



[Understanding the Christ](#)

## **Episode 34 - This Day in Paradise: The Thief, the Cross, and the Sixth Day Part 2**

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Host Scott Stanley of DTG Ministries walks listeners through a provocative, scripture-driven exploration of what it means to 'understand the Christ.' Drawing on Luke 23, Genesis, Revelation, Proverbs, and Hebrews, this episode builds on a previous videocast about the thief on the cross and unpacks why Jesus' promise — "this day you shall be with me in paradise" — is a declaration about spiritual timing and the believer's journey.

Topics covered include the distinction between "this day" and "today," the spiritual meaning of Paradise and the Garden of Eden, the Tree of Life, and the role of the cherubim (the two messengers) guarding the way to God's understanding. Scott reframes the seven days of creation as seven spiritual steps believers pass through on the road to being made in God's image, arguing we are now in the sixth day, where resurrection and transformation begin.

Key points emphasized: God is love (not an eternally angry deity), the true purpose of the cross as the source of God's wisdom and understanding, how overcoming spiritual lies grants access to the tree of life, and the necessity of confronting church teachings that foster guilt and condemnation. Scott explains how the thief's confession —

recognizing Jesus as Son of God and believing in the resurrection — allowed him to pass the spiritual guardians and gain a right to the deeper revelation of the cross.

This episode is aimed at seekers desiring a deeper theological understanding and practical freedom from iniquity. Scott encourages listeners to review the prior videocast on the thief on the cross for background, and promises further scriptural unpacking in future episodes to show how the cross redeems misunderstanding and leads believers into God's restorative paradise.

Modified Transcript:

Scriptures are transcribed directly with notations. Refer to KJV for verbatim wording.

Hi, I'm Scott Stanley, DTG Ministries. Understanding the Christ is what this videocast is about... coming to a deeper understanding of Jesus Christ and what he is doing for us. The Lord has recently been revealing some of the deepest truths, the most glorious mysteries of the gospel, that I want to explore, but we can't do it without more background. We can't get into the very deep things of God, except we understand some of the basic things.

In my last videocast, I was talking about the thief on the cross, and I made the statement that the next video, which is this one, would be a part two to that. Listen, I know the things I'm sharing are challenging. It is contradictory to what every church teaches, but these things are essential if you're going to reach that place of overcoming all iniquity, which is why Christ died - that we might overcome all iniquity, be set free from iniquity, and overcome sin.

This is not a pipe dream. This is the gospel. Because the world is in such darkness today, I'm not going to say you're risking your life to believe something different. But I think the day will come, you will be risking your life to challenge these churches because they are in deep apostasy, and they don't know it. Unless they begin to realize something isn't right in their life, they're never going to ask, "Why aren't things right in my life? How come I can't overcome sin? What is happening?"

So I'm trying to give people answers, people who are awake, people who are seeking a deeper understanding of God. In the last videocast, I pointed out how the thief on the

cross believed Jesus was the Son of God. If you haven't listened to that videocast, please go back and listen to it before you get into this one, because I'm just simply building on the truth, the truth that God has already given us.

When the thief said to Jesus, *"Remember me when you come into your kingdom,"* Jesus made a statement to him, and let me just put this on the screen. It's found in Luke 23:43.

Luk 23:43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto you, To day, shall you be with me in paradise.

Now, look at the word "today." That isn't how you spell "today." There's no space in the word "today." What he is actually saying is, *"This day shall you be with me in paradise."* First of all, what does he mean when he says paradise? Well, this is mentioned in Revelation, chapter 2, to the Church of Ephesus, verse 7.

Rev 2:7 He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To him that overcomes, will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

First of all, please notice that this letter, every letter, every one of the seven letters, is given to the churches, plural. It goes to all of them, because what you're seeing, *"To the seven churches,"* these seven churches are steps each believer goes through to get to the place where they ascend out of Laodicea into the truth of God.

Rev 4:1 ... I heard a voice as of a trumpet saying, Come up here. Let me show you things which must be after this.

What comes after this? Well, you've got to overcome. To every church, he says, *"To him that overcomes."* When you overcome the seven churches, you have reached a point where you realize a specific, certain truth about God - that God is not angry with you. There is no such thing as the angry God as the churches teach. There is no God who is going to pitch you alive into a flaming hell where you're going to burn and burn and burn forever.

