

Romans 6:23

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

I know it's the middle of the summer, but one of my favorite Christmas movies is "A Christmas Story". It's a movie about a little boy, back in the 40's, who just wanted a Red Ryder BB Gun for Christmas and nothing else, and the movie is about his attempts to get this Red Ryder BB Gun. It's a wonderful, funny movie. But there is one scene where there's this long line in the department store, with little kids and their parents waiting to see Santa and to tell him what they want for Christmas. The funny part is when some of these kids sit on Santa's lap, they start to scream and cry because they are afraid of him.

Yet even though little kids are afraid of Santa, they still embrace the gifts that they think he gives them.

Christians are sort of the same way sometimes, they hate Satan, yet they embrace the sins he offers them. How so? One thing I always say is that Christians will allow the things that Jesus died for on the cross, to be their entertainment. Profanity, nudity, sex, rape, murder, deception, lying, adultery, Satan worship, demons, magic, sorcery... and on and on, in the movies they watch, things they look at on the internet or their phones, the music that they listen to, etc..... Jesus died for all these sins, yet how many still have them, or go back to them for their entertainment?

† ***Galatians 4:9 But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage?***

For me and my house, one thing we do not allow is any movie that is rated "R". Even for streaming shows, if it says mature audience, no way Jose' because we know it is borderline "R" with the language and images that are something that a Christian should not be watching as entertainment.

But look at today's verse again: "***For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.***" And ask yourself this question, "*Do I really love the Giver of gifts or just the gift themselves?*" Little kids are afraid of Santa, but love his gifts, it has nothing to do with Santa, but rather what they can get out of him, whether they like him or not.

So, what if there was another way to heaven, would it change the way you feel or your love for Jesus? It's a matter of do you really love Jesus, or are you in love with eternal life in heaven, regardless if Jesus is there or not?

It's a really tough question that we all need to be honest with ourselves with. I mean I read in the bible of all these wonderful things in heaven and the awesomeness of God and His throne and

the angels and seraphim's and wheel turning on wheel that stay straight when they turn and all kinds of cool stuff. Stuff that we could never imagine here on this earth will be there, and God will keep on creating more and more new and awesome things for all eternity.

† **Ezekiel 10:10-11** *As for their appearance, all four looked alike--as it were, a wheel in the middle of a wheel. When they went, they went toward any of their four directions; they did not turn aside when they went, but followed in the direction the head was facing. They did not turn aside when they went.*

But for me, it all means nothing unless I can enjoy it with my Savior, Jesus. I think of Air Force One, the plane that the president flies in. It's called Air Force One because of who is in it. When the president is not in Air Force One, the aircraft is known as SAM 28000, or SAM 29000, depending on which 747 it is (There are actually two Air Force One's). In fact, when President Ford was sworn in and Nixon was on Air Force one, the call sign was changed mid-air to SAM 27000.

So is heaven, it's not a matter of where heaven is, but Who is there, God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Apart from that, it just won't be heaven. So you can love the gift, but you won't have the gift (of eternal life) if you don't love the Giver.

† **John 14:3** *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*

† **Hebrews 12:2** *looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*