



# I Deserve Death, But He Gave Me Life

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## 1. We are all guilty of breaking God's laws

*For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God's laws.*

**James 2:10 NLT**

*For the wages of sin is death...*

**Romans 6:23 NLT**

## 2. Two criminals

- **Criminal #1: Defiant, not sorry**
- **Criminal #2: Humble, repentant**
- **Criminal #2: Deserved death, but Jesus gave him life**

<sup>32</sup> Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him. <sup>33</sup> When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified—one on his right and one on his left... <sup>39</sup> One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, "So you're the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you're at it!" <sup>40</sup> But the other criminal protested, "Don't you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die?"

<sup>41</sup> We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn't done anything wrong." <sup>42</sup> Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." <sup>43</sup> And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise."

**Luke 23:32-33, 39-43 NLT**

<sup>8</sup> God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. <sup>9</sup> Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. **Ephesians 2:8-9 NLT**

<sup>10</sup> He does not punish us for all our sins, he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve. <sup>11</sup> For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. <sup>12</sup> He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west. **Psalms 103:10-12 NLT**

*All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead.* **1 Peter 1:3 NLT**

## Next Steps:

- ☐ Re-read today's Bible story and verses
- ☐ Confess that I am a sinner who deserves the penalty of death, but rejoice that I found life
- ☐ Stop trying to earn my way back to God and receive his gift of forgiveness and life
- ☐ Give God praise and thanks that he doesn't give me what I deserve
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_