

The Thief on the Cross

Luke 23:39-43

Introduction: Does the confession of the thief on the cross mean that baptism is not for the remission of sins? Let's study this closely.

Notice The Thief Died When Law of Moses Still in Effect

Gal. 4:4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law

Mt. 5:17 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.

But a time is coming for a new law

Lk 24:44 Then He said to them, "These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me."

Jer. 31:31-34 Jer prophesied of new covenant with God's people

Notice The Thief Died under Law of Moses

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ

Gal. 3:23-29 Law was our tutor until Christ. When faith came we are no longer under a tutor.

Thief Died before Law nailed to cross

Ephesians 2:14-16 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity

Thief Possible Backslider

Mark 1:4-5 John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in Jordan River, confessing their sins Luke 7:29-30 And when all the people heard *Him*, even the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John. But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.

But what is the Purpose of the Law?

Gal. 3:19, 24 What purpose then *does* the law *serve*? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; *and it was* appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator...Therefore the law was our tutor *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Rom. 7:7 What shall we say then? *Is* the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet."

Illustration of Old Law and New Law as Testament or Marriage

Rom. 7:1-8 Illustration of marriage: "until death do we part"

Heb. 9:16-17 For where there *is* a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament *is* in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives.

Heb. 10:9-10 then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second. By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*.

Heb. 9:15-17 Where there is a testament, there must be the death of the testator

Heirs According to his will

Gal. 3:26-29, 4:7 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you *are* Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise... Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Example for seekers today Acts 2:36-41; 8:35-39