

J.C. Ryle Holiness / Christ's Greatest Trophy

³⁹ Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us." ⁴⁰ But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation?" ⁴¹ "And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." ⁴³ And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise." (Luke 23:39-43 NKJ)

Who is this who comes from Edom, With dyed garments from Bozrah, This *One who is* glorious in His apparel, Traveling in the greatness of His strength?-- "I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save." (Isaiah 63:1 NKJ)

What is music in our ears? Jesus Christ is _____ to _____.

1. *Christ's power and willingness to save sinners*

What was true about the thief on the cross?

- A. He was a *wicked* man
- B. He was a *dying* man.
- C. He was a soul hovering on the brink of hell.
- D. All of the above!

Now, have I not a right to say, Christ is "able to save to the _____ them that come unto God by Him"? (Heb. 7:25.)

Have I not a right to say, Christ will receive _____ who comes to Him with the prayer of faith, and cast out none?

Have I not a right to say, By grace ye may be saved through faith, not of works: fear not, only believe? Behold the proof of it. This thief was never _____: he belonged to no visible _____; he never received the Lord's _____; he never did any _____ for Christ; he never gave _____ to Christ's cause! But he had faith, and so he was saved.

Have I not a right to say, The _____ faith will save a man's soul, if it only be true?

2. *If some are saved in the very hour of death, others are not*

Was the other thief a worse man than the one who was saved?

What warnings are in these verses?

A death-bed is not always a _____ time.

Do SAME OPPORTUNITIES always lead to the same results? YES or NO?

They tell me, above all, that _____ and _____ are the _____ of God and are not in a man's own power; and that if any one flatters himself he can repent at his own time, choose his own season, seek the Lord when he pleases, and, like the penitent thief, be saved at the very last,—he may find at length he is greatly _____.

3. *The Spirit always leads saved souls in one way*

- a) See how strong this man's _____ was.
- b) What a _____ of sin the thief had.
- c) what _____ love the thief showed to his companion.

4. *Believers in Christ when they die are _____ the _____.*

5. *The eternal portion of every man's soul is close to him*

"_____, " says our Lord to the penitent thief, " _____ shalt thou be with Me in paradise."

If you are an unconverted man, this ought to make you think. Do you know you are close to _____?

6. Conclusion

- (1) *For the humble-hearted and contrite sinner ... here is _____ ...*
- (2) *For the proud and presumptuous man of the world ... Then take _____.*
- (3) See that you know something of true repentance and saving _____, of real _____ and fervent _____.
- (4) For Mourners ... See how your beloved ones are in the _____ of hands.
- (5) For some aged servants of Christ ... Your _____ is nearer than when you first believed.