

Luke 23:43 *And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.*

Now we know that it is impossible for God to lie. So in consideration of this condemned thief hanging upon the cross at His side, the LORD Jesus reassured him by saying “*Verily*”, which means “*Truly*”..., “*it’s a sure thing*”..., “*I tell you the truth*”..., “*rest assured*”. This man knew that once he died, he would be condemned to eternal separation from God. So by beginning with “*Truly*”, Jesus put the thief’s fears to rest.

The LORD also made it personal with him by turning His head to face him and saying; “*I say unto thee*”. You see that is the way it is with the LORD, he makes personal relationships. Despite the billions of people in the earth, and the millions that have come to faith in Christ, He has the ability to establish personal relationships. *Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me* Revelation 3:20, now that’s personal, and that is what the LORD seeks with us all.

“*Today ....shalt thou be with me*”. The word of God states; (*For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*) 2 Corinthians 6:2.

When a man or woman, boy or girl out of a sincere heart confesses and put their trust in Christ, at that very instant they are sealed by the Holy Spirit of God. There is no waiting period, no probation time, instantly they have become part of the family and body of Christ. Jesus told him, “to day shalt thou be with me”, not in some lonely cold place wondering where you are; but in the divine presence of the LORD Almighty!

Not only did the LORD Jesus confirm constant fellowship with him by saying; “*shalt thou be with me*”, but He also confirmed, where he would be...In Paradise! Paradise is typically thought of as a lush garden thriving with life and flowing with abundance, peace, eternal joy and safety. Much like the Garden of Eden, where the man and the woman had everything that they needed supplied for them by God the Father. The scripture also mentions that Paul the Apostle experienced a visit to a place called Paradise, where he saw and heard things too wonderful to describe, 2 Corinthians 12:4. Also in Revelation 2:7 we read; *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.* So we see that when Jesus told the repentant thief that he would be in paradise, He was saying that he would be with God, in His very presence!

So is it with us today; we can have that same confidence, that same assurance knowing that the LORD is faithful, His words are true, He cannot lie! Just as the LORD Jesus was raised from the dead, that same Spirit shall quicken our mortal bodies so that we will be fashioned like unto his glorious body. There is more to life than this life, the Father promised eternal life to all that believe in the name of His Son...Jesus!