

*When the thief on the cross asks Jesus to remember him when He comes into His Kingdom and Jesus says today (which we don't know if it meant that day because of the punctuation) you will be with me in paradise, how is that not the future because Jesus' kingdom hadn't been established yet? That would be on the new earth and means a new Eden since Jesus is the second Adam. Also, why would Jesus need to reassure the thief if He would be with Him right after he died?*

Jesus spoke with a man on the cross (Lk 23:40–43). One thief rebuked another mocking thief (vv 40-41) and asked Jesus to remember him when he comes into his kingdom (v. 42). Jesus assured the man that he would be with him in paradise (v. 43).

The thief who was saved by grace through faith (Eph 2:8-9) now lives in an unseen world with Jesus which is called *paradise* or *Abraham's bosom* (Lk 16:23).

Jesus has gone to prepare a place (2 Co 12:4, Re 2:7) for those who love him (Jn 14:3). John 14 verse 3 does not refer to the Lord's coming to the earth with his saints to establish his kingdom (Re 19:11–15). Those who go in the rapture (1 Co 15:51–54; 1 Thess 4:13–18) will celebrate the marriage supper (Re 19:7–10) and be rewarded (1 Co 3:10–15; 4:5; 2 Co 5:9, 10). Later, they will return with Christ when he comes again to set up his kingdom (Re 19:11–20:6).

Jesus' statement to the justified thief helps to refute the false teachings (2 Pe 2:1) of works-based religions (Jud 11).