

Thank God. We've been speaking about half of the verse. There is the other half. This gem on one side has these many facets we've been looking at and they gather together the light and show ~~us~~ in abbreviated condensed form they show us many aspects of God's truth. But thank God there's another side of the gem.

The wages of sin--that which is not simply given to us, that which we earn, that which we deserve for our attitude toward God's law, that is death. But the gift of God is eternal life. The free gift, that which we cannot possibly earn, but the wonderful gift that God has chosen to give us. He could not simply say, Forget about it; you have broken my law, but forget about it. Go ahead, try again, try again, what's the difference? No. The penalty had to be paid. Jesus Christ gave his life on Calvary's cross for us. He who knew no sin became sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. The free gift that no one of us could possibly earn, that no one of us possibly deserves, God has given us.

Oh may God help us to get more and more freed from the dominion of sin that still holds us to some extent in its power, but God has the power to help us to overcome it, but thank God we don't have to worry about past sins. Thank God we don't have to worry about what we deserve. Jesus Christ deserves and has earned for us, if we believe on Him, eternal life.

Oh may God help us to realize the wonderful grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave his life that we might live. "The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Let us pray.

Oh God our Father we ~~thank you~~ thank you for the gift. But help us never to forget what you have saved us from. Help us, our God, to realize the sin that clings to us and to look to you to cleanse us from it, to purge us, to make us more in line with your will. Oh we pray that you will bring our lives into conformity with your righteous purposes. And Oh our God we think of the many going on in ~~sin~~ sin, knowing not of the goodness of Christ. Knowing not of the wonderful offer of salvation. Oh, our God, how much better for them to bring them the knowledge of salvation than anything we could possibly do for them. We pray, our Father, that you will use each one here as your instrument to lead many to turn their backs on sin and to turn to Jesus Christ and be saved. We ask in our Redeemer's Name. Amen.