

HOW DO YOU REGARD CALVARY?

Luke 23:13-24, 32-33

INTRODUCTION:

[Text]: (NASB) (13) "And Pilate summoned the chief priests and the rulers and the people, (14) and said to them, "You brought this man to me as one who incites the people to rebellion, and behold, having examined Him before you, I have found no guilt in this man regarding the charges which you make against Him. (15) "No, nor has Herod, for he sent Him back to us; and behold, nothing deserving death has been done by Him. (16) "I will therefore punish Him and release Him." (17) [Now he was obliged to release to them at the feast one prisoner.] (18) But they cried out all together, saying, "Away with this man, and release for us Barabbas!" (19) (He was one who had been thrown into prison for a certain insurrection made in the city, and for murder.) (20) And Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again, (21) but they kept on calling out, saying, "Crucify, crucify Him!" (22) And he said to them the third time, "Why, what evil has this man done? I have found in Him no guilt demanding death; I will therefore punish Him and release Him." (23) But they were insistent, with loud voices asking that He be crucified. And their voices began to prevail. (24) And Pilate pronounced sentence that their demand should be granted." (NKJV) (32)"There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death. (33) And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left."

Calvary. Golgotha. The place of a skull. Three possible reasons for such a name for the place where Jesus was crucified have been suggested: because skulls were found there; because it was a place of execution; or because the site in some way resembled a skull. All we know from scripture is that it was outside Jerusalem, fairly conspicuous, probably not far from a city gate and a highway, and that a garden containing a tomb lay near by. But, what scenes this little hill NW of Jerusalem had witnessed! And, since it was a place where criminals were commonly executed, the road to golgotha was like the last mile in the death house of our prisons today!

I. BUT THE CRUCIFIXION OF CHRIST IS WHAT CAUSES CALVARY TO BE REMEMBERED IN OUR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY TODAY!

A. Most of us would recall little else that ever happened there.

1. But as the place where Jesus was hanged to shed His blood and take away the sins of the world, suspended between heaven and earth, we see it as a place of torment, suffering, pain and death.
2. It is the place where the most scandalous, degrading and disgraceful death of all time was sustained!
3. So, by METONYMY, "Calvary" stands for WHAT HAPPENED ON THAT LITTLE HILL OUTSIDE JERUSALEM!

B. A description of the death scene that transpired there causes horrified disgust and frightening alarm in the tender and compassionate hearts of all Christians!

1. Jesus was scourged, His brow was crowned with thorns, and He knew the degradation of His tormentors spitting upon Him. Isa.53:3-12: "He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face, He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. (4) Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. (5) But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.. (7) He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth;. (8) By oppression and judgment He was taken away; And as for His generation, who considered That He was cut off out of the land of the living, For the transgression of my people to whom the stroke was due? (9) His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth. (10) the LORD was pleased To crush Him, putting Him to grief;. (11) My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities. (12) He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors."
2. Part of the pain and punishment was the death march in which He was compelled to bear His own cross. Jno.19:17- "They took Jesus therefore, and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha."
3. He was stretched out over the cross and nails were driven through His hands and feet, then the implement of torture was raised, with its living, human sacrifice, and dropped into the hole prepared for it, that He might die there, hanging between two thieves!
4. But before death could free Him, they continued to taunt and mock Him as He hung there, in reach of every hand to be raised against Him. Matt.27:39, 43- "And those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their

heads,"(43) "HE TRUSTS IN GOD; LET HIM DELIVER Him now, IF HE TAKES PLEASURE IN HIM; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.'"

5. There, on that **tool of tribulation**, He cried out for Divine help and human aid. **Jno.19:28-** "After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I am thirsty." **Mark 15:34-** "And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME?"
6. And then, from the 6th hour to the 9th hour, the whole earth was veiled in darkness. **Matt.27:45-** "Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour."

