

K.E.Y. Bible Study (2012-2013/Year V)

K.E.Y Bible Study is a systematic study of Scripture that equips participants to become acquainted with the major truths of the Bible over a five-year period. Each lesson is self-contained, so, you can join the study at any time during the five years.

Purpose: To teach the most significant events, passages, and doctrines of the Bible in a manner and using methods that encourage and empower the student to:
Keep the Faith We Have Received
Be Equipped to Serve the Body of Christ
Become Yoked in Ministry with Other Believers

Session 21 January 30, 2013 The Only Truly Free Gift Offer

**For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 6:23)**

Why is Romans 6:23 a K.E.Y. verse in the Bible?

While most people who have any degree of self-awareness realize that they are guilty of sin and sense their alienation from God, this verse reveals what the remedy is. To know the problem of sin without knowing the solution is very depressing. If we do not know of the free gift of salvation, we will either try to absolve our guilt and alienation through our efforts or deny that there is any absolution of guilt or resolution of alienation. Both of these alternatives lead to despair. This verse gives hope to the lost person seeking redemption and is a reminder to the redeemed that salvation is a gift. Thus, obedience becomes an act of gratitude rather than being a necessary and burdensome duty.

Who?

- The central character of every book in the Bible is God as revealed in Jesus, the Christ.
- The Apostle Paul, who was a missionary or church planter and a leader in the ministry to the Gentiles or the non-Jews, is the author. Even though his ministry was to the Gentiles, Paul's Jewish background should not be forgotten. His understanding of both sin and redemption are rooted in the Old Testament. The Jewish concept of sin was more than just failure to keep the law; it was the violation of the covenant relationship. Paul understood that the covenant with Abraham and the Passover event were rooted in grace.
- The Christians in Rome were role players in that they were the recipients of this letter. There would have been both Gentile and Jewish Christians in Rome; however, it is likely that many of the Jewish Christians had been forced to leave Rome and that new Gentile Christian leadership had emerged. As a result, Paul wrote a systematic description of the Christian faith.

When?

Paul apparently wrote this in approximately 56 A.D. – 58 A.D.

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Where?

This was written by while Paul was in Corinth.

Context:

It is important to remember that this passage was not written for the purpose of persuading readers to become Christians. Paul wrote to explain that we have been freed from slavery to sin even though we are still impacted by sin. To some extent, this verse is a summary of the entire chapter. We may choose either sin and death or the unmerited favor (grace) of God through Jesus Christ.

Word Study

- “**wages**” – provision, compensation, or pay. It was frequently used to describe the earnings of Roman soldiers. It is a sum paid for services rendered. Death is the compensation for sin.
- “**sin**” – missing the mark. However, the word is stronger than just accidental action. It relates to purposeful action.
- “**death**” – more than non-existence. It refers to both physical and spiritual death, although the greater emphasis in this passage is on spiritual death.
- “**gift**” – related to the word “charisma” and means something that is freely given not earned or bartered for.
- “**eternal life**” – life that transcends time and obviously means unending. It relates to a quality of life associated with the divine.
- “**in Christ**” – of or through Christ. The Messiah, or Anointed One, is the source of this gift. Christ is both the means of and the giver of the eternal life.

Central Truth:

A life of slavery to sin inevitably leads to death. Life freed from the penalty and power of sin is a free gift of God through Jesus.

Application:

In order to experience victory over the guilt and alienation that result from sin, we must receive the free gift of God’s grace through and from Jesus. Our reaction to this free gift is to live gratefully.