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Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord. We believe to find out what the Bible says we must read long passages, that we must compare context with context--we must see the meaning of Scripture as a whole. We do not believe that you can grab a few verses out of the Scripture and find there something magical which will give you an answer for all your problems. At the same time we must not go to the other extreme of thinking that the individual verses do not help. Individual verses may be tremendously important. It is not that you teach a great deal from one verse alone, but that the individual verse often gathers together into itself a teaching of a large portion of Scripture. Interpreting one verse in the light of the rest of Scripture. Often you have a great amount of God's truth poured into it. You can take that often and present it to your mind and to your heart in brief form in the words of just the one verse.

I have sometimes thought of the Scripture as a mine in which there is all sorts of material; in which there are all these things which are tremendously important; but as you go through it every so often you turn over what seems to be a sparkling gem--a little jewel that just stands out and gathers into itself the light of many passages and reflects it out before you so that out of that little gem, as you turn it over, you see its many facets; you can see various sides of Scriptural truth therefrom. You would not be justified in drawing them all from that verse if that was all you had, but you are justified in the light of Scripture as a whole in seeing a thought there and in driving them home from the to your mind and heart from the consideration of that one verse. This morning I would like to present to you one of those gems.

One of these gems has many facets as you turn it over and see the light reflecting from one facet after another, you see a great amount of Scriptural truth gathered together in a brief commentary driven home to your mind and heart. This verse is this 23rd verse which I just read. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." As I pick up this gem and look at it, the facet or side of truth that I first see in it is perhaps ~~not~~ the most obvious one. It is one which might not occur perhaps at first sight, ^{to} the average reader, but with close examination, I am sure that everyone would find this in it. So for want of a better title I will call