**Round Top Church Christian Fellowship**

Sermon

*The Good News According to Mark,*

*An Apostle of Jesus Christ*

 *365 Day Disciple ~ Mark 15: 22-47*

*Calvary ~ Unconditional Love*

*Pastor ~ Matthew Diehl*

September 23th In the Year of Our Lord 2018

(Unless otherwise noted, CSB17 - Christian Standard Bible 2017 quoted)

**BGT GREEK Luke 23:33 Καὶ ὅτε ἦλθον ἐπὶ τὸν τόπον τὸν καλούμενον Κρανίον, (English phonic – kranion /cranium = skull) ἐκεῖ ἐσταύρωσαν αὐτὸν καὶ τοὺς κακούργους, ὃν μὲν ἐκ δεξιῶν ὃν δὲ ἐξ ἀριστερῶν.**

Latin VULGATE**Luke 23:33 Et postquam venerunt in locum qui vocatur Calvariae ibi crucifixerunt eum Et latrones unum a dextris et alterum a sinistris**

**KJV 1611Luke 23:33 And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left**

**NAU 1995Luke 23:33 When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left.**

**CSB 2017Luke 23:33 When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals, one on the right and one on the left.**

**Google - About 15,000,000 results (0.71 seconds) “Churches named Calvary”**

**Calvary**, or **Golgotha** ([Biblical Greek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblical_Greek) Γολγοθᾶ[ς] *Golgotha[s]*, traditionally interpreted as reflecting [Syriac (Aramaic)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syriac_language) *golgolta*,[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calvary#cite_note-1) as it were Hebrew *gulgōleṯ* "skull"[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calvary#cite_note-Hebrew-2)), was, according to the [Gospels](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospels), a site immediately outside [Jerusalem's](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_in_Christianity) walls where Jesus was [crucified](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crucifixion_of_Jesus).[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calvary#cite_note-3)

[Matthew's](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_Matthew) and [Mark](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_Mark)'s gospels translate the term to mean "place of [the] skull" (Κρανίου Τόπος *Kraníou Tópos*),[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calvary#cite_note-4) in [Latin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin) rendered *Calvariæ Locus*, from which the English word *Calvary* derives.

Its traditional site, identified by [Helena of Constantinople](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helena_of_Constantinople), the mother of [Constantine I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantine_I), in 325, is at the site of the [Church of the Holy Sepulchre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_the_Holy_Sepulchre). A 19th-century suggestion places it at the site now known as [*Skull Hill*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skull_Hill), some 500 m to the north (200 m north of [Damascus Gate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Damascus_Gate)). Historian [Joan Taylor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joan_E._Taylor) bases a location c. 175 meters south-southeast of the traditional site on her reading of textual evidence.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calvary#cite_note-Taylor-5)

**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calvary**

**Golgotha** – **Place of the Skull**

 **Mark 15: 22** They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha

(which means Place of the Skull).

**TIME LINE – RUSH TO JUDGEMENT**

Simon, from Cyrene, carried Jesus’ Cross from Pilate’s office to Calvary. We do not know much about Simon, but he was not identified as a Roman or some official who was experienced in crucifixion. From our vantage point of living in a civilized world, here in America, Jesus’ staggering torturous trek to Calvary could not take place. We know the first century Roman world had rules but not in the area of physical or mental sensitivities toward a condemned man. In our American system, a death-row inmate is kept in comfortable quarters and given every opportunity to appeal their case. In America, it can take up to fifteen years or longer between the time of sentencing and execution.

Jesus was arrested on a Thursday evening. He was taken to Annas then Caiaphas, then Pilate to Herod back to Pilate to Calvary. Scripture tells us that Jesus was crucified at the third hour meaning 9 A.M. Friday.

**Mark 15:25** Now it was nine in the morning when they crucified him.

There was about 12 hours from the time of Jesus’ arrest until the Cross. They did give time to file for an appeal.

 This is a look into fallen humanities spiritual thought process. One observation is that man wants to remove the judgement as soon as possible. Jesus had become a pain in their side and the source of public humiliation, therefore, the rush to judgement and immediate execution. The sooner they executed Jesus, the quicker they could go back to business as usual. They could then regain their public control over the population. Jesus had exposed them as frauds.

