

Paycheck or gift?

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Paychecks & gifts

- Wages + Sin = Death – 6:23a *For the wages of sin is death,*
 - Tremors of our future paycheck:
 - Wars and rumors of wars
 - Our insecurities
 - Our irrational addictions
 - Our arrogance

“There is darkness without, and when I die there will be darkness within. There is no splendour, no vastness, anywhere; only triviality for a moment, and then nothing. Why live in such a world? Why even die?”
– Bertrand Russell¹

Romans 5:12

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

- Gift + Eternal Life = Jesus – 6:23b *but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
 - Indicators of the relevance and truth of God’s free gift:
 - Manuscript evidence for the Bible
 - Archaeological confirmation of biblical claims
 - Explanatory power of the Bible for our most treasured moral beliefs
 - Transformed lives

¹ Bertrand Russell, *The Autobiography of Bertrand Russell* (New York: Routledge, 2009), 374.