

# The dying thief

As he died alongside Jesus, a thief confessed his sins and put his trust in Christ.  
Luke 23.41-42.

His words, though few, have echoed around the world for twenty centuries – a marvellous testimony, far beyond what he himself could ever have foreseen. Luke 23.39-43.

Through him we can learn the following –

1. At death there is no “sleep of the soul.” Jesus told him, “Today you will be with me in paradise.” Luke 23.43.
2. Being a thief, he demonstrated that salvation is independent of good works.
3. Furthermore, his salvation was also independent of sacraments. He was never baptised, never partook of communion, etc.
4. For him there was no purgatory. From his life of sin and shame he went straight into paradise.
5. His situation demonstrated that death is not the end.
6. He showed that salvation is not universal. There were two robbers died alongside Christ, but only this one repented and was saved.
7. He illustrates that when a believer departs this life, he goes to be with Christ. See also 2 Corinthians 5.8.
8. Because he said, “Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom” Luke 23.42, he obviously foresaw that Christ's reign was a future certainty.

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**All death can do to the believer is deliver him to Jesus.**

**Ken Packer**