

The wages of neighbor Bob is apples (bulldozing edition).

- *You make a deal with neighbor Bob to bulldoze part of his orchard and make it into yard in exchange for a certain amount of apples.*

The wages of neighbor Bob is apples (pruning edition).

- *You make a deal with neighbor Bob to prune his orchard in exchange for a certain portion of the fruit.*

The free-gift of grandpa is apples (cellar edition).

- *Grandpa favors you and gets some nice apples out of his cellar and gives them to you.*

The free-gift of grandpa is apples (tree edition).

- *Grandpa favors you and gives you a young apple tree. He helps you plant it and care for it and teaches you how to care for it. In a few years it produces lots of beautiful apples.*

**Who will deliver me from
this body of death?**

(Romans 7:24)

The question posed...

- For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, **as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**
- What shall we say then? **Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means!**

(Romans 5:18-6:2)

Paul's answer is summarized in 6:23

For the wages of sin is death,

- Death comes to us from sin as a WAGE.
- But Romans 6 tells us about the connection between sin and death.

But the free-gift of God is eternal life.

- Eternal life comes from God as a FREE-GIFT.
- But Romans 6 tells us about the connection between God and eternal life.

Romans 6

- What are the links/ processes leading from sin to death?
- What are the links/ processes leading from God to Eternal life?

For the wages of sin is death, but the free-gift of God is eternal life.

- Not a statement of the doctrine of imputation.
- This does not teach that Christ received the wages of our sin instead of us receiving the wages.
- Rather, Paul summarizes his emphatic answer to the question in 6:1.
- The fact that eternal life is a **free-gift** coming from divine **favor (grace)** in response to human **faith** does NOT mean that sinful deeds are harmless.

The statement offers tremendous hope, but is very sobering and possibly terrifying.

- God is raising us like Christ!
- Baptism unites us to Christ!
- God brings us to obedience!
- We can change masters!
- Obedience leads to sanctification!
- Sanctification leads to eternal life!
- Whoever you obey is your master.
- The tree of deathly deeds is not irrelevant.
- We are aware that this tree is not absent from our lives.

Paul's statement of the problem

- For I delight in the law of God, in my inner human, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched human that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

(Romans 7:22-24)

The solution summarized

- For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

(Romans 8:2-4)

The solution summarized

- If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

(Romans 8:11)

The solution summarized

- For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

(Romans 8:13-14)

The solution summarized

- ... we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

(Romans 8:23-26)

The solution summarized

- For those whom he **foreknew** he also **predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he **predestined** he also **called**, and those whom he **called** he also **justified**, and those whom he **justified** he also **glorified**.

(Romans 8:29-30)

Pulling it together.

- The tree of deathly deeds must be dealt with.
- Our deliverance requires that we be **slaves of God who receive the free-gift** from him, and that we not be **slaves of sin who receive wages** from him.
- God is delivering us from this body of death, starting in this life and finishing in the next.
- We cannot claim to belong to God unless we present our body parts for righteous action and kill deathly deeds by the Spirit's leading.

Think and Pray

- What is a deathly deed in your life?
- How will you kill it?
- Talk to God about this, and perhaps to the saints ...