**From God’s Perspective**

From the time of Jesus’ birth, the Cross was thegoal, to pay the price of all humanities sins. All the pain and suffering displayed is to be applied to all people through the ages. Theologians call this “general atonement.” In addition, God wants the world to see that His desire is to absorb all the eternal price for sin, not you. This is graphic and unpleasant but necessary.

We keep witnessing that once a person hears the account of Jesus on the Cross they are forced to make a decision. There is no turning back. They see, through Jesus’s broken body, their own frailty and suffering, their own vulnerabilities. Man must come to the reality that he cannot save himself. Man has no power within himself to sustain life beyond this temporal world. The Cross points to the next life. The Cross projects life beyond the grave. God overcame and resurrected from death on the Cross. Thus, the power of the Cross overcomes this fallen world, defeats sin and death and rises to a new life not dependent on this world. This is why Jesus proclaimed that His Kingdom is not of this world. We Believers should live this life as if we are not coming back here. We leave all our effort for God here.

**Leave it all on the Field**

 At the end of high school football practice, we ran wind-sprints. This is after two hours of non-stop drills in 95% heat with one water break. The coaches would call-out, “Does anybody have anything left?” Some dummy would say, “Yes.” The coach would then say, “You should have left everything you had on the field of play – do not hold back.” We then would run wind-sprints till some fell-out. In these glory days of Texas High School football coaching, if you got hurt on a play in practice, you had to crawl out of the way, because they ran the next play over you.

God left nothing behind on the Cross. He spared no expense. Our debt was paid in full. It is Finished! (John 19:28-30)

**Religious Rigors**

 I say to all the religious organizations that require some form of work to gain salvation that they are turning their backs on the Blood of the Cross. This means that the physical act of water-baptism required by some religious denominations to gain salvation is not required by God. After reading the Gospel accounts of Jesus’ torturous-trials, the brutality of the Cross, what work, what sacrifice is left for people to do? If you have a friend or family member caught in a guilt-organization, you need to tell them that the Cross paid it all. No one can add anything to the Cross of Christ. This is basic biblical teaching, but the institutional-church has historically made false claims. Through their corrupt teachings, they have created guilt-ridden congregations that believe they are never good enough for God. The same religious institutions that teach and demand works for salvation also teach that you can lose your salvation. They also teach that through them and their methods you can continually pay money and do deeds to gain and to keep your salvation. How convenient! These are the same money-changers and High Priests, Sanhedrin, Scribes and Pharisees that demanded Jesus’ death. With them, there is only a life of more mental pain, unforgiveness, fear and guilt. People should never let go of the Truth that the Gospel has come to set the captives free (Luke 4:16-21).

16 He came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. As usual, he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read.

 17 The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him, and unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written:

 18 The Spirit of the Lord is on me,

 because he has anointed me

**to preach good news to the poor.**

**He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives**

**and recovery of sight to the blind,**

**to set free the oppressed,**

 **19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.**

 20 He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. And the eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fixed on him.

 21 He began by saying to them,

Today as you listen, this Scripture has been fulfilled."

 Jesus did not lie when He proclaimed from the Cross, “It is finished.” When Jesus walked into the synagogue on the Sabbath in Nazareth, He proclaimed on that day that Scripture had been fulfilled. The incarnation of God as Jesus was fulfilled from the beginning. From the beginning of the world when all things that were made - were made through Jesus Christ (John 1:1-3). From the time of Mary’s spirit-conception to the Cross, Scripture was being fulfilled. And at the Cross – indisputable TRUTHS were brought together by God and became visible for time and eternity.

1. God witnesses His great love through the Cross.
2. Fallen-Man delivered its most devastating acts. The denial that God can save him and destruction of temporal body.
3. The One and only God of the Creation entered into death in order to defeat death.
4. Forgiveness. Life-defying-fallen man can still be forgiven.

