

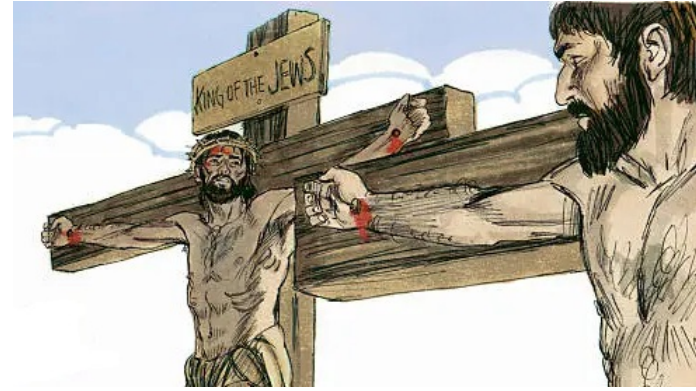
## THE THEOLOGY OF THE THIEF ON THE CROSS (Luke 23:39-43)

**What did the repentant criminal believe about sin, Jesus and salvation?**

- 1) **He believed that he was a sinner and deserved judgment:** "...the same condemnation, and we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds" (verses 40-41).
- 2) **He believed he was unable to save himself.** He was about to die and could not perform good works nor save himself in any other way.
- 3) **He believed that through the One on the center cross it was possible to be saved:** "Remember me" (v. 42).
- 4) **He believed that Christ was sinless:** "This Man hath done nothing amiss" (v. 41).
- 5) **He believed in the Lordship of Christ:** "Lord, remember me" (v. 42).
- 6) **He believed that Jesus was King:** "Remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom" (v. 42).
- 7) **He believed that Christ died as a Substitute.** He probably knew that Barabbas should have died on that center cross but Jesus took his place. He knew that Christ was sinless but believed that somehow He was able to provide salvation for a sinner like himself (compare 2 Cor. 5:21).
- 8) **He believed in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.** The thief knew that the Lord Jesus was dying and yet he believed that in the future Jesus would come into His kingdom and reign as King. This would only be possible if the dead Saviour would rise from the dead.

When Copernicus was facing death, he did not see himself as an astronomer, but as a sinner in need of forgiveness. He asked that this epitaph be inscribed on his gravestone: *Lord, I do not ask the kindness Thou didst show to Peter. I do not dare ask the grace Thou didst grant to Paul; but, Lord, the mercy Thou didst show to the dying robber, that mercy show to me. That earnestly I pray.*

George Zeller, [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)



## THE THEOLOGY OF THE THIEF ON THE CROSS (Luke 23:39-43)

**What did the repentant criminal believe about sin, Jesus and salvation?**

- 1) **He believed that he was a sinner and deserved judgment:** "...the same condemnation, and we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds" (verses 40-41).
- 2) **He believed he was unable to save himself.** He was about to die and could not perform good works nor save himself in any other way.
- 3) **He believed that through the One on the center cross it was possible to be saved:** "Remember me" (v. 42).
- 4) **He believed that Christ was sinless:** "This Man hath done nothing amiss" (v. 41).
- 5) **He believed in the Lordship of Christ:** "Lord, remember me" (v. 42).
- 6) **He believed that Jesus was King:** "Remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom" (v. 42).
- 7) **He believed that Christ died as a Substitute.** He probably knew that Barabbas should have died on that center cross but Jesus took his place. He knew that Christ was sinless but believed that somehow He was able to provide salvation for a sinner like himself (compare 2 Cor. 5:21).
- 8) **He believed in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.** The thief knew that the Lord Jesus was dying and yet he believed that in the future Jesus would come into His kingdom and reign as King. This would only be possible if the dead Saviour would rise from the dead.

When Copernicus was facing death, he did not see himself as an astronomer, but as a sinner in need of forgiveness. He asked that this epitaph be inscribed on his gravestone: *Lord, I do not ask the kindness Thou didst show to Peter. I do not dare ask the grace Thou didst grant to Paul; but, Lord, the mercy Thou didst show to the dying robber, that mercy show to me. That earnestly I pray.*

George Zeller, [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)