You've got to understand that God is love (1Jn 4:8, 16). Love does not make a record of sin (1Co 13:5). So what you're reading in Revelation 20 about the lake of fire, the things that you're seeing in there, have a different meaning than what we've been taught. I'm not saying there is no lake of fire. What I'm saying to you is it isn't what you were told it is. For you to overcome, as told in the seven churches, you've got to conclude that God is not angry. God has never condemned you; the condemnation comes from yourself as you sin, believing God is making that record.

You have a record in your mind of what you have done to people, and it creates guilt. And what they have done to you creates anger and bitterness. Those are the things that need to be changed. To get them changed, you've got to enter into the paradise of God. You've got to overcome this lie about the Father. It's an abomination that will leave you empty if you think he's the angry God. If that's what you think, you're drinking the wine of their fornication. You're drinking the wine of the wrath of their fornication (Rev 14:8). They teach the wrath of God.

I'm saying even his wrath is not something you've ever been taught accurately. So you've got to overcome to enter into the paradise of God. Jesus tells the thief on the cross, not "Today you'll be with me in paradise," but "*This day, you will be with me in paradise.*" What's the difference? Bear with me. Bear with me and think through what I'm telling you.

When we look at Genesis Chapter 1, we're looking at Creation Week. But we are not looking at the creation of the universe. We are looking at the creation of the church. Genesis chapter 1 gives you six steps that we all pass through to reach the place where, on the sixth step, God can make you in his image. In the seventh step, God can rest.

How do I know that's true? How do I know that isn't literal? Because the Apostle Paul said in Hebrews chapter 2, that the "sixth day" when God makes you in his image, it hasn't happened yet. He has not put all things under your feet yet (Heb 2:8). When he does that, when he is able to achieve that, to put all iniquity under your feet, he can rest, entering the seventh step or the seventh day.

By the way, looking at the days of creation, he will tell a believer he created the heavens and earth, and the earth was without form and void. In literal creation, God did not

create an earth without form and void. In spiritual creation, he says that he founded your earth. Remember, the heavens, earth, and sea are levels of understanding. The heavens equal God's understanding. The earth is what you have devised yourself, and the sea is what you've gotten from the world.

In Psalm 24:2, he says, *"I founded the earth with the sea."* The sea is what the world believes. I, for one, when I was 28 years old, gave my heart to the Lord, and I had a conversion experience. Up until that time, the only thing I knew about God was what I had been told. Where did I hear it? From every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. I had not read the Bible, seeking God on my knees to help me understand it. Everything I knew was what I had been told, and I'll guarantee you, you are no different than me.

He founded your earthly understanding with the sea. So, you come to a place where the earth is without form and void, it's empty. It knows nothing about God. And God will speak, *"Let there be light."* God is light. When that light comes, God is able to divide the light from the darkness in your mind. You come to the reality that God thinks one thing, man thinks another. There is a light, and there's a dark. Then he separates the water from the water.

Remember, water is understanding. You have heavenly water and earthly water. Heavenly water, you think of rain coming down. God's word is like the rain. But earthly water is the sea. You can't live on seawater, on the understanding of the world. So you're able to separate water from water. Then he moves the sea off the earth. Now, for the first time, you realize there is the world's thinking, and I don't want that. Now you have the earth, and God is able to plant seeds in the earth. You can't plant seeds in the earth when it's covered with the sea.

But it's on the fourth day that he puts the sun, the moon, and the stars in your heavens, in God's understanding, you begin to see it as God does. Then, everything in the sea that you still have, all these things you've been taught, begin to have life because he begins to redeem those things. He doesn't take it away. All of the things you've been taught about God, about Satan, heaven, hell, all of these things, he will redeem them. This is why Jesus died to redeem us from all iniquity, all twisted thinking (Tit 2:14), so that on the sixth day he can make you in his image.

On the sixth day, he can put all things under your feet and begin that process. That is the day we are in now - the sixth day. This is what Jesus is referring to, responding to the thief on the cross. *"This day, you'll be with me in paradise."* This day was Friday. Friday is the sixth day. That thief will be raised from the dead. Everybody who dies in Christ will be raised from the dead and enter into that process of being made in the image of Jesus Christ.

