

THE ORTHODOX WEEKLY BULETIN VESTAL, CLIFFWOOD, NEW JERSEY

A MOST REMARKABLE CONVERT

During His earthly ministry, Jesus was given the task of making an unbeliever into a believer. People were challenged to come and follow the True light. Of course, there were CONVERTS from all walks of life. Among the rich was Joseph of Arimathea; among the religious was Nicodemus; among the rejected was the Samaritan woman at the well. There were so many, but perhaps the most remarkable convert may be the THIEF ON THE CROSS.

On that solemn day, the paths of THREE men met, for the purpose of their deaths. TWO were completely guilty; ONE was completely innocent. TWO were paying their debt to society; ONE was paying for our debt of sin. Our Saviour would be crucified for all of our sins. All the prophecies concerning Him had to be fulfilled. Everything converged at the Cross.

The one thief realizes that he is a sinner. He admits his guilt, see justice in his punishment and proclaims the righteousness of Christ. We are privileged to witness this remarkable revelation. He calls out 'LORD, REMEMBER ME WHEN YOU COME INTO YOUR KINGDON. This expresses the thief's belief that the Lord was King and that He would establish a Heavenly Kingdom. This enlightenment is even more amazing considering that he probably never saw a miracle or heard a sermon by Jesus.

Some would look at this criminal and think that his soul was too wicked to be saved. That is not the case with our forgiving Saviour. Jesus had time to win one more soul! He would make a remarkable promise. From this tortuous cross, Christ would proclaim

"TODAY, SHALT THOU BE WITH ME IN PARADISE."

Oh, the questions answered by this promise. We are assured of salvation by faith alone. Heaven is assured following the death of a believer.

What message does this last minute convert teach us? That any sinner can be saved by faith in Jesus. Don't wait one more moment to believe!