 Regarding eternal salvation, there isn’t any text in the Bible that proclaims that any work of man paid the price for sin. Additionally, there isn’t any text in the Bible that specifically declares Scripture was fulfilled by a man so that people can attain eternal salvation. God did use many people to bring about His redemptive plan. It is a reasonable conclusion that God worked through many people to bring about His incarnation which led to His salvation work on the Cross. Mary and Joseph to start. Going back to Abraham, it was God who provided the ram to take the place of Isaac. This is the greatest account, outside the Cross, showing that God does not want man to sacrifice himself to pay the price for sin or pay homage to God. Even with Cain, God did not require him to sacrifice his life for the life he took. God did not require Cain’s blood for Abel’s life. Again, referencing Hebrews:

**Hebrews 10:11** And every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins;

**Hebrews 9:12** and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

**THE DIFFERENCE IN THE CROSS**

 Christian leaders have long taught that the difference between the Christian faith and all other beliefs is that no other belief teaches that God incarnated Himself to be a man in order to die on a Cross for the sins of the World. And a call from God for a person to surrender their spirit/heart/mind to him by faith. This surrender invites God to indwell a person. Thus, God lives through them. Paul declares that it is no longer him people see but Christ in him (Galatians 2:20).

 20 I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me

Compare the Cross and God, as Jesus, teachings to other faiths. We all have heard that the belief system behind suicide bombings is that the Jihadist is assured to be in heaven and receive eternal rewards for the killing of himself and others. It is irrespective if the other people that the Jihadist kills agree with them. In addition, their families are often paid large sums of money. Again, a works-orientated belief. In this system, people have to commit an earthly deed to satisfy a god to gain eternal salvation. This is to be expected from the Muhamad’s-man-made system from the 6th century A.D. This is in contrast to God/Jesus declaring ‘it is finished’ from the Cross. Many Christian leaders have declared, “God as Jesus never asked anyone to give their life or kill someone else to attain good standing with God or salvation.” These are obvious contrasts for anyone who has honestly examined the facts.

**John 19:28-30**

 28 After this, when Jesus knew that everything was now finished that the Scripture might be fulfilled, he said, "I'm thirsty."

 29 A jar full of sour wine was sitting there; so they fixed a sponge full of sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it up to his mouth.

 30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished." Then bowing his head, he gave up his spirit.

 We have mentioned Hebrews 10 a few times. Here is the text:

Hebrews 10:10-22

10 By this will, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all time. 11 Every priest stands day after day ministering and offering the same sacrifices time after time, which can never take away sins. 12 But this man, after offering one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God. 13 He is now waiting until his enemies are made his footstool. 14 For by one offering he has perfected forever those who are sanctified. 15 The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. For after he says: 16 This is the covenant I will make with them after those days, the Lord says, I will put my laws on their hearts and write them on their minds, 17 and I will never again remember their sins and their lawless acts. 18 Now where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer an offering for sin. 19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have boldness to enter the sanctuary through the blood of Jesus-- 20 he has inaugurated for us a new and living way through the curtain (that is, through his flesh)-- 21 and since we have a great high priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water.

 Jesus, for our benefit, is talking to God in John 17:4.

4 I have glorified You on the earth by completing the work You gave me to do.

 Again, this is clarity that Jesus completed the work, the redemptive plan, during His time.

 **On the Cross – Mark 15:23-32**

 23 They tried to give him wine mixed with myrrh but he did not take it.

 **Psalm 69:21** They also gave me gall for my food, And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

 **Proverbs 31:6** Give strong drink to him who is perishing, And wine to him whose life is bitter.

 24 Then they crucified him and divided his clothes casting lots for them to decide what each would get.

**Psalm 22:18** They divide my garments among them, And for my clothing they cast lots.

 25 Now it was nine in the morning when they crucified him.

 **26 The inscription of the charge written against him was:** The King of the Jews.

 27 They crucified two criminals with him one on his right and one on his left.

 28 [So the Scripture was fulfilled that says: And He was counted among outlaws.] *verse not in oldest and best manuscripts*

 29 Those who passed by were yelling insults at him,

shaking their heads, and saying,

"Ha! The one who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, 30 save yourself by coming down from the cross!"

