



ROMANS 6:23

PART 6

The gift of God

READ REVELATION 22:1-5

INTRODUCTION

When we think of the gift of God, we often will start listing off our personal gifts that He has given us. Some are pastors, teachers, prophets, etc. These are certainly gifts and they should be known and cultivated to experience a full life in Jesus Christ. They are not the only gift that we receive from God however. He gives us the gift of eternal life that is mentioned in Romans chapter six. This gift is one that we often take for granted even though it is a key point that is talked about in Christian circles.

There are times that we can forget that this life we live here on earth is not our final destination. Hebrews talks about the fact that it is appointed a man once to die and then the judgement which will determine where that soul is going to spend eternity. Eternity is something that is hard to wrap our heads around because we are finite beings that have lived our entire existence within the realm of time. Eternity has no time, there is no beginning and there is no end and this is something that is obviously difficult to grasp. Often, we know that eternity will happen but, because we can't grasp it completely, we rarely dwell on what it means to have "eternal life".

Revelation 22 gives us a good description of some of the landmarks we will see when we reach our eternal resting place. There are certainly things, even in this description, that lead to more questions and more fascinating aspects of what it will mean to be in glory with Jesus but, it is safe to say that there will be plenty to see and do while we enjoy Heaven with our Creator. The fact is, we will enjoy it as long as we follow Romans 6:23 and do not sin, but follow after Jesus more and more every day. There is a condition to enter into this eternal rest and that is complete and utter faith in Jesus Christ and confession of sin. We rely on Him to be our Savior. We rely on Him to guide us in this life and on into the next.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What (other than eternal life) are some of the gifts that you feel God has given you? Why? How can you cultivate those gifts to glorify God through service to Him?
2. How regularly do you think about your after-life? Is it important that we think on those things? Why or why not?
3. When we realize that it is appointed for a man once to die, how should that change our outlook on how we live this life? How should we talk differently with each other as well as how should we then interact with those around us who do not believe?
4. How often do you think about your eternal life with Christ? What are the things that excite you? What things worry you? What things do you take comfort in?
5. Romans 6:23 encourages us to no longer be slaves to our sin. How do you practically do that and look forward to the eternal life that you will experience with God?

WRAP UP

Eternity is a broad topic that has been studied by many people throughout history. There are only so many things that we can know about it on this side of the river. One day, we will enter into the throne room of God and He will judge us based on our confession of faith in His Son or lack thereof. It is so important that we are no longer conformed to the image of this world and that we passionately pursue Jesus Christ and His desire for us here on this earth so that we can know Him and enjoy His presence for all of eternity in the next one.