

A Fair Wage

Text : **Rom. 6: 12-23**

INTRODUCTION :

A. A “wage” is compensation, usually financial, received by workers in exchange for their labor.

1. Current minimum wages in U.S. is \$7.25. (*some exceptions* , e.g., *waitress*)
2. Some states have higher minimum wage, e.g., minimum wage in Illinois is \$8.25.
3. In 2009 the average income in the U.S. was \$40, 711.61. (*now more, but few jobs*)

B. Americans are very concerned that they be treated fairly.

1. Labor movements were formed to force employers to pay more.
2. Government formed the Department of Labor.
3. The feeling of entitlement has grown to the point is destroying the economic viability of our nation.
 - a. A Christian worker should produce benefit for his employer.
I Tim. 6: 1-2 All who are under the yoke as slaves are to regard their own masters as worthy of all honor so that the name of God and our doctrine will not be spoken against. **2** Those who have believers as their masters must not be disrespectful to them because they are brethren, but must serve them all the more, because those who partake of the benefit are believers and beloved. Teach and preach these principles.
 - b. If an employer doesn't profit from your labor, he cannot sustain your employment.
 - *c. **Note :** *An employer has no responsibility beyond the contract; he owes that which is agreed upon and no more or less.* (profit or loss)
Summarize ... Matt. 20: 1-16 (Parable of the laborers)

C. This is neither a lesson about the Christian in the workplace nor a lesson about the doctrine of giving a fair day's work to one's employer.

1. We'll be discussing man's relationship with his Creator ... his Owner ... his Master
2. As created beings we are accountable to our creator.
 - a. We are either acceptable or rejected.
 - b. We are either faithful servants or rebels against our sovereign creator.
3. Rebellion does not make one free, just unwelcome in the house of the Master.
4. All actions have eternal consequences. (*Man's time on earth is a brief portion of ...*)

Let us consider our text :

I. Consider the context of our text : “*Any text taken out of context is but a pretext.*”

A. This book is written to Christians.

1. **Rom. 1: 7a** - to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints: Grace to you ...
2. Thus, we are not dealing with an evangelistic treatise or instructions for converting.
3. The Apostle is explaining proper Christian attitudes and conduct to new Christians.

B. The book to the Romans is written by the Apostle assigned to teach Gentiles.

1. **Rom. 1: 4b-5** ... Jesus Christ our Lord **5** through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake,
2. **Gal. 2: 7-9** But on the contrary, seeing that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter *had been* to the circumcised **8** (for He who effectually worked for Peter in *his* apostleship to the circumcised effectually worked for me also to the Gentiles), **9** and recognizing the grace that had been given to me, James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, so that we *might go* to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

C. The Apostle starts off by explaining the basis of man's relationship with God.

1. **Chapter 1** ... Gentiles are lost and have no hope outside Christ.
2. **Chapter 2** ... Jews are lost and have no hope outside Christ.
3. **Chapter 3** ... All mankind is lost and has no hope outside Christ.
4. **Chapter 4** ... No one can earn God's approval; it must be given by Christ.
5. **Chapter 5** ... Sinners are enemies of God, but receiving grace restores peace.
6. **Chapter 6** ... Receiving the gift, requires that one surrender his life ... *change life*

II. Some Christians in Rome had misunderstood grace.

A. **Rom. 6: 1-2** ... Christians are forbidden to practice sin.

1. Jude condemns those who advocate the abuse of God's grace.
Jude 4- For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.
2. **Heb. 10: 26-** For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

B. The act of becoming a Christian separates one from sinful living.

1. When one is baptized into Christ he identifies with the death of Christ.
 - a. **Rom. 6: 3-** ... **have been baptized into His death** (*separation*)
 - *b. Jesus voluntarily surrendered His life and so must those who come to him.
2. Being baptized into Christ one is also identified with the resurrection of Christ.
 - a. **Rom. 6: 4-** ... **as Christ was raised ... we too might walk in newness of life.**
 - b. Thus, the one who comes to Christ must die to sin before receiving new life.
3. The Apostle explains meaning of the death one experiences in baptism.
 - a. **Rom. 6: 6-** **knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;**
 - b. Thus, baptism is the act of making a commitment to live for Jesus – not self. **Vs-10**
4. In verse **11** the Apostle summarizes the first 10 verses
 - a. **Rom. 6: 11-** **Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.**
 - b. The very reason Jesus died was to save people from their sins. (**Rom 5:9, Rev. 1:5**)

III. What Christians do with their body really matters.**A. God expects a physical response when He establishes a spiritual relationship.**

1. **Rom. 6: 12-** **Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts,**
 - a. Notice that God does not say you will stop having desires.
 - b. The key is to discipline yourself not to do sinful things.

