

## ETERNAL LIFE IS NOT EARNED, IT IS A GIFT OF GOD

Romans 6:22-23

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** There are a lot of different views about Jesus, God, Salvation, Baptism, Christians, Heaven, Hell, Angels and so on. There is also many views about how eternal life is obtained, but the Bible makes it very clear that eternal life is a gift of God. *"...For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is ETERNAL LIFE in Christ Jesus our Lord..." (Romans 6:23)*. Therefore if it is a gift of God doesn't a person have to do something to "earn" that gift? Is it a "gift" if it has to be earned?

### I. ETERNAL LIFE IS GIVEN TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN SET FREE FROM SIN

1. Those who "die" to sin are given eternal life.
  - A person who dies to sin should no longer be a slave to and live in sin - Romans 6:1-2
  - A person who has died has also been freed from sin - Romans 6:7
2. How does a person "die" to sin?
  - When a person believes in Jesus Christ and gives Him total control (6:3-4)
  - All Christians are united together in the likeness of Jesus' death - (6:5)
  - The old person of the believer was crucified with Jesus - (6:6)
    - The sinful body of the believer is done away with.
    - The believer is no longer a slave of sin.

### II. ETERNAL LIFE IS GIVEN TO THOSE WHO HAVE BECOME "SLAVES" OF GOD

1. Believers are no longer slaves of sin:
  - They have died to sin - Romans 6:1-2
  - Upon belief in Jesus they then live with/in Jesus Christ - Romans 6:8-11
  - They are not to let sin reign and have dominion over them again - Romans 6:12, 14
2. Believers are "slaves" of righteousness.
  - They are to present themselves to God as being alive from the dead - Romans 6:13
  - They are to present themselves as instruments of righteousness to God - Romans 6:13
  - They become slaves of righteousness through their obedience - Romans 6:16-18

### III. ETERNAL LIFE IS GIVEN TO THOSE WHO HAVE THE "FRUIT" OF HOLINESS

1. Those who were once slaves of sin:
  - Slaves when they lived their lives in uncleanness and lawlessness - Romans 6:19
  - Slaves when they were free in regard to righteousness - Romans 6:20
  - Slaves when they produced shameful "fruit" leading to death - Romans 6:21
2. Once slaves of sin, now slaves of righteousness:
  - Slaves now for the purpose of holiness - Romans 6:19c
  - Slaves now for the fruit leading to holiness - Romans 6:22

#### **IV. ETERNAL LIFE TO BE GIVEN AT THE END OF LIFE**

1. Eternal life is given at the end to those:
  - Who have died to sin - Romans 6:1-11, 22a
  - Who have become slaves to God - Romans 6:12-18, 22b
  - Who have the fruit of holiness - Romans 6:19-21; 22c
  
2. Paul calls "eternal life" the "believer's future hope" given at the time of Judgment:
  - Jesus spoke of "future hope" - Matthew 25:46; Mark 10:29-30
  - Paul spoke of it in Romans 2:4-7; Titus 1:2; 3:7
  - It is the life the believer has with God upon entering the age to come - Revelation 21:3-7

#### **CONCLUSION:**

1. Eternal life is given to:
  - those who have been set free from sin.
  - those who have become slaves to God.
  - those who have the fruit of holiness
  - at the end of life
  
2. How is eternal life a "gift?"
  - It is out of the kindness, love, mercy and grace of God - Titus 3:4-7
  - Despite the believer's obedience, he/she has not earned or merited the gift of eternal life.
  
3. Do YOU want God's Gift of Eternal Life?
  - Have you been set free from sin by believing in Jesus Christ?
  - Are you a slave to God and live a life as a servant of righteousness?
  - Are you bearing the fruit of a holy life?
  
4. Let Jesus be YOUR source of eternal life as you believe and trust in Him - Hebrews 5:9; Mark 16:15-16