



FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 22

WEEKLY WORD

Read Romans 6:12-23. You may want to read these weekly texts in more than one version of the Bible, just to get a wider perspective of meaning. This week, try to include reading this passage from *THE MESSAGE* along with other versions of the Bible. If you go to biblegateway.com, you can look at any verses using any version.

Paul is known for long, theological sentences that sometimes require reading over a few times to take in all that he is saying. That is where paraphrase versions such as *THE MESSAGE* may be helpful. This section is a continuation from last week's WEEKLY WALK verses. In them, Paul describes our baptism as the critical point when the lasting effects and power of sin are removed from our lives. You may want to back up and read Romans 6:1-11.

WEEKLY CHEW

Please wrestle with these questions during the week and feel free to offer your thoughts or questions on our LIVING WATERS LUTHERAN CHURCH SR WEEKLY WALK page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/251008952628293/>.

1. In our weekly time of confession during worship, we sometimes say "*...we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.*" How do you define *SIN* and what are the ways by which we are in bondage to sin?
2. Paul talks about being freed from sin and enslaved to God. In that we are nevertheless sinful (*in bondage to sin,*) what do you think Paul means when he says we are freed from sin?
3. Paul sets up a series of choices. Who do you serve?
*sin or God? *what enslaves you or righteousness?
In what ways do you see these choices being made in your life?
 - once and done?
 - each week during confession?
 - day by day and moment by moment?
4. In baptism we are freed from our slavery to sin. Paul cautions us from still living as though we are slaves. Instead he invites us into living lives of righteousness. What does that mean to you? (*This is where it might be helpful to see other translations of that word.*)

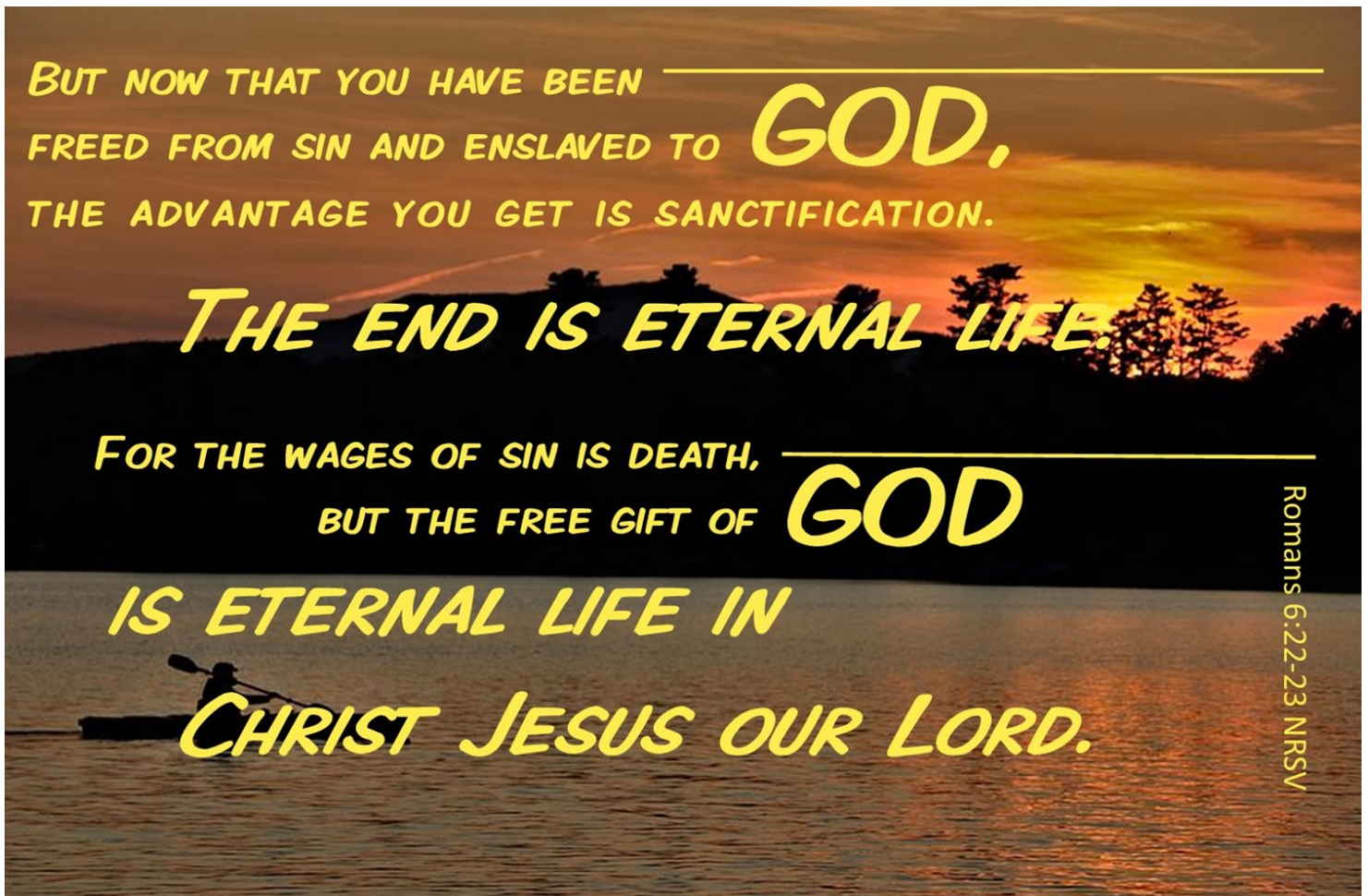
5. Paul tells us that God sanctifies us...which means God makes us holy...which means God sets us apart for God's good use. In what ways have you felt set apart in your life for God's good use?
5. What does it mean to you to "walk in newness of life?" In what practical, everyday ways has your life been made anew, transformed because of what God has given you?

WEEKLY PRACTICE

Take question #5 to task and look for the many ways you are daily set apart for God's good use. Keep in mind, God is pleased with even the smallest of ways we nurture the growth of God's kingdom. You might be surprised just how *HOLY* you are!

PRAAYER

Forgiving and life-giving God, Here I am. Show me the ways I can reflect your goodness and love in my world today. Amen.



*BUT NOW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN
FREED FROM SIN AND ENSLAVED TO **GOD,**
THE ADVANTAGE YOU GET IS SANCTIFICATION.*

THE END IS ETERNAL LIFE.

*FOR THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH,
BUT THE FREE GIFT OF **GOD**
IS ETERNAL LIFE IN
CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.*

Romans 6:22-23 NRSV