

to the gem. There is the bright side. We will only have time to glance at that side. That's the side we are usually talking about more. It's good^{for us} to talk about it. It's good for us to praise the grace of God and think of what he has done. But we also need to think of the dark side and think of what He has delivered us from. The gift of God the charisma of God is eternal life ~~is~~ through Jesus Christ our Lord. It is a gift. It costs us nothing, but it cost God a great deal. He sees our sin as so terrible that it was necessary if ^{we} were to be saved from eternal death that His own Son the Lord Jesus Christ should go through the terrible ~~agney~~ ^{agony} of the cross. It was necessary that an infinite sacrifice be made if we were to be saved from eternal death. We deserve it - the wages of sin is death but God at tremendous effort, at tremendous cost, God gave His own Son/^{in order} that He should win for us deliverance from the wages that we have earned, from that which we deserve that He should be still able to be a just God and yet to justify us and to give us eternal life. God does not force us. God does not desire automatons. God desires those who wish to love. He desires those who are grateful for what He has done. He desires those who choose to follow Him. He desires our love, and so we come back to the first side of the gem, again.

The Alternatives. The wages ~~of~~ sin is death. And Oh how many are going in that line, hell bent for destruction and ~~if~~ how little time and effort most of us give to trying to show them where they are heading and how they should be delivered from it. And how many of us are affected by the sin that remains in us which we will never be entirely rid of until we see our Lord Jesus Christ as He is and we are like Him at His coming. But Oh the alternatives. Let us think of it, let us realize it. May God lead us to realize it more fully and may God lead us at each step of the way of whether we are going on in ~~the~~ the paths of sin putting our own desires first. Look out for No. 1. What's going to give me a good name? What's going to give me an easy living? What's going to give me the pleasure that I'd like to have, or what will glorify the Lord? What will save souls from destruction? What will enable me to accomplish His purposes in my life? The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life thre Jesus Christ our Lord. Let us pray: Our Father we thank you for the alternatives that you have set before us. You could in all righteousness simply slap us out of the way, simply give us all the destruction we