Gal. 5: 17- **For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.**
2. Sin is a choice ... one must make an active decision not to do it.
 - a. **Vs. 12 – “Do not let sin reign ..”**
 - b. *Sin can only be in your life if you permit it to be there.*
3. Temptation is always present, but you have the power to “just say no.”
 - a. **I Cor. 10:13-** **No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.**

- b. **James 1: 12-15** Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him. **13** Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. **14** But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. **15** Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

B. The decision whether or not to sin lies totally with YOU and with you alone.

1. Abstaining from sin requires self discipline.
 - I Cor. 9:27-** I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.
2. We must not become over confident or self satisfied.
 - a. **I Cor. 10: 12-** Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.
 - b. **Heb. 2: 1-3a** For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away *from it*. **2** For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, **3** how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? ...

C. To abstain from sin one must remain both committed and focused.

1. There can be only one focus to one's life, and for a Christian, it must be the Christ.
 - Col. 3: 1-2** Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. (*To "set" is a voluntary action.*)
2. This focus is a result of the commitment I made when I was baptized into Christ.
 - a. **Col. 3: 3-4** For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.
 - b. Compare ... **Rom. 6**

IV. Even today some Christians try to abuse grace.

A. Like those who were at Rome, some Christians do not take sin seriously.

1. **Attitude :** Since I am not under "the law of sin and death" I can sin with impunity.
2. People with this attitude are justly condemned.
 - Rom. 3:8-** And why not say (as we are slanderously reported and as some claim that we say), "Let us do evil that good may come"? Their condemnation is just.

B. Even for one saved under grace (,i.e., a Christian), obedience is necessary.

1. Jesus said :
Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? (Luke 6: 46)
2. The Apostle John said that one who does not live faithful Christ has no forgiveness.
I John 1: 6-7 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

C. The life that we lead demonstrates who we have chosen as our master.

1. As created beings, no one can refuse to serve any master. *Thus, everyone chooses.*
 2. No one can choose to serve two masters. (i.e., both) (**Luke 16: 13**)
 3. **TEXT : Everyone has been given the freedom to choose and to change sides.**
 - a. The choice is made in one's heart.
 - b. One's choosing God is demonstrated by the act of baptism followed by a life directed toward trying to please Him.
 - c. Rejecting God is demonstrated by a life directed toward making one's self happy.
- * No one wants to be unhappy, but happiness is not the goal of the Christian, it may or may not be the byproduct of the peace one has in Christ.* Servants serve.

D. Peter describes one's servanthood as follows :

1. **II Pet. 2: 18 -21** For speaking out arrogant words of vanity they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error, 19 promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved. 20 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. 21 For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them. 22 It has happened to them according to the true proverb, "A DOG RETURNS TO ITS OWN VOMIT," and, "A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire."
2. The one who is addicted to serving his own desires is **NOT** a servant of God.
 - a. These desires are not always what men consider terrible sins. (**sex, drugs, etc.**)
 - b. They can be thinks like : using all of one's time for personal goals, greed, etc.
3. The servant of God is one who is addicted to doing what God commands.

- a. When given a choice between serving God and serving Himself, he chooses God.
- b. David exemplified this attitude :
Psa. 40: 8- I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart.
- c. In response on at least 15 occasions God referred to David as **“My servant David.”**

CONCLUSION :

- A. When one is in Christ and gives his heart to God, he need never fear.**
- B. However, the Christian who flirts with sin plays Russian roulette with his soul.**
 - 1. God knows every deed we do, every thought we think and every desire of our heart.
Gal. 6: 7-8 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.
 - 2. God will judge every person according to his deeds.
Rom. 2: 5-8 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, 6 who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS: 7 to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; 8 but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation.
 - 3. Sin is dangerous.
 - a. It is addictive.
 - b. **6:23 ... It is deadly.**
- C. When we sin, we deserve death. 6: 23**
(Are you getting the wages you deserve ? I Hope you will avoid them in Christ.)
 - 1. Physical death is temporary, but spiritual death is eternal.
 - 2. Spiritual death can be reversed by giving one's heart to God, placing his faith in His Christ, committing one's life to serving His purposes, burying the old man in baptism and arising with a new life.

INVITATION :

Lesson Text :**Romans 6: 12-23**

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, **13** and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. **14** For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! **16** Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? **17** But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, **18** and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. **19** I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in *further* lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.

20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. **21** Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. **22** But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. **23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.