

Words of

Truth & Reason

Acts 26:25

SEPTEMBER 2015 – VOL. V, NO. 9
CHURCH OF CHRIST—QUAIL VALLEY

The Criminal on the Cross

One of the subplots of the crucifixion of Jesus involved the conversation of Jesus and one of the robbers being crucified. He said, *Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom* (Luke 23:42). Why would a dying man ask another dying man to remember him? Why would he ask about a future kingdom? How did he know about that kingdom? This thief knew they would live after death and previously heard someone tell about that kingdom. He had lived in rebellion to the truth he knew---spiritual things were not new to him.

Jesus exceeded the robber’s request, saying *...today, you will be with Me in*

Paradise (Luke 23:43). Jesus forgave Him of his sins, knowing all things about this man we do not (How and what did he know about the kingdom? Had he been baptized by John [Mar. 1:5]?). The *Paradise* Jesus referred to is the place of rest in Hades which will end when God raises and judges us all (Acts 2:31; Revelation 20:13-14).

Do the gospel writers contradict each other, in what they write? Can we be forgiven of sins exactly as the robber was? Is baptism essential today? Contact us for a free CD covering these questions or listen to it on our website today.

In This Issue:

- The Criminal on the Cross
- The Transfiguration of Jesus
- The Transfiguration: Hear Him
- The Transfiguration: Peter Did Not Know. . .

Author & Editor: David Halbrook



The Transfiguration of Jesus

Matthew, Mark, and Luke all tell of Jesus’ transfiguration (see Matt. 17; Mk. 9; Lk. 9 for more details). One week earlier, Peter confessed Jesus, and Jesus told them of His death and their death (Matt. 16:13-28). One day, Jesus took three disciples to a mountain. He prayed while they slept, but they awoke to see Jesus’ face shining as the sun and clothes white as snow—thus they saw His glory. Then they saw Him speaking with Moses and Elijah. Peter, in a state of shock, suggested they build three tabernacles in memorial of Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. From a cloud, God the Father declared, *This is My beloved Son. Hear Him* (saying nothing about Moses and Elijah). Then, everything was back to normal.

In 2 Peter 1:16-21, Peter wrote about this event, a reminder that he was not telling myths but was an eyewitness. Beyond this evidence, Peter says that the written words of prophets offer “sure” evidence that Scripture is true. **Have you ever doubted the Bible is truly from God?** If so, have you examined the evidence which proves that it is? Consider some of that evidence by listening to *Is the Bible the Word of God?*(WWW.QVCOC.COM Audio Sermons). Send us your thoughts.

The Transfiguration: *Hear Him!*

When Jesus was changed and Peter suggested building three tabernacles, a voice from heaven said, *This is My Beloved Son. . . Hear Him*—do not equally hear Jesus, Moses, and Elijah, but hear Jesus above them all.

Paul's point was similar when he called the law of Moses a tutor and said, *we are no longer under a tutor* (Gal. 3:24-25, NKJV). The law of Moses, including the ten commandments, were given to the physical nation of Israel. Moses taught Israel to remember the Sabbath, offer incense through the priests, kill the unfaithful (in certain circumstances), etc. By Jesus' name (authority) the Lord's Day is holy (first day of the week, Acts 20:7; Rev. 1:10; Mt. 28:1), all saints are priests (1 Pet. 2:5), song and prayers (not incense) are offered (Eph. 5:19; 6:18), and saints who are unfaithful to God face social exclusion from their brethren (1 Cor. 5:11).

Do you know people who try to keep the words of both Moses and Christ (teach Sabbath-keeping, offer incense, separate priesthood, etc.) or who ignore Christ's teachings about unfaithful saints? From the mount where Jesus was changed we learn to *Hear Him!*

Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. (Gal. 3:24-25 NKJV)

You are invited to:
Sunday AM Bible classes:
10:00AM
Sunday AM Worship:
10:45AM
Sunday PM Worship:
5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes
& Worship: 7:00 PM

The Transfiguration: *Peter Did Not Know What He Was Saying*

When Jesus was transfigured, Peter awoke to see Him talking to Moses and Elijah. Peter suggested building three tabernacles as a memorial, *not knowing what he was saying* (Lk. 9:33). His effort to honor Jesus would dishonor Jesus by equally honoring Moses and Elijah. Jesus is above *all*.

Many people today are sincere like Peter—wanting to honor good things, but they end up dishonoring good things. For example, God gave the Lord's Day as a memorial of Jesus' resurrection (Rev. 1:10; *the first day of the week* is the only day of significance for the church in the Bible). Today, many people have added "Christmas," "Easter," and other days as memorials and holy days "of the church." By making these man-made days equal to or above the Lord's Day, men "do not know what they are saying"---they too dishonor Jesus by putting man's ideas alongside God's. When any day is viewed as equally or more holy than the Lord's Day, man's ideas are elevated above God's, despite good motives.

Questions from this issue's articles:

1. What did the repenting criminal show he already knew about Jesus?
2. What evidence does Peter say we may examine today, to see the difference in myths and truth?
3. What does it mean to "Hear Him" today, when deciding how we will worship God?
4. Did Peter's sincerity cause Jesus to approve of his suggestion, to build three temples?

* Mail your answers to the church of Christ in Quail Valley 4104 E. Harrison St, Batesville, AR 72501 OR, e-mail your answers to **TruthAndReason@suddenlink.net**

* If you have a comment or question, call (793-6700; 569-4491) or visit our website **WWW.QVCOC.COM**

* All past and current issues of *Truth and Reason* are available at our website—tell a friend!