

Are You Between Two Thieves?

Pastor Greg Formey



Fulton Oursler once powerfully said, “Many of us crucify ourselves between two thieves - regret for the past and fear of the future.” This powerful thought is arresting. It is not some bloodthirsty mob that drags us against our wills, but we do it to ourselves! We realize that after sin comes guilt, and if not dealt with properly, self-condemnation follows.

-The first thief is the regret of the past.

This unfortunate reality need not be true for you. If you are wrestling with discouragement and shame, there is wonderful news. God wants you to live under the power of an amazing truth - a truth that the apostle Paul realized under inspiration of the Holy Spirit. “So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you

belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.” (Romans 8:1-2 NLT)

You see, when you are going through discouragement and shame, it is always in one of three areas. You are either haunted by something in the past, anxious about something in the future, or weighed down by something presently.

- Romans 8:1 declares there is no condemnation concerning the past.
- Romans 8:38-39 promise that there can be no separation from God’s love in the future.
- Romans 8:28 states that all things are working together for good in the present.

These truths were first revealed by Jesus Himself in the Gospels. To a woman taken in the act of adultery, He said, “Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?” “No, Lord,” she said. And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.” (John 8:10-11-NLT)

The second thief is the fear of the future.

Many of us have a dread of the unknown. A five-year-old kid was in the kitchen as his mother made supper. She asked him to go into the pantry and get her a can of tomato soup, but he didn’t want to go in alone. “It’s dark in there and I’m scared.” She asked again, and he persisted. Finally she said, “It’s OK - Jesus will be in there with you.” The boy walked hesitantly to the door, slowly opened it and said, “Jesus, if you’re in there, would you hand me that can of tomato soup?”

When it gets down to it, fear is nothing more than no confidence in God’s provision. Paul, however, boldly declares, “But my God shall supply all

your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” (Phillippians 4:19)

He further declares, “...this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” (Phillippians 3:13b-14)

Do you believe that God will forgive you? Do you believe that God will provide for you? Then, come down from that cross.