

A Meditation.

Romans 6.23: "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord".

The verse which I have selected for our meditation this morning is taken from one of the epistles of a man who ranks high ^{among} ~~above~~ the thinkers of the world. Few men have exercised so great an influence over the thought of subsequent ages as has the Apostle Paul. For nineteen hundred years his writings have been studied and discussed, and movement after movement in the Christian world has taken its impetus from them. Paul was a keen observer of human life. Many of his statements give us marvelous insights into things as they are; other statements go beyond what any human being could ascertain by observation alone, and show us truths which only revelation from God could make known. The verse before us now combines both types of material: its first part gives us something known to everyone who sees and thinks; its last half goes beyond what human reason alone could ascertain.

Let us look first at Paul's succinct statement of a fact which can be observed by anyone: The wages of sin is death. No one of us can question that much is wrong with the world. Somewhere in the condition of humanity, things are out of joint. We see brutality and unrestrained vice, and we see its results in suffering and death. No one of us has ever seen a perfect man. In everyone we know, we can see imperfections, and manifestations of selfishness and greed. Nor do we observe anyone very long without observing in himself or in those affected by him tendencies toward death and suffering directly traceable to the sin that we can see in him.