

Chapter 2

LORD, REMEMBER ME

Luke 23:42

“Lord, remember me when you come into your Kingdom...”

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A thief on a cross gasped out these words in his agony of pain as he hung along side the crucified Christ. In His own agony, Jesus listened. He, our Saviour, hears every cry made to Him in sincerity of heart.

Psalm 145:18 says: *“The Lord is near to all that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth.”*

This poor man cried to the Saviour in sincerity and Jesus listened to his cry, seeing into his heart and reaching back to him in unmeasured love and compassion.

This poor man addressed Jesus rightly, as ‘LORD’. Jesus responded and the dying thief received that glorious promise: *“Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”* (Luke 23:43)

He received the promise that all believers can rejoice in, as set out so beautifully for us in 2 Corinthians 4:16 to 5:1;

“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen.

For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”

These verses surely convey assurance and encouragement as we catch hold of and digest the clear promise conveyed, the promise that, for every believer physical death is a gateway into LIFE, life to be lived eternally in the glorious

presence of our Father and our beautiful Saviour, life where perfect love reigns and all know lasting peace.

This is expressed in 1 Corinthians 2:9;

“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

From a cross of pain and suffering, burdened with guilt and fear of death, this tortured thief looked, believed and received the promise of eternal life. By God’s amazing grace he had been awakened to embrace the Christ who was nailed to a cross alongside him as his own Lord, and now, though still tied to a cross, he was FREE; his sin and guilt being borne by the One in agony alongside him. He was REDEEMED.

This thief became, as all do who turn to Jesus, a ‘new creation’ in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:17).

“...If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, old things have passed away, behold, all things are new.”

Reader, if you do not know the Lord Jesus Christ as your own Saviour and Lord, it is possible for this to be so. This is His desire and He waits alongside, for you to respond to what He is showing you of Himself; He knows all about you and states:

“...the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out” (John 6:37).

He has paid the price for our salvation. It is for each one of us to willingly and thankfully receive His wonderful gift purchased by His blood, of forgiveness of sins and a new life in Christ.

“And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Acts 2:21)