

Christ's on the Cross: *Eternal Life*

Luke 23:39-43

The Two Criminals

- Crucifixion was a common Roman practice for execution
- On the day that Jesus was being crucified, two other men were meeting the same end
 - Luke calls them "criminals"
 - Matthew & Mark clarify that they were "robbers" (see. Matt. 27:38; Mark 15:27)
- This fulfilled Scripture too: "He was counted with the lawless ones." (Isa. 53:12)

The Insults

- Βλασφημέω (blasphemeo): to speak reproachfully, rail at, revile, blaspheme.
- "Aren't you the Christ?"
 - The question presupposes an affirmative answer
 - "Since you are the Christ, ..."
- "Save yourself and us!" (see Psalm 22:8)

The Other Thief

- He had come to fear God
- He understood that he deserved the punishment that he was receiving
- He didn't ask Jesus to save him from his earthly punishment
- Instead, he asked Jesus to remember him when Jesus would come in power

"Today you will be with Me"

- Jesus immediately accepts the thief
- His repentance was not based on the right theological knowledge or saying a certain prayer
- It was based on trusting Jesus, who he knew was from God

“Paradise”

- This term has several meanings:
 - The part of Hades which was thought by the later Jews to be the abode of the souls of pious until the resurrection (see Eph. 4:8-10; 1 Peter 3:18-20)
 - The upper regions of the heavens according to the early church Fathers. (see 2 Cor. 12:4)
 - The New Jerusalem (see Rev. 2:7; 22:2)
- Jesus was offering the repentant thief eternal life with Him
 - Even though the thief could do nothing to serve Jesus
 - He was about to die himself

So What?

- That is what Jesus offers us; eternal life with Him!
- It isn't based on living right. It isn't based on believing all the right things. It is based on trusting JESUS!

Meditation Verse: *John 3:36*