



## death by love

### 5. The Sound of Grace

Luke 23:43

- 3 men dying, 3 men speak, 3 men teach about the greatest gift

#### 1. The easiest mistake in the world – v39

- How not to get the greatest gift. 2 reasons:

##### a) He lets a pressing present need dominate his thinking

##### b) He wants God to fit into his ideas

- “You don’t want God, you want a divine personal assistant” Tim Keller
- He makes Jesus’ performance a criteria for believing in him

#### 2. The hardest admission in the world – v41,42

- How to get the greatest gift. 3 strands:

##### a) I’m guilty

- He saw his guilt, and the justice of the punishment
- He was a rebel – just like us. 2 ways to throw off God’s authority – by being bad, or by being good – which are you?

##### b) God doesn’t owe me

- People always cry out to God in trouble for help – but little change
- Think that God owes them – hardest admission – God doesn’t

##### c) I can’t do it – Jesus has to do it all

- Thief has come to end of himself
- He wants to fit in with what Jesus is doing, rather than have Jesus fit into what he wants
- He has a humble courageous faith that Jesus can do something

#### 3. The greatest gift in the world – v43

- Grace – the staggering gift of God’s mercy to the undeserving

##### a) The Greatest – because it is for anyone

- He is a no-name nobody – but God is going to remember him
- But not for everyone (automatically) – the other thief misses out

##### b) The Greatest – because no sin is too big

- A murdered with his last gasp is forgiven
- You can’t be too bad for God—but you can be too good

##### c) The Greatest – because it’s free to us

- Thief has no time to earn his way into God’s good books
- The one beside him is doing all the paying

##### d) The Greatest – because it provides certain hope

- “Today you will...” - Certainty is possible because it is all based on Jesus’ performance no ours

##### e) The Greatest – because it gives the best

- Not just “in Paradise” but “with me” - with the greatest being ever
- Today – a certainty. The only day we have to make certain about eternity



n e w l i f e f e l l o w s h i p

S E R V I N G J E S U S C H R I S T T H E K I N G

www.newlifefellowship.ie - part of the reformed presbyterian church of ireland

Sabbath 18th January 09

### Notices

Sab 18 <sup>th</sup>	Evening service at Milford Communion Thanksgiving Service - “It is Finished” - John 19:30	8pm
Tue	Bible Study @ Mark & Judith’s	8pm
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting of those interested in going on August GO Relief trip to Romania Cloughmills RP Church @ 3.00pm Deposit of £100 required to book aircraft seats	
6-8 Feb	Adult Conference - Portrush Theme - Developing a Vision for Mission - Rev Warren Peel Application forms available	

Application forms for the Summer missions (GO) teams are available.

If you would like to receive bible reading notes for this year there is a sign up sheet for Let’s worship God (Airdrie RP Church’s own reading notes). Also some sample copies.

### Christianity Explored

A 6-week course designed to let you find out the facts about Jesus, or to refresh your memory, and to find answers to your questions about Jesus, the Bible or Christianity.

- You don’t need to know anything about the Bible
- You won’t be asked to read, pray or answer questions
- You will be given every opportunity to ask your own questions

If you’re interested in finding out more, or having one in your home for friends to come to - speak to Mark

Sabbath 25th - The Cries from the Cross - Luke 23, John 19

Opening Psalm: 92A:4-6

Pastor: Mark Loughridge Tel: 074 9123961 email: mark@newlifefellowship.ie

Oversight elders: Graham Fallows 048 7130 1641 William Lynch 048 7139 8002