

SERMON NOTES

Series: Seven Last Words of Christ (2)

Title: The Word of Assurance

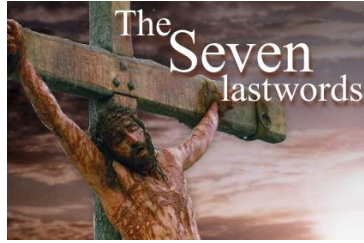
Text: Luke 23:39-43

Topic: Salvation, Heaven

Teacher: Pastor Barry

Time: 3/5/23

File Under: Seasonal



Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.' And Jesus replied, 'I assure you today you'll be with me in paradise.'" Luke 23:43 (NLT)

God wants you to know **with certainty** where you will spend eternity.

There are a lot of things in life you **can** know, but there are some things in life you **must** know.

Five things the criminal knew.

1. He knew he'd **face God** after death.

"Don't you fear God even when you're dying?" v 40

Where you spend eternity will be based on **your decisions** in this life.

"Everyone must die once, and after that be judged by God." Hebrews 9:27

2. He knew he **had sinned** against God.

"We deserve to die for our evil (those must have been some serious evil deeds) deeds." v. 41a

"If we confess our sins, he's faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from every wrong." I John 1:9

God's standard: **100%** obedience, to **100%** of God's law, **100%** of the time.

3. He knew Jesus was **more than** a man.

"We deserve to die for our evil deeds, but this man has not done anything wrong!" v.41b

4. He knew that **only grace** could save him.

"Jesus, remember me..." v.42

He throws himself on the **grace & mercy** of God. .

5. He knew that Jesus could save him if **he asked**.

"It is by grace you have been saved, through faith -- and this not of yourselves, it is the gift of God not by works, so no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8

Grace: something for **nothing**.

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved." Acts 16:31

"This is the hour to receive God's favor! Today is the day to be saved!" 2 Corinthians 6:2

To not decide is to **decide**.