

Privileged To Serve In Public Worship

Announcements: Ron Davis

Scripture Reading: AM- Adam Dyer PM-Chandler Osborne

Song Leader: Doug Guinn

Opening Prayer: AM- Tom Trull PM- Jess Leonard

Closing Prayer: AM- Brad Trull PM- Tyler Thomas

To Serve Communion: Bob Patterson Seth Bolstad
Scott Samford Terry Littlejohn
Larry Clamon John Dyer

Sermons: Anthony Scherffius

AM- "How to Raise a Daniel"

PM- "Walking in Christ"- Ephesians 5

Sound: Jim Gammon

Greet Visitors: Kevin McCarley

Count Contribution: Ron Davis Lawson Lovelady

Attendance Cards: Levi Dyer Hayden Dyer

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**Wednesday, June 17, 2026**

Scripture Reading: Aiden Morton /II Corinthians 7:13-16

Devotional: Jim Gammon

Bible Class: Anthony Scherffius  
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Records for week of June 7, 2026:

Attendance: Bible Class: 89 Worship PM: 77
Worship AM: 131 Wed 6/3: 76

Contribution: \$7496



June 14, 2026

Mabank Church of Christ

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Elders: Doug Guinn, Chris Lowry, Robert Osborne

Deacons: Seth Bolstad, Jim Gammon, Terry Littlejohn, Charlie Thomas,
Tyler Thomas, Tom Trull

Preacher: Anthony Scherffius

Bible Study & Worship

Sundays: Bible Class 9:00am
Worship 10:00am
Worship 5:00pm

Wednesdays: Bible Class 7:00

THE THIEF ON THE CROSS

By Anthony Scherffius

(Matthew 27:38-44; Luke 23:39-43)

The thief on the cross is one of the most famous accounts when considering salvation and the grace of God, and unfortunately it is also one of the most abused texts on this topic. Whenever I hear about the thief on the cross, I am reminded of the old idiom: "Do not miss the forest through trees." It seems like we can get hung up on certain aspects of the thief on the cross that we miss the big picture. Sadly, in the "religious world," it seems the thief on the cross is being used by two groups of people to prove "their points" of what it means to be saved, when really we should stop and look at what the Bible says and how God uses him.

Some groups will say the thief on the cross proves that one does not need baptism or "works" to be saved but rather faith alone. Others try to completely remove him from the equation of the new covenant saying he was solely the old covenant, under a different time, and therefore not relevant to us. Both are false. We focus so much on the technical that we miss the practical. Do not misunderstand me; there is a discussion to be had concerning the question: "If he was not baptized, how then was he saved?" We will discuss that. However, let us not miss the big picture. What can we learn from the thief? More appropriately, what is it that God *wants us* to learn? After all, He inspired the Gospel penmen to record this account for us. Let's look at some assertions that originate with the thief.

1. Like the Thief, I Will Be Saved without Merit — This is a very misunderstood point. Some use it to teach that you need not do anything for your salvation. It is true that we cannot do anything to "earn" our salvation. The thief certainly did not live in such a way where

he could say he proved himself to be righteous and deserved to be paradise. No one can say that, for there are none that are righteous; all have sinned (Rom. 3:10, 23). However, that does not mean we do not need to participate in any work of obedience (belief, repentance, confession, baptism, etc.). There are three reasons why the thief did not need baptism: **1)** He was under the Mosaic Law. **2)** Jesus had power on earth to forgive sins. **3)** The church (kingdom) was not established, so to what would he have been added? The thief asks Jesus to remember him when He "comes into His Kingdom." The whole point of this text is not to prove baptism is not needed; quite the opposite in fact. It shows that we should desire to be where Jesus is and realize we need Him and His forgiveness in order to get into His Kingdom.

2. Like the Thief, I Will Be Saved by Faith — The thief had an understanding of who Jesus was and that He had the power and authority to forgive sins. He understood Jesus was the perfect Son of God. His statements showed this. In the same way for Abraham and Rahab, (because of faith) it would be accounted to him as righteousness. It was not their *works of the Law* that saved, but rather God's grace through the system of faith (Rom. 4:22; Gal. 3:6-9; Eph.2:8, 9; Heb. 11:8-10). Because of their faith conjoined with *works of obedience*, they received forgiveness.

3. Like the Thief, I Will Have Every Opportunity As Long As I Live — The thief is a perfect example of what Jesus talks about in Matthew 20:1-16. There were many workers that were hired. Some were hired early, others in the last hour of the day. All workers got paid by the vineyard master. As long as they were hired and accepted by the Master, they received the promised reward. The thief was accepted because of his faith in and forgiveness from Jesus. Although it was

at the end of his life, He still had a chance to be saved.

4. Like the Thief, If I confess sins and Jesus Before Men, I Can Be Accepted with God — The thief humbled himself and confessed that he was a sinner, deserving of death, and that Christ was the Son of God. Jesus accepts his request to be forgiven because of what is said in 1 John 1:9 - "*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*"

What can we learn from this text? It's the same we learn from the examples of faith in Hebrews 11 and from any others who were accepted by God: It does not matter how bad our life has been or even at what point in our life we decide to come to Christ; if we have confidence built on evidence that leads us to obedience, it will be accounted to us as righteousness. All we need to do is be obedient to Jesus the Christ and have faith that He will fulfill His end of the promise.

Remember in Prayer

Alan Haack will have knee replacement on 6/12.

Loree Mixon received a good report about her recent echocardiogram.

Rex Parker completed 6 rounds of treatment and will have surgery June 22nd.

Roger Elam will have surgery to remove his eye on June 26th.

Louis Thomas is scheduled for a bone marrow biopsy Friday, June 12th.

Donna Roberts, sister of Bobbi Guinn, is in Methodist hospital with kidney stones and kidney infection.



Remember Also:

Archie & Nancy Underwood,
Joy Tull, Chris Calvin,
Luanne Patterson, Scott Koeler,
Trinity McCarley, Donald Johnson
Jr., Charlotte Baune, Sharon
McMillan, Steven Coates
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IMPORTANT DATES

June 14- NH Worship Svc./2:00
June 21- Elder/Deacon Mtg./4:00
June 22-26- Family Bible School
June 25- NH Birthday Party/2:00
June 28- Last class of quarter
July 1- Singing Night
July 5- Bible Class Promotion
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FAMILY BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 22-26

**"God Wants You
To Know About..."**

Time: 7:00-8:15

**Please pick up a flyer to share
with others! Yard signs will be
available soon!**
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Devotional

**June 14th after evening
svcs./annex building**

Girls- bring chips

Boys- bring drinks

Hosted by Anlene Odom



If you would like to contribute \$\$
for Family Bible School snacks,
please give to Marie Osborne or
Jennifer Graham.