

“Today You Will Be With Me in Paradise”

The Puritans had a saying: “There is one story of a deathbed conversion in the Bible so that we might have hope, but only one so that we might not presume.”

The Story:

³² *Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with Him to be executed.*

³³ *When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified Him there, along with the criminals—one on His right, the other on His left.*

³⁹ *One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at Him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”*

⁴⁰ *But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”*

⁴² *Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”*

⁴³ *Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”* - Luke 23:32-33,39-43

The Arrangement of the Sinners

The Appeal of the Sinners

Notice the progression of their appeals:

1. Convenience.

³⁹ *“One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at Him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”* - Luke 23:39

2. Condemnation.

⁴⁰ *“But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence?”* - Luke 23:40

3. Confession.

⁴¹ *“We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve.”* - Luke 23:41a

4. Conviction.

⁴¹ *“But this man has done nothing wrong.”* - Luke 23:41b

5. Courage.

⁴² *“Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”* - Luke 23:42

The Answer of the Saviour

Jesus said, *“Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”*

This statement teaches us four things:

1. Salvation is by grace through faith.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.” - Ephesians 2:8,9

2. The soul survives after death.

“We are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.” - 2 Corinthians 5:8

3. There’s great joy in being with Jesus.

“In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” - Luke 15:10

4. Jesus is ready and willing to save anyone who calls on Him!

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” - Romans 10:13

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