**Lesson For Us From the Cross**

**Luke 23:33-43**

**We Are IN THE PRESENCE OF DEITY.**

Modernists regard Jesus high on the list of reformers, great leaders, but never as fully God in the flesh.

Judgment will stop all this "just a man" language. ***(Romans 14:11-12) For it is written: "As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God." {12} So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.***

***(Philippians 2:10-11) that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, {11} and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.***

**THERE iS LIFE AFTER DEATH**

***"Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."***

From The Kingdom is at Hand [p.66] **"While Enoch was held in the embrace of this entrancing vision, 'God took him,' and thus Enoch 'was not', and escaped all the pangs of death. He sleeps in death, awaiting the realization of the vision under the Kingdom."**

From “The Truth that Leads to Eternal Life” (page 45**). "The heartwarming prospect is that then hell, mankind's common grave, will be emptied of its unconscious dead."**

***(1 Timothy 4:1-2) Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, {2} speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,***

**THE KINGDOM Would Soon Be ESTABLISHED.**

***"Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."***

The thief knew Jesus would **soon** set the kingdom up and that being in it was equal to going to Heaven.

***(Luke 17:20) Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation;***

***"My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36).***

There are many ways that the thief could have learned of the kingdom.

1. John the Baptist preached concerning the coming of the Messiah and the kingdom.
2. Jesus preached about the kingdom to all of Judea & Galilee.
3. The Apostles were sent on a limited commission to do the same.

**We DESERVE TO BE PUNISHED for our crimes.**

***"We are in same condemnation--and we justly."***

It’s easy to justify our actions. ***(1 Corinthians 11:31-32) For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. {32} But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.***

***(Romans 6:23) For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

Payday is coming. ***(Ecclesiastes 8:11) Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.***

**BEING WITH Jesus IS BETTER THAN Living & Dying in A SINFUL WAY.**

***"And the robbers also that were crucified with him cast upon him the same reproach” (Matthew 27:44).***

***(Luke 13:3) "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.***

***(Acts 17:30) "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,***

**Can We rely on THe “Loophole”**

Do you think that you can find salvation in a similar way to the thief on the cross?

Deathbed repentance - ***(Acts 22:16) ‘And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'***

Have you ever thought of receiving salvation just like the thief on the cross? Choose baptism as opposed to crucifixion.