

Second Word: Today You Will Be with Me in Paradise (Luke 23:42,43)

- These are the final words that our Lord spoke on the earth on the Cross
- Jesus' first words from the cross were words of prayer & forgiveness

Lk 23:34 “Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing”

- Jesus' words are the fulfillment of what Isaiah prophesied in 53:12 **He was numbered with the transgressors, & He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”**
- Jesus' second word from the cross was a word of salvation: **“today you will be with me in paradise.”**

I. His Companion on the Cross Was the Dying Thief

- Jesus' words to the dying thief confirm His entire ministry to save sinners
- The thief – was most likely guilty of theft, murder and all kinds of evil
- He begins to curse Jesus but looks upon Jesus God opens his eyes
- He confesses his guilt: “for we receive the due reward of our deeds”
- The thief sees his guilt– he knows if he dies without mercy, he is undone
- He believes Jesus can save *“Remember me when you come into your kingdom”*

II. He was With Jesus at the Gates of Paradise that Very Same Day

- Jesus chose this man to be the first sinner through the new & living way
- The thief is a pattern of Jesus' work- his entrance is clearly by grace alone
- Paradise means a garden – a garden filled with treasure & delight

III. What is Jesus Saying to You and Me Today in These Words?

- Satan tempts us to think presumptuously: get saved just before you die
- Jesus is ready & able to save at the very last moment as he saved the thief