

Have You Received God's Gift? Romans 6:23

Introduction:

1. **Illustration:** H & R Block and Sims Family
2. Similarly, there is a gift that the God of this universe wants so much to give you.
 - Maybe He has tried to get you to take it before. Maybe, like the Sims family, you didn't understand, or you thought, "This is too good to be true."
 - For whatever reason, you didn't receive God's gift.
3. Just like H & R Block kept calling the Sims family, God is calling you again tonight, and He wants so much for you to receive His gift - and it is much better than a million dollars from H & R Block.
4. It is so important that before you die, you receive God's gift, but you may be thinking, "What gift are talking about? God wants to give me a gift?"

What is the gift of God?

1. I remember, as a kid, looking at the gifts under the tree and wondering what they could possibly be. I would shake them, hold them up in the light, feel them, etc. It was a mystery.
2. The good news is this - the gift of God is not a mystery. You don't have to wonder and muse about what God's gift is to you. It is written down in black and white.
3. Read **Romans 6:23** - According to this verse, what is the gift of God? Eternal life!
 - How long is eternal life? It is forever. How would you like to live forever?
 - Does that sound good to you? It is the greatest gift I can think of. It is the gift of God. **cf. Titus 1:2; 1 John 2:25**
4. One thing is for sure: You can **never** earn a gift.
 - Notice, it does not say, "The wages of righteousness is eternal life."
 - This is exactly what so many people think. "If I 'm good enough, I'll earn eternal life in heaven." No you won't - it is a gift!
5. That is why the Bible says that we are saved by God's grace. **Ephesians 2:8-9**
 - You can't earn grace - it is something that is given freely.
6. So what is the gift of God? Eternal life.

Why is God offering this gift?

1. Imagine a person with a death sentence, and he or she receives a full pardon. That would be good news to that person, would it not?
2. Did you know that every person on this earth has a divine death sentence on them? Look again at **Romans 6:23**, "*For the wages of sin is death...*"
 - The word "wages" simply means "pay." When the Bible was written, the word "wages" signified the daily pay of a Roman soldier.
 - So every sinner has a pay coming and that pay is death.
3. The death in view here is not just physical death, because everyone is going to eventually die physically - even Christians.
 - What this is referring to is what the Bible calls "*the second death.*"
Revelation 20:14-15

- This is eternal death, eternal separation from God. It is incurring the wrath of God for all eternity. **2 Thessalonians 1:9**
 - It is the wages (the payment) of sin. All who sin must expect to be paid because God is a just and equitable God. Who is included in this? **Romans 3:23** - All of us!
4. Eternal life is **not** connected to our actions. It is the gift of God. Eternal death **is** connected to our actions. It is wages that we have earned.
 5. Why is God offering the gift of eternal life? Because we all have a death sentence on us.

How does the gift become yours?

1. Look at the end of verse 23. The gift of eternal life comes **through** Jesus Christ our Lord. (**cf. Romans 5:1**) This is what Christmas is all about - it is about Jesus.
 - How are we made at peace with God? Through Jesus Christ.
2. When it comes to your eternal soul and where it will spend eternity, the issue is this, "What have you done with Jesus Christ?"
 - The issue is not if you were a good person, or kept the Ten Commandments, went to church, got baptized, or if your parents were Christians, etc.
 - Eternal life comes through Jesus Christ, and the question God will ask every person is, "Did you receive my Son as your Savior or reject Him?"
3. Christ **alone** has procured eternal life for you.
 - It is Christ that lived a perfect life and then died for your sins. **Romans 5:8**
 - It is Christ that defeated death and rose from the dead. **Romans 4:25**
 - Christ is synonymous with eternal life. **1 John 5:11-12**
4. How does the gift become yours? Receive Jesus Christ. When you receive Christ into your heart and life, at that moment you have also received the gift of eternal life. **John 1:12**
5. Christmas is all about God's gift to this world - Jesus! And Jesus **is** eternal life.
6. You can turn away Christ and spurn His love, but understand, eternal life cannot be secured any other way.
 - A person may merit hell, but a person can never merit heaven.
7. It is a free gift that comes to you when you receive Jesus Christ and believe on Him with all your heart.

In Conclusion:

1. What is the gift of God? Eternal life.
2. Why is God offering this gift? Because we all have a death sentence on us.
3. How does the gift become yours? Receive Jesus Christ.