

CALL to PRAYER - Pray for the person printed on your bulletin...all week

Luke 23:32-43 (part 2) - Amen on the Assurance!

INTRO - Last week we left a thief hanging...he was suspended between heaven and earth... moments away from dropping into hell. But the God of all grace intervened and gave a gift to a thief. The scene at the cross was a remarkable one. Jesus, the Savior, was hung between two sinners. Both thieves joined the riotous crowd in mocking the Messiah. But one thief changed his mind and his mouth. He repented and had a request for the Redeemer of sinners. We left him hanging for a week, but Jesus didn't leave him hanging...He responded with some of the greatest words a dying man can hear. Two thieves stepped through death's door that day. One went up and the other went down. It is a somber reminder that the day of our death we all enter an eternal destiny. The 3rd *CrossWord* of Jesus gives us assurance of the afterlife...and to one kind of sinner - a Blessed Assurance...if you have Jesus then you have a blessed assurance

REVIEW

- A case study in conversion - basic conversion model conversion all elements
 - *Fear of God* - he rebuked the other thief for being defiant on his deathbed
 - *Repentance* radical change of mind that changed his mouth
 - *Confession* - he owned his sin and the just punishment of his sin
 - *Faith* - believed that Jesus had no sin and that Christ was a King with a kingdom
 - the thief saw what no one else did - a King on a cross
 - *Asking for salvation* - the thief asked the right Person & used the right Name - 23:42

AMEN

1. Jesus' response to the request of the thief was immediate.
 - a. Jesus did not leave him hanging. John 6:37
2. Jesus responded with an "AMEN" Amen = truly...verily...I agree so let it be.
 - a. Jesus gave His stamp of approval (to the thief's conversion & application for salvation)
 - b. All of God's promises have their "Amen" and "Yes" in Jesus 2 Cor. 1:20
 - i. Jesus says "YES" when we confess. He confirms our conversion
 - c. Jesus' stamp of approval also came with a verification of destination
3. Jesus often began statements in teaching with an "Amen" or "Amen, Amen" (truly, truly)
 - a. This was to emphasize the veracity of what was said. He was speaking TRUTH
 - b. Jesus is Truth - John 14:6 He speaks the truth (no lie is in Him)
4. Jesus' "amen" was emphasizing a truth about the afterlife
 - a. If we are to get any reliable information about the afterlife...what happens after death ...heaven...then we need someone who has been there and done that
 - b. Jesus came from heaven - He has been there John 3:13 John 6:38
 - c. Jesus died - He has done that Rev. 1:18
 - d. Only Jesus can give us an *Amen* about the afterlife (assures us in the amen)
 - e. Titus 1:2 eternal life is promised by God who cannot lie...Jesus gives the *amen*

TODAY

- The thief asked to be remembered. Luke 23:42 humbly asks “*Pass me not*”
 - He got more than he asked for Eph. 3:20
 - He asked to be noticed & remembered at some future fulfilment of kingdom
 - Jesus affirmed that he was going to get something that day! Luke. 23:43
- “Is there a delay when we die?” Jesus’ *amen* answers that question
 - The DAY of our death we step into our eternal destiny
 - Luke 16:22-23 there is no delay
 - There was no Purgatory for the thief - no delay...he went directly to his destiny
 - Purgatory is lie - no second chance & no self-payment
 - Purgatory = sins of believer are purged before they enter heaven
 - If anyone should go there this thief should have...but he didn’t!
 - There was no delay. He went directly to his destiny. TODAY
- Ask and you shall receive Matt. 7:7-8

PARADISE

- Jesus assures a sinner and promises him with Paradise. Luke 23:43
 - Paradise is a term that denotes a tranquil garden Eden
 - Paradise is a synonym for heaven...the 3rd heaven (sky, space, heaven) 2 Cor. 12:2-4
 - Revelation 2:7
 - When a believer dies, they go directly to heaven...Paradise (not Purgatory)
 - 2 Cor. 5:8 today you shall be with Me
- To be “with Jesus” is paradise Phil 1:23 Luke 23:43
 - To have Jesus is to have salvation. To be in Christ is to be in Paradise
 - Those who don’t want to be around Him now will have all eternity for their wish to come true. Avoid His house now...avoid it then
- The AMEN of God hasn’t told us everything about heaven...but He has told us enough
 - He came from heaven and took the thief with Him to heaven the day He died
 - He came back from death to confirm life...afterlife. Ascended to heaven
 - He will come back one day from heaven.
 - He promises Paradise to all those who believe His promise.
 - Do you believe: King upon a cross? The Dying One is the Living One?
 - He who came from heaven can and will take you to heaven?

Let me REASSURE you of some things. (Reassure is our 3rd main *CrossWord*)

1. We are all going to die - Heb. 9:27 Amen?
2. The day of our death we are going somewhere - Amen?
3. Jesus came from heaven Amen? He died & came back Amen?
4. Jesus is the only one who tell us truth about life, death...afterlife. Amen?
5. Jesus promises repentant sinners Paradise - Amen?
6. Jesus gives the *amen* & assurance of the afterlife. Will you give your amen to His amen?