

Our God Is the Giver of Eternal Life

Let us worship Him

But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.
For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:22-23

REVIEW

Everyone loves a Cinderella story. Servant girl rises to royalty. Washed up athlete becomes Superbowl champion. Rags to riches. Pauper to prince. Bum to hero. Well, Christian, there's no greater Cinderella story than *yours*. You rose from slave of sin to servant of righteousness, barrenness to fruitfulness, despair to hope, darkness to light, hell to heaven, endless death to eternal life!

To what do you credit this stunning reversal? Romans 6:23 answers: It was all a gift.

Webster defines a gift as property voluntarily transferred by one person to another without compensation.

A. What is the “property” which God transfers to believers?

1. Substitute victim to receive our punishment
2. Subsequent pardon for all our transgressions
3. Declaration of righteousness the same as has Jesus Himself
4. Full reconciliation with God
5. Meaningful mission for the rest of our lives planned, empowered, directed by God Himself
6. Fellowship with God now and forever

B. All this is “voluntarily” transferred?

1. Yes. God chooses to do it, separate from our worthiness to receive it.

C. And how is the transferal put into motion?

1. Only believe. See John 3:16.

D. No compensation is required?

1. Indeed, none is allowed. Otherwise a gift is not a gift.

People might ask what kind of God would do such a thing and in such a way. The answer, in short, is a God who is worthy of all worship. And so we are told . . .

“Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.” (Matt. 4:10)

“Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.” (I Chron. 16:29)

“O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.” (Ps. 95:6)

And that is our goal today: The worship of God. One way God has provided for worshipping Him is by the study of His names. God gives us His names to enlighten and compel us to worship Him. Each name tells us more wonderful truths about Him. There are many names of God which help us to understand the Person behind Romans 6:23.

A. Jehovah – I Am that I Am. (Ex. 3:2, 13-14) – Moses at burning bush

1. The Lord is self-existing. He derives His being from none and gives existence to all.
2. See how Jehovah teaches this truth by the way He handles His chosen people, Israel.
 - a. He doesn't need a woman of child-bearing age to make her a “mother of nations.”
 - b. He doesn't need water or food provided the conventional way to sustain millions.
 - c. He doesn't need military advantage to cast nations from their lands.
3. The point is that the Lord is an inexhaustible fountain, a perpetual motion machine as it were, the cause and sustainer who needs ***no resources*** to do all that He does.
4. Therefore, in relation to Romans 6:23, we see Jehovah didn't need any ...
 - a. Consultations to devise a plan to save humanity
 - b. Contributions of goodness to satisfy the law of God
 - c. Explosives to break the back of sin or blow open the gates of hell

B. Jehovah-Jireh → The Lord Will Provide. (Gen. 22:7-8,14) – Abraham/Isaac

1. “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 4:19)
2. “And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.” (II Cor. 9:8)
3. What does Jehovah-Jireh provide related to Romans 6:23?
 - a. In keeping with the Abraham/Isaac story, He provided a sacrifice: “ For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.” (I Pet. 3:18)
 - b. Consequently, the gift is “eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

C. Jehovah-Tsidkinu → The Lord Our Righteousness. (Jer. 23:6) – Israel during the Millennium

1. This text looks forward to the day when Christ shall bodily reign on earth, at which time Israel shall be saved, for they will have been made righteous.
2. This is not mere taking away of guilt and punishment, but the attributing of righteousness.
 - a. “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.” (II Cor. 5:21)
 - b. “Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference.” (Rom. 3:22)
3. This is part of the eternal life which God gives as expressed in Rom. 6:23.

D. Jehovah-Rapha → The Lord That Heals. (Ex. 15:26) – Bitter waters made sweet

1. Cf. Ps. 103:1-3 – The Lord “healeth all thy diseases.”
 - a. As the Lord healed Peter – Luke 22:31-32 (“converted” → “turned back”)
 - b. As the Lord healed Joseph – Gen. 50:20 (Manasseh - “forgotten”; Ephraim - “fruitfulness”)

2. See the instruction of Christ physically healing the lame, blind, deaf, dumb ...
3. "He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes we are healed." (Isa. 53:5)
4. So God provides healing in His gift of life to believers.

E. Jehovah-Shalom → The Lord Our Peace. (Judges 6:22-24) – Gideon

1. God gives the comforting assurance of the end of conflict and bringing of peace
 - a. "Peace I leave you, my peace ..." (John 14:27)
 - b. "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace ..." (I Cor. 14:33)
2. The soul can be shocked with the first half of Rom. 6:23 – "The wages of sin is death." It takes Jehovah-Shalom to give us deep, confident, abiding assurance that all is OK.

F. Jehovah-Nissi → The Lord Our Banner. (Ex. 17:12,15) – Moses, Amalekites

1. This name helps to define our new life described in Rom. 6:23. It tells us that in the war we have now entered we identify with the Lord and move forward in His power.
 - a. "The Lord shall fight for you, and you shall hold your peace." (Ex. 14:14)
 - b. "And all these kings and their land did Joshua take at one time, because the LORD God of Israel fought for Israel." (Josh. 10:42)
 - c. "War a good warfare!" (I Tim. 1:18) "Fight the good fight!" (I Tim. 6:12) "For though we walk after the flesh we do not war after the flesh." (II Cor. 10:3)
2. This is a great war we are in. It determines the destiny of souls. God alone can win this war. God alone gets all the glory for victory.

G. Jehovah-Raah → The Lord My Shepherd. (Ps. 23:1) – David

1. God leads, provides for, and protects His people.
 - a. "And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night." (Ex. 13:21)
 - b. "Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day." (Ps. 25:5)
2. Confused about how to appropriate the cross? Unsure of your salvation? Not understanding how to claim the promise of Rom. 6:23? Look to Jehovah-Raah.

H. Jehovah-Shamma → The Lord Is There. (Eze. 48:35) – New Jerusalem

1. The eternal life in Rom. 6:23 is not characterized by its length but by its fellowship with God.
 - a. "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." (John 17:3)
2. So Christians are assured by Jesus, "And lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Matt. 28:20) God with us now; we, with God forever.

