

Remembering the Words of Christ on the Cross – part 2

- I. Introduction:
 - a. **(Luke 24:8)** “They remembered his words.”
 - i. Remembering the words of Christ caused the disciples to grow stronger in faith and confidence and joy.
 - ii. Instead of a crucified master, they had risen Christ!
 - iii. Instead of grief and despair, they had joy and hope!
 - b. **(Col 3:16)** “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”
 - c. **(Eph 5:18-19)** “...be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.”
 - i. Parallel verses – One equates the other
 - ii. Being filled with the Spirit = Letting the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom
 - d. There are seven sayings recorded that Christ said while on the cross
 - i. They are found not in one gospel but all four gospels
 - ii. There is no automatic
 - e. Let us remember these words of Christ while He was on the cross
- II. Words of Hope and Confidence of Salvation
 - a. **(Luke 23:43)** “Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.”
 - i. Two thieves crucified with Jesus – fulfillment of prophecy
 - 1. **(Isa 53:12)** “Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”
 - ii. Matthew teaches us that both were mocking him
 - 1. **(Matt 27:43-44)** “He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God. The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth.”
 - iii. Luke shows us that one repented
 - 1. **(Luke 23:39-43)** “And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.”

- b. Christ's Words show us three things:
 - i. That Jesus is the way to paradise
 - ii. The type of person He is willing to save
 - iii. There will be some that will not be saved
- c. Jesus is the way to paradise
 - i. **(John 14:6)** I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."
 - ii. **(Rom 5:2)** "By whom (*Jesus Christ*) also we have **access** by faith into this **grace** wherein we stand, and **rejoice** in **hope** of the glory of God."
 - iii. **(Heb 7:25)** "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."
 - iv. ONLY through Jesus can we have confidence – no other way for salvation
 - 1. **(Acts 4:12)** "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."
 - v. If one wants assurance of salvation today – must heed to the commands of Jesus
 - 1. **(Luke 13:3)** "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."
 - 2. **(Mark 16:16)** "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."
- d. The type of person that Jesus is willing to save
 - i. Thief – all that have sinned are in the same condemnation as this thief – we are in this condemnation "justly"
 - 1. **(James 2:10)** "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."
 - ii. This thief had no lifetime of good deeds and yet the Son of God assures him of eternal life! Why?
 - iii. Qualities of this thief
 - 1. He believed on the Lord at a time when even all His leading disciples deserted Him.
 - 2. He believed on Him and confessed him as Lord while others mocked Him and reviled Him.
 - 3. He made the confession when he himself was in agony, suffering, death, and humiliation
 - 4. He made the confession when he was surrounded by Christ's bitterest foes at a time that looked as if they may be triumphant
 - 5. He made the confession when Christ was at His lowest point – Humiliation
 - a. Not as we see Christ today as King of kings and Lord of lords

6. He acknowledged that he was deserving of his punishment – called it just
- iv. The thief was perhaps the most noble of all men to be saved – repented and submitted
- v. If one had the faith of thief today, they would not hesitate to be obedient to the commands of Christ
- vi. The thief is not an example of death-bed salvation and not an example of our salvation today
 1. Christ has the power to save who He will
 - a. **(Matt 20:15)** “Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?”
 - i. The parable of the Householder and His Servants
 - b. **(Matt 9:6)** “But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.”
 - c. This salvation was given to the thief because of Jesus’ right
 2. Many want to justify being saved without obedience by using the thief on the cross
 - a. The thief died before the inauguration of the new covenant
 - i. **(Heb 9:16-17)** “For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.”
 - ii. While Jesus was personally present on earth, He could grant salvation to whoever he wished – The testament was not of any force at that time
 3. After the death of Christ and the preaching of the New Testament – the way to salvation has been proclaimed
 - a. **(Acts 2:38)** – When the multitude believed they asked, “What shall we do?” – How can we be forgiven and receive salvation?
 - b. This command of repentance and baptism is to “as many as the Lord our God shall call.” **(Acts 2:39)**
 4. This is our assurance – One cannot know that they are forgiven except they are obedient to what was proclaimed and promised
- vii. The thief was not an example of how we are saved but a type
 1. One that is desperately lost in sin
 2. Unworthy of salvation

3. Worthy of death
 4. Jesus took the side of this repentant thief! – He will take your side also – you must be obedient to His commands
- e. There will be some that will not be saved
 - i. The other thief continued in his mocking – no repentance shown – No salvation was granted to him – no assurance of paradise
 - f. By these words we have assurance of our future
 - i. Your soul will not sleep – Jesus said, “Today...”
 - ii. Life will be after death – Jesus said, “...thou wilt be...”
 - iii. The place that Christ leads is described as “Paradise”.