

HOW A BAD GUY GOT TO HEAVEN

Luke 23:32-43, page 857 and other passages

- I. A GUILTY MAN WENT TO HEAVEN BASED ON SIMPLE FAITH IN JESUS (LUKE 23:32-43).
 - A. Guilt: Two men guilty of capital crimes were crucified with Jesus – one on each side (Luke 23:32-33; Matthew 27:44).
 - B. Compassion: Jesus asked God to forgive his executioners (Luke 23:34-38; 47; Matthew 27:54).
 - C. Spiritual Humility: Both criminals mocked Jesus (Matthew 27:44), but later one humbled himself (Luke 23:39-41).
 1. One criminal continued to angrily insult Jesus (39).
 2. One acknowledged his sin and Jesus' innocence (40-41).
 - D. Faith and Salvation: One criminal asked Jesus to remember him after death and Jesus said Yes (Luke 23:42-43).
 1. Faith = He trusted that Jesus is the only way to eternal life.
 2. Salvation = Jesus promised he would be in paradise today.
 - He didn't get baptized or undergo any ritual.
 - He didn't do any good works or promise to do them.
 - He simply believed Jesus was his only way to heaven.
- II. YOU CAN KNOW YOU WILL GO TO HEAVEN IF YOU SIMPLY PUT YOUR FAITH IN JESUS.
 - A. Humbly admit your sin and the eternal consequences we all deserve (Romans 3:23; 6:23).
 - B. Humbly realize Jesus paid for your sin and you can do nothing to earn heaven.
 - Jesus was punished for sin in our place (Romans 5:8).
 - We are NOT saved by doing good works (Ephesians 2:8-9).
 - C. Humbly place your faith in Jesus alone to save you (John 3:16, 36; 6:47; Acts 16:30, 31; Romans 1:16; 3:22; 6:23; Ephesians 1:13; 2:8-9; 1 Timothy 1:16; 2 Timothy 3:15; Titus 3:4-7; 1 John 5:11-13)