II. OUR QUESTION RIGHT NOW: "HOW DO YOU REGARD ALL THIS?"

- A. Are you among those who think that **IT WAS ALL UNNECESSARY?**
 1. There are just MANY religious folks, and LEADERS, who believe God really went too far, that Jesus didn't have to DIE, that people can be saved WITHOUT BLOOD or a sacrificial DEATH! **Heb.9:22-** "And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness"
 2. Or, would you dare to suggest, as some do: "**MY SINS ARE NOT REALLY BAD ENOUGH TO NEED JESUS DEATH ON THE CROSS FOR MY FORGIVENESS**". **Heb.10:4-** "For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins." **Jno.8:21-** "If you die in your sins..."
 3. Or, do you believe that God OWES us salvation because: "**I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A GOOD MORAL PERSON!**" **Acts 10; 23:1.**
 4. Have you even considered the idea: "**REAL SINNERS NEED THE BENEFITS OF CALVARY, NOT I?**"
- B. Perhaps you, as many others, are just **INDIFFERENT** about it all?
 1. There are many in our society who act like they just simply don't care that the Lord was crucified!
 2. The greater masses about us are **LIVING LIKE THEY'LL NEVER DIE & PREPARING FOR ETERNITY AS IF IT WILL NEVER BE!**
- C. There are many who **CONSIDER CALVARY** in ways that are **CONTRARY TO** or in **VIOLATION OF** what **Divine Revelation** says about it and **claims** for it!
 1. There are 1000's of different religious groups, and thus, 1000's of different ways to regard Calvary.
 2. The denomination and sectarian religious doctrines of how to obtain the benefits of Calvary are not in keeping with the teachings of the Lord and, as a result, are inadequate for the very purposes they seek to serve! cf. **2 Jno.9-11; Gal.1:8-9.**
 3. The Bible **CLEARLY** points out and we must **CLEARLY UNDERSTAND** that in order to appease the conditions of God for our forgiveness, we must yield to HIS WILL and not try to substitute our own! cf. **Prov.14:12.**
 4. The EXCLUSIVENESS of God's family, the Body of Christ, His CHURCH, should preempt the importance of any other body or religious group in our thinking! cf. **Matt.16:18; 1 Cor.12:13; Eph.4:4; Acts 4:12.**
 5. ANYBODY or ANYTHING who would promote a different religious body than Christ's just cannot be acceptable in the sight of God! **1 Cor.3:11; Psa.127:1; Matt.15:13.**

III. HEAVEN REGARDED CALVARY AS THE ONLY SOLUTION FOR SIN!

- A. First, because God recognized sin for what it actually is.
 1. A lot of people seem to think sin is bad only as it affects our physical bodies.
 2. GOD sees the effect of sin on the spirit!
 - a) WE are not able to do enough good to ERASE A SINGLE SIN! **Jer.10:23.**
 - b) So if MAN can't help himself, we need GOD to HELP US get free from the grasp of sin!
 - c) God has the **ONLY REMEDY** for man to obtain **FORGIVENESS OF SINS!**
- B. GOD'S REMEDY is unfolded in His eternal plan for man's redemption! **1 Pet.1:18-19:** "For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, (19) but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect."
 1. This is because God had promised to bless all nations through the seed of Abraham! **Gen.22:15-18-** "Then the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, (16) and said, "By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son, (17) indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. (18) "**And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.**"

2. This promise by God to Abraham involved the Son of God: **JESUS CHRIST!** **Isa.7:14-** “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.” **Isa.9:6-7-** “For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. (7) There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.” **Gal.3:16.**
3. This Son of God, JESUS CHRIST, was to reconcile those who had become enemies **BACK TO GOD!** **Isa.11:6-7-** “And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, And the leopard will lie down with the kid, And the calf and the young lion and the faling together; And a little boy will lead them. (7) Also the cow and the bear will graze; Their young will lie down together; And the lion will eat straw like the ox.”
4. **ALL OF THESE PROPHECIES AND PROMISES were fulfilled in Christ!** **Eph.2:11-18;** **2 Cor.3:12-14-** “Having therefore such a hope, we use great boldness in our speech, (13) and are not as Moses, who used to put a veil over his face that the sons of Israel might not look intently at the end of what was fading away. (14) But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ.”
5. Also, Christ DIED to establish the NEW ORDER OF THINGS that had been planned by God! **Heb.9:16-17-** “For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it. (17) For a covenant is valid only when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives.” **Heb.10:9-10-** “then He said, “BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO THY WILL.” He takes away the first in order to establish the second. (10) By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” **Heb.8:6;** **Acts 20:28.**
6. When Jesus died it was for the effective purpose of purchasing His Church. **Acts 20:28;** **Eph.5:25ff.**
7. When Jesus died it was for the espress purpose of reconciling man to God. **Isa.59:1-2;** **2 Cor.5:18-20-** “Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, (19) namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. (20) Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”
8. Christians continue to visualize the crucifixion of Christ in the LS memorial every week! **Matt.26:26-28;** **1 Cor. 11:23-26.**

CONCLUSION:

So, for Christians, it is the fact of our Lord’s self-sacrifice - “*that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again*” -- **1 Cor.15:3-4** -- **NOT THE PHYSICAL LOCATION** which should concern us! At “CALVARY”, Golgotha’s CROSS [*“the emblem of suffering and shame”*] became the time-enduring symbol of love and blessing and hope!

HOW DO YOU REGARD CALVARY? The only way we can properly and acceptably regard Calvary is when we’re cleansed by the blood of Christ that was shed there thru our obed. to the gospel [**B+R+C+B**] and then live faithfully in His service! **Rev.2:10.**