

45-06-01-Death Benefits

Funeral, memorial, death, salvation, eternal life

Rom 6:20-23

God offers a life insurance policy through the death of His Son.

### INTRODUCTION:

–I'd like to read some verses from the Apostle Paul and apply them to this occasion, as we bring it to a close. Rom 6:20-23 (NIV), *When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. {21}What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! {22}But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. {23}For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

–When I was an ER nurse, I worked to save lives, but some of my income came from those who did not survive. The *medical field* emphasizes health, but it also makes money from human mortality.

–It's similar with *insurance companies*. We buy “life” insurance, but what we purchase is a death benefit. The benefit is not for us when we die, but for those we love who are left behind.

–This is similar to this passage in St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans. It's about eternal life insurance that pays a wonderful death benefit. **God offers this life insurance policy through the death of His Son**. You see...

### **I. The Policy of Sin Issues a *Death Penalty*, not a Benefit**

- A. The human heart rebels against decay and death, because it knows that we were created not for death but for life.
- B. We mourn at death. It shouldn't have entered our world. But *when our first parents opened the door to sin, death slipped in behind it*. Sin and death are connected. (God intended neither of them, but both are now realities of human life.)
- C. Life insurance companies must pay the death benefit; and it works the same way with sin: “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” and “the wages of sin is death.”

**TRANS:** That's the bad news: the *policy of sin* pays a *penalty of death*. But **God has another policy**. It's true that “the wages of sin is death, **but** the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

### **II. The Death of Christ Provides the Benefit of Life**

- A. We purchase a death benefit while still living. Christ bought humanity's *eternal life benefit* while we were still sinning– Rom 5:8. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- B. The *beneficiary* of a life insurance policy doesn't earn the death benefit. It's **a gift** from the death of the one insured. Neither can we earn eternal life. We can only receive it.
- C. It would be *strange*, but a person can refuse the death benefit from an insurance policy. No one can force the beneficiary to take those funds. And so with the *salvation in Christ*. The *benefit of eternal life* is ours to receive, but we can refuse it. *God's policy* is to cancel the policy of sin and death, but it's not His policy to force His gift of eternal life on those who do not want it.

### **CONCLUSION:**

–The death of a loved one is an occasion of grief. But it extends to us who remain a precious death benefit that should not be wasted. We come together to *remember*, to *say good-bye*, to *comfort those left behind*. But there is a *benefit* that I believe \_\_\_\_\_ would be happy to know that \_\_\_\_\_ passing gave to us assembled here. That would be an urgent reminder for each of us to make sure we have received the gift of eternal life through Christ. Every knows that \_\_\_\_\_ took God up on **His offer of an eternal life insurance policy through the death of His Son**. \_\_\_\_\_ would be delighted to know that you did so, too.