

The Freedom between alternatives. The Scripture compares man to a dead corpse, lost in sin and Jesus Christ raises that one from the dead and gives it life. It is a true and wonderful picture but it is a picture. Man in sin is dead and a corpse as far as doing anything good before God is concerned. But man in sin is very active, defying God and doing that which he desires and even when he desires to turn against the sin; he is caught in this alternative; he has his wages and he cannot escape it. He make seek to escape in his struggles and may seek righteousness for a season but he never can attain it. The wages of sin is death. When God gives us the wonderful gift, God takes us from the Kingdom of death--He transmutes us to the kingdom of life. He raises us up out of death, ~~is~~ from a condition where we can accomplish nothing into the kingdom of Light and happiness and eternal life. We are not now those who are passively sitting there while He performs that which we desire, but He ~~wishes~~ desires us to strive and to struggle and to endeavour to escape the coils of sin which are upon us. He desires us to turn away from those things which cling to us. He desires to turn about and go forward and follow Him. But there is a difference now. Now we have the gift of eternal life. Now we have the power from which to avail ourselves. Now we have that which we can utilize in accordance with God's will in order that we may move forward in the path of righteousness. It is God's call but we must utilize it. It is wonderful what can be accomplished and it can only be accomplished by God's enabling us, but it us whom He enables and He enables us as we look to Him in prayer and seek that He may enable us to move forward and utilize this freedom in order to escape further and further from these effects of sin which is upon us. I mentioned to my wife this morning that I thought of speaking on this verse and she said, "Why don't you speak on something for Christians to this group?" In the first place I never assume in a group this size that all are Christians. Everyone here has no doubt come forward in some meeting, probably has raised his hand but that doesn't prove that you are a Christian. It isn't what you say but the attitude of your heart to God and you can appear to all the world as a Christian and if you have not given your heart and assumed this relationship to God and have born again through the blood of Christ, no matter how many words you say, it will never save you. It is a heart attitude and not a matter of saying certain words and only God can see the heart. Never assume that someone else