



As we enter this season of Lent, we are asked to reflect on the realities of sin, and how that knowledge highlights the hope we have in Jesus. Throughout scripture, we are shown examples of mankind failing to measure up to God's standards. We know that all of us sin and fall short of the glory of God, whether we fail to give God the glory He deserves, reject His plans and desires for us, fail to reflect His glory well, or walk away from His leading entirely. We all miss the mark of absolute holiness. And death is the rightful payment for our sin. It's what we've earned. However, in His grace, God does not leave us in our depravity. Jesus brings us the hope of a different ending to our story.

Romans 5:12; Romans 6:19-23

What is the difference between a paycheck and an inheritance?

What does Paul tell us our paycheck, what we've earned with our sin, contains?

In what ways has your sin caused death, literal or figurative, in your life?

In what ways has the sin of others caused death, literal or figurative, in your life?

How does the inheritance Jesus offers differ from what you've earned?

How do we become part of this inheritance?

What would look different in your life, upon trading what you've earned for the inheritance Jesus offers?

Read: Romans 8:1-2; Romans 8:12-17

According to Romans 8, what is the remaining connection between us and the wages of our sin?

If we accept God's leading in our life, what is the new relationship status He offers us?

What do we gain from this type of relationship with Him?

How does this gain compare to what we willingly give up to enter into this relationship?

Apply it:

Examine your life, your actions, your thoughts...are there any remnants of death that you need to turn over to God?

If there are things you're still hanging onto, ask yourself why, and then ask God to help you release them fully to Him so that you can live in the fullness of what He has for you.

Prayer:

Father, I ask that you would forgive me for all the ways I've fallen short of your glory. I am a sinful human, and I need your love and grace. Thank you for sending Jesus to make a way for my relationship with you to be restored. Cleanse my heart of the darkness I've allowed in, and fill me fresh with your love and grace...so much that it would overflow out of my life and touch everyone I encounter.

Amen.