



Week 3 - “The Rescue and The Rewards”

Read the story of Jesus and the criminals who hung on the crosses next to him in **Luke 23:39-43**. What request did the second criminal make? Remember that this was a man whose crimes had been severe enough for him to be convicted and crucified. What does this reveal about who can enter into Paradise?

Read Acts 7:54-60. One of the similarities between Paradise and heaven is that we will encounter the presence of God in each place. We will experience his majesty and love with no veil between us. How does Stephen’s vision of Paradise support this claim? What excites you the most when you consider that future expansion of your relationship with God?

What (or who) are some of the sources of information that have formed your opinions about the rapture?



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Paul said to one congregation, “You, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like thief” (**1 Thessalonians 5:4**). In terms of biblical prophecy, the rapture *could happen at any moment*. How should that reality influence your day-to-day life and routines?

One of the premises of the Christian faith is that salvation is “not a result of works” (**Ephesians 2:9 ESV**). We cannot earn our way into heaven. Given this truth, what makes the judgment seat of Christ different from salvation being earned by works?

The judgment seat of Christ will be an opportunity for all believers to offer their crowns to Christ. What opportunities do you have right now to show glory, reverence, and honor to Jesus? What might that look like in your present life here on earth?

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