STATEMENTS FROM THE CROSS
Lesson #2 -With Me in Paradise

Introduction:
1. The thief on the cross is both beautiful and misunderstood.
2. We will examine two key lessons from the thief on the cross.

I. THE MEANING OF THE TEXT
   A. THE GUILT OF THE THIEF
      1. He admitted his guilt and just punishment -vs. 41
      2. He also mocked Jesus -Mt 27:44; Mk 15:32
   B. HIS CHANGE OF HEART
      1. Perhaps brought about by what he saw in Jesus
         a. He did not revile in return -1Pe 2:23
         b. He had a forgiving attitude -Lk 23:34
      2. He defended Jesus -Lk 23:40, 41
   C. THE PROMISE HE RECEIVED
      1. He would be with Jesus this day in Paradise
      2. Nature of Paradise
         a. It is a part of Hades (realm of the dead)
         b. It is not synonymous with heaven -Jn 20:17
         c. NOTE: Chart on back

II. THE MISUSE OF THE TEXT
   A. THE BELIEF AMONG MANY
      1. The thief believed in Jesus and was saved.
      2. Many conclude because NT baptism was not a part of his salvation, it is not a necessary part of our salvation today; faith is what matters.
   B. THE NATURE OF NT BAPTISM
      1. The gospel defined -1Co 15:1-4
      2. The gospel must be obeyed -2Th 1:7, 8
      3. How the gospel is obeyed -Ro 6:3, 4
   C. WAS THIS POSSIBLE FOR THE THIEF ON THE CROSS?
      1. Until the death of the Testator, there is no NT -He 9:16, 17
      2. Until the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus there was no gospel
      3. Until the preaching of the first gospel sermon, there was nothing known to be obeyed -Acts 2

Conclusion:
1. We are living under the NT today.
2. Therefore, we must have our faith in Christ and obey to gospel to be saved.

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