Now, there are many scriptures that I could read to prove to you what I'm saying. As we continue getting deeper into understanding the Christ, I plan on touching on those things and showing you the truth of this. But right now, we're looking at paradise. *This day, he'll be with me in paradise.* This day is the sixth day. What about paradise?

Well, we just read. the tree of life is in the paradise of God. Let's touch, for a second, on the tree of life. Reading from Proverbs chapter 3, verse 13,

Pro 3:13 Happy is the man that finds wisdom, and the man that getteth (or draws out) understanding.

Wisdom always points to the cross. This word "understanding is [8394] in a Strong's Concordance, and it's "God's understanding." It's having the ability to devise a plan, but also to carry it out. God is the one who can do that.

Pro 3:13 Happy is the man that finds wisdom, and draws out God's understanding (H8394).

Pro 3:14 The merchandise of that (of wisdom and understanding), is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain than fine gold.

Pro 3:15 She's more precious than rubies: and all the things you can desire are not to be compared to her.

Pro 3:16 Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and (glory or) honor.

Pro 3:17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

Pro 3:18 She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retains her.

Speaking spiritually, what he is saying is that having God's understanding of the cross, you get wisdom... you're able to draw out God's understanding from the cross, from that wisdom. This is the tree of life. Now, there's a catch to this. Turn to Genesis, chapter 3, starting at verse 22.

Gen 3:22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man has become as one of us, to know good and evil: now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever:

Gen 3:23 The LORD God sent him forth out of the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

Gen 3:24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden, Cherubim, and a flaming sword which turns every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

What's the Garden of Eden? Well, that would be paradise. This is where the tree of life is. The Garden of Eden is the Garden of God; it is the mind of God (Eze 28:13). How are you going to get into the Garden of Eden so you can eat of the tree of life? Why would he say, "If you overcome ... *to him that overcomes, you have right to the tree of life in the paradise of God*" (Rev 2:7)? Why would he tell the thief on the cross, "*This day, the sixth day, you'll be with me in paradise*"? We're speaking spiritually.

Two cherubim protect the way to the tree of life or the understanding of the cross as God understands it. You've got to get past the cherubim. What are they? It's what we pointed out in the last videocast. The thief on the cross recognized Jesus as the Son of God and also believed Jesus would be raised from the dead. Hence, as the prophets pointed out, this is the Branch and the Priest. Those are the two cherubim, the two messengers.

The word of God is as a flaming sword. It protects that. The two cherubim use that sword to protect the way to the tree of life. That thief, by making that confession, "*You've done nothing wrong. Remember me when you come into your kingdom...*" he had just gotten past the cherubim. And when he's raised from the dead, he will have the right to be told and explained the cross and how God sees it.

Do you understand what I'm saying? None of this in Genesis is literal. It's spiritual. The thief on the cross recognized the Priest... *"You'll be raised from the dead."* He recognized the Son of God. Was he thinking in his mind, "Oh, that's the Branch and the Priest"? No. He didn't have to. Jesus realized the man believed he was the Son of God and that he would be raised from the dead.

What does it mean? He has a right to an explanation of the cross and what it means. It is the cross, the meaning of the cross, that will give you power over all iniquity in your life. The thief on the cross had gotten beyond the cherubim. The thief on the cross will be raised from the dead and have a right to the tree of life, just like we are searching for that right to the tree of life.

But except you overcome, you'll never get there. It begins with understanding that God is love and he has never made a record of your sin, and he has sent his only begotten Son as a sacrifice given to us that we might see the true nature of God... that we might realize the love God has for all of humanity. But he's letting humanity make their decision concerning him

If you believe the scripture, then you're going to begin to see God differently. On the cross, Jesus portrayed the understanding that God has of humanity. It's called the Holy Spirit. And you can draw out from that cross God's understanding, go past the cherubim, enter into the paradise of God, and freely eat from the tree of life.

In essence, that is what this ministry is for: to bring us to that point that we overcome this angry God abomination, get a better understanding of the cross, and be free from all iniquity.