 31 In the same way, the chief priests with the scribes were mocking him among themselves and saying,

"He saved others, but he cannot save himself!

 32 Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross, so that we may see and believe."

Even those who were crucified with him taunted him.

 **Psalm 22**

 *For the choir director:*

 *according to "The Deer of the Dawn." A psalm of David.*

1 My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Why are you so far from my deliverance

and from my words of groaning?

**(Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34)**

 2 My God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,

by night, yet I have no rest.

 3 But you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

 4 Our fathers trusted in you; they trusted, and you rescued them.

 5 They cried to you and were set free;

they trusted in you and were not disgraced.

 6 But I am a worm and not a man,

scorned by mankind and despised by people.

 7 Everyone who sees me mocks me;

they sneer and shake their heads:

 8 "He relies on the Lord; let him save him;

let the Lord rescue him, since he takes pleasure in him."

 9 It was you who brought me out of the womb,

 making me secure at my mother's breast.

 10 I was given over to you at birth;

 you have been my God from my mother's womb.

 11 Don't be far from me,

 because distress is near and there's no one to help.

 12 Many bulls surround me;

 strong ones of Bashan encircle me.

 13 They open their mouths against me-- lions, mauling and roaring.

**Prophetic Description of Jesus on the Cross**

 14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are disjointed;

 my heart is like wax, melting within me.

 15 My strength is dried up like baked clay;

my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth.

You put me into the dust of death.

 16 For dogs have surrounded me;

 a gang of evildoers has closed in on me;

 they pierced my hands and my feet.

 17 I can count all my bones; people look and stare at me.

 18 They divided my garments among themselves,

and they cast lots for my clothing.

 (Mark 15:24;Matthew 27:35; John 19:23, 24; Luke 23:34)

**Psalm 22 Cited by Jesus**

**Mark 15 (continued)**

 33 When it was noon,

darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

 34 And at three Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

"Eloi, Eloi, lemá sabachtháni?" which is translated,

"My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

 35 When some of those standing there heard this, they said,

 "See, he's calling for Elijah."

 36 Someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine,

 fixed it on a stick, offered him a drink, and said,

"Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down."

**Jesus’ Last Breath**

 37 Jesus let out a loud cry and breathed his last.

 38 Then the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

 39 When the centurion, who was standing opposite him, saw the way he breathed his last, he said,

 "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

The Women

 **40** There were also women watching from a distance.

 Among them were Mary Magdalene,

Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome.

 **41** In Galilee these women followed him and took care of him. Many other women had come up with him to Jerusalem.

 **42** When it was already evening, because it was the day of preparation (that is, the day before the Sabbath),

**Joseph of Arimathea Mark – compare -/Matthew/Luke/John**

 43 Joseph of Arimathea,

a prominent member of the Sanhedrin

who was himself looking forward to the kingdom of God,

came and boldly went to Pilate and asked for Jesus's body.

 44 Pilate was surprised that he was already dead.

Summoning the centurion,

he asked him whether he had already died.

 45 When he found out from the centurion,

he gave the corpse to Joseph.

 46 After he bought some linen cloth,

Joseph took him down and wrapped him in the linen.

Then he laid him in a tomb cut out of the rock

and rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb.

 47 Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses were watching where he was laid.

**Matthew 27:57-61**

57 When it was evening, a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph came, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus.

 58 He approached Pilate and asked for Jesus's body. Then Pilate ordered that it be released.

 59 So Joseph took the body, wrapped it in clean, fine linen,

 60 and placed it in his new tomb, which he had cut into the rock. He left after rolling a great stone against the entrance of the tomb.

 61 Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were seated there, facing the tomb.

**Luke 23:50-56**

50 There was a good and righteous man named Joseph, a member of the Sanhedrin,

 51 who had not agreed with their plan and action. He was from Arimathea, a Judean town, and was looking forward to the kingdom of God.

 52 He approached Pilate and asked for Jesus's body.

 53 Taking it down, he wrapped it in fine linen and placed it in a tomb cut into the rock, where no one had ever been placed.

