

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST: THE SECOND WORD

† Introductions and Prayer

† The Readings and Loose Ends

THE FIRST WORD “Sermon in a Sentence (ESS)”: **The basis of everything is found in the forgiveness of God.**

Acts 7:54–60 (Stephen)

† THE SECOND WORD: “*Today you will be with me in paradise.*” (Luke 23:39–43)

† Vocabulary, Questions, Notes

- a. Why would we think God owes us a life beyond the one we have presently?
- b. Pre-OT, OT and NT Conceptions of **Paradise** and the Abode of the Dead
 1. Paradise/Eden/Park | | Sheol/Grave/Pit/Abyss (fullness of life vs. a “shadow of your former self”)
 2. Genesis 37:31–36 (Jacob upon thinking Joseph is dead)
 3. Job 33; Psalm 30, 88 (
 4. Luke 23:43; 2 Corinthians 12:4; Revelation 2:7 (*parádeisos*)
 5. 2 Corinthians 5:6–8 (“away from the body and at home with the Lord”)
 6. Luke 16:23 (Parable of Abraham, Lazarus and the Rich Man)
 7. Philippians 1:21–26 (“living is Christ, dying is gain”)
 8. Revelation 21:1–22:7 (God’s intentions for Eden finally bring what is true in heaven home to earth, now redeemed.)
 9. Jesus and *hádēs*: Romans 10:7; Acts 2:27; 1 Peter 3:19–20 (| | Job 33; Psalm 30, 88)
- c. What does it mean to be remembered by God? Can you imagine yourself saying to Jesus, “**Remember me**”? Have you? When?
- d. The key is the presence of God in the life of the believer and the believing community.

† Questions (Mattison, p. 27)

† Prayers at the Cross and Reading the 23rd Psalm

PSALM 23/THE MESSAGE

GOD, my shepherd! I don’t

need a thing.

You have set me down in

lush meadows, you find me
quiet pools to drink from.
True to your word, you let
me catch my breath and
send me in the right
direction.
Even when the way goes
through Death Valley,
I'm not afraid when you
walk at my side.
Your trusty shepherd's
crook makes me feel secure.
You serve me a six-course
dinner right in front of my
enemies.
You revive my drooping
head; my cup brims with
blessing.
Your beauty and love chase
after me every day of my
life.
I'm back home in the
house of GOD for the rest
of my life.

AMEN.

ESS: The abiding presence of Christ makes possible the life we live now and in eternity.

