the bad news. When we sin, it costs us greatly.

#### **THE GOOD NEWS**

But the good news is this: “the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”. This is a gift, a free gift that cannot be earned nor deserved. We all remember the excitement of opening gifts as children around the Christmas tree. We did not have to pay for those gifts. We did nothing to earn them. We simply opened them and received them. A gift is the opposite of a wage. We earn and deserve our wages. We don't earn or deserve a gift. If we did it, would be a reward and not a gift.

How is this all possible? We still have to deal with the bad news. Jesus made the way possible for us by dealing with the bad news Himself. Over two thousand years ago on a Roman cross outside the city walls of Jerusalem, Jesus took the bad news and became sin for us. Yes the wages of sin is death, and He died our death on the cross, paying the penalty for our sins. He paid the price, so now we can finish the verse with this good news, “but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” He made a way out of no way. Our part is to receive this God-provided and free gift by faith alone in Him.

What a difference there is in these two bits of news. The bad news is that sin is costly, and has a wage attached to it. The good news is that eternal life is free. It is God's gift to us. And that is something to cherish and be thankful for. As the hymn Fight the good fight says: “Run the straight race through God's good grace. Life with its path before thee lies; Christ is the way, and Christ the prize. Only believe, and thou shall see; that Christ is all in all to thee.”

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As you memorise this verse, meditate on the incredible price that Jesus paid for your sin. When we were so undeserving, He made a way for us to receive the greatest gift ever given, “eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”.