 54 It was the preparation day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.

 55 The women who had come with him from Galilee followed along and observed the tomb and how his body was placed.

 56 Then they returned and prepared spices and perfumes. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment.

**John 19:38-42**

After this, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus-- but secretly because of his fear of the Jews-- asked Pilate that he might remove Jesus's body. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and took his body away.

 39 Nicodemus (who had previously come to him at night) also came, bringing a mixture of about seventy-five pounds of myrrh and aloes.

 40 They took Jesus's body and wrapped it in linen cloths with the fragrant spices, according to the burial custom of the Jews.

 41 There was a garden in the place where he was crucified. A new tomb was in the garden; no one had yet been placed in it.

 42 They placed Jesus there because of the Jewish day of preparation and since the tomb was nearby.

**The Remnant Sanhedrin**

Joseph of Arimathea was looking for the kingdom of God. He was not looking for the kingdom of man or the Sanhedrin kingdom. Joseph was looking for God. Joseph was looking outside of himself for an eternal solution to his life. He understood his purpose and calling in life. Unlike his fellow Sanhedrin, he accepted Jesus as a High Priest in the order of Melchizedek who is superior to the temple priest. He was looking for the real Messiah not an earthly one.

 Pilate’s surprise was that Jesus was dead already not that a prominent member of the Sanhedrin was asking for Jesus’ body. Pilate may have known that not all the Jewish leadership was supportive of Jesus’ crucifixion. Joseph may have known Pilate as the text reveals that Joseph is a prominent member. In addition to Joseph coming to Pilate, John’s Gospel tells us that Nicodemus who had previously came to Jesus by night also came with Joseph. Remember, Jesus refers to Nicodemus in John 3 as “the Teacher of Israel.” This is an important title Jesus addresses Nicodemus.

There aren’t any details of Pilate’s discussion with Joseph and Nicodemus. We simply learn that Pilate released Jesus’ body to them. The two men then take some linen cloth and took Jesus from the Cross and laid Him in a tomb and rolled a rock to seal the entrance.

 Old Testament Scripture details that God will always have a remnant through which to work.

**Isaiah 10:20-22** 20 On that day the remnant of Israel and the survivors of the house of Jacob will no longer depend on the one who struck them, but they will faithfully depend on the Lord, the Holy One of Israel. 21 The remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the Mighty God. 22 Israel, even if your people were as numerous as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will return. Destruction has been decreed; justice overflows.

**Isaiah 1:9** Unless the LORD of hosts had left us a few survivors, we would be like Sodom, We would be like Gomorrah.

**Isaiah 4:2** In that day the Branch of the LORD will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth will be the pride and the adornment of the survivors of Israel.

**Hosea 1:10** Yet the number of the Israelites will be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or counted. And in the place where they were told: You are not my people, they will be called: Sons of the living God.

**Romans 9:27** But Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, Though the number of Israelites is like the sand of the sea, only the remnant will be saved;

**Romans 11:5** In the same way, then, there is also at the present time a remnant chosen by grace.

The promise of a remnant to the Hebrew people is a view into God’s grace, mercy and forgiveness. This not only extends to a nation of people but to individuals. It is a great testimony to tell others that God has not given-up on the Hebrew people. God still witnesses to them. God still calls them to Him. Here, at the Christian Fellowship, we support “Christian Witness to Israel.” Pastor Stephen Atkinson comes once a year and gives a report. We, here, in our time, are part of God’s plan to reach the remnant of Israel.

 We must never forget that God has chosen a select people, the Hebrew people starting with Abram, through which to send His redemptive plan. The Hebrew people represent all of us. They are God’s chosen people to demonstrate how to have a relationship with Him. All their victories and failures are our victories and failures. Therefore, God came to be one of us as a Hebrew. Paul writes to the Believers in Rome.

**Romans 10:1-4 1** Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God concerning them is for their salvation.

 2 I can testify about them that they have zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.

 3 Since they are ignorant of the righteousness of God and attempted to establish their own righteousness, they have not submitted to God's righteousness.

 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes,

AMEN