**THE THREE CROSSES ON A HILL**

**Lu 23:32** ¶ And there were also two other, malefactors (Criminals), led with him to be put to death.

 **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.

 **34** Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

 **35** And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God.

 **36** And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar,

 **37** And saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself.

 **38** And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

 **39** And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.

 **40** But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?

 **41** And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.

 **42** And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

 **43** And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

 The greatest act of Love this world has ever known took place on an ugly hill called Golgatha – the place of the scull that was located just outside Jerusalem called Mt Calvary. Here we meet the most loving caring Redeemer and Saviour this world has ever known. Here we will look into His humble face and hear His most gracious words and when we see and hear Him, our life will never be the same. Many men have been led up this rugged hill and crucified. They bled and died, but this man named Jesus was so different! He was the Heavenly Father’s only begotten Son, full of Grace and Truth. He was the sacrifice for sin and the gift of Salvation for all mankind. The man dying on the middle cross was God’s mercy and forgiveness. Here was the pure Holy Lamb of God taking away the sin of the world. When you experience this Blessed Saviour on the Cross you’ll never be the same, you will leave a different person, your life forever changed.

A BATTLE ON CALVARY’S HILL

 A battle between Heaven and Hell is taking place on Mt. Calvary over the souls of man. Hell’s hordes are gathered, Satan’s demons are swirling about, possessing the Roman legion of soldiers to kill this Jesus, the Prince of Life. Hear their taunts and cursing with their cruel hatred for the Son of God – away with Him, get rid of Him!

 Satan says – “Every man, woman, boy and girl belongs to me, they are all mine – I will not let them go. I will keep them bound in their sins and take them down to Hell with me.

Luke records: “And there they crucified Jesus and the malefactors (2 criminals) one on the right hand and the other on the left.

 In this Newsletter, I want you to focus on the three men on these crosses – they have a story to tell! On these 3 crosses, we see a representation of every person that is alive in our world today. Each Cross represents each person standing before God. Their life has been spent, their time is running out. Two men have a decision to make before they die concerning the man on the middle cross, who is the Saviour of the world.

 On one cross we see a man Rejecting; on the other cross we see a man Receiving – on the middle Cross we see a man Redeeming. On one cross we see a dying Sinner; on the other cross a dying Saint – but on the middle Cross a dying Saviour. On one cross a man is dying in sin, on the other cross a man is dying to sin – but on the middle Cross a man is dying for sin!

 Every person in this world today will fall into the category of one of these two crosses! The choice is yours – your choice and decision is right NOW! Your only hope at this very moment is which one of these crosses will you identify with? Which cross represents you? Your time is swiftly running out. You have no promise of tomorrow – what will you do with Jesus, the man on the middle Cross which is the Saviour of the world?

 On one cross we see a man full of Greed; on the other a man is full of Guilt – but on the middle Cross we see a man full of Grace! On one cross we see a man that is full of hate, he is Hateful; on the other we see a man that is Humble – but on the middle Cross we see a man that is Heavenly – it is Jesus God’s Son, the gift of Eternal Life from Heaven.

 On one cross a man is Blinded, he doesn’t see his need – he’s blinded to his reputation and reprobation; on the other cross we see a man Begging – on the middle Cross we see a Saviour Buying Redemption. On one cross a man loses his identity forever; on the other a man’s identity is changed forever – but on the middle Cross we see a man that has never changed His identity – He’s the same yesterday, today and forever – He’s the Lord of Glory – the unfailing, unchanging, ever Faithful and Merciful God! He’s still the Great I AM, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. On that middle Cross of Calvary hung the Light of the world, the Bread of Life – the Hope of all mankind, the Blessed Redeemer and forgiver of men’s souls! Stretched on that middle Cross was the Way, the Truth and eternal Life – the very Door to Heaven with arms open wide!!

 These 3 Crosses can be broken down to represent every person in this world. Your future destiny lies in one of these crosses, which one will it be? We now have a population in our world today of almost 8 billion souls. Where are they all headed to and going? What is their eternal destiny? Where do they stand in the eyes of God? It doesn’t matter if you know the writer of this Newsletter or not, but what really matters – do you know Jesus, God’s only Son? Have you met the Saviour? Have you been to Calvary and the cleansing Blood and been redeemed and forgiven?

 The first cross is the Unbelievers cross! What are the characteristics of an unbeliever? We see it in **verse 39** – And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on Him (Jesus) saying – If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. Notice the words “If thou be Christ”. We see a man who has no fear, no respect or regard for God. He railed on Jesus, he blasphemed Christ. He was more concerned about himself and his desires and wants than he was about the Lord. He saw no need for God – everything centered around himself. He refused to recognize the Saviour Jesus on the middle Cross.

 The Creator of the Universe, the giver of Life was hanging right beside him but he would not acknowledge Him! I will not admit that I am wrong. I am the victim. Nobody will tell me how I should live – it’s my life – don’t condemn me!

 O poor soul and sinner man, don’t you realize who is hanging by your side? Don’t you realize He’s taking your place and dying for you? O the Wonder of it all! John said – all things were made by Him (Jesus). Paul told the Colossians – For all things were created by Him and for Him – and by Him all things consist (they are held together. He holds your very next breath). O dear God, don’t go through life and fail to recognize your Lord and maker who created this earth and universe and gave you life!

We live in a most ungodly and unthankful generation that has no fear or respect for God. They talk against Him – blame Him for their ills and problems because they can’t get what they want in life. They would rather have the world and its sinful pleasures than turn to the Creator. All our problems are God’s fault. You dealt us a bad hand, all earth’s troubles are your fault God, you ain’t good enough. We’ll turn to science, we’ll work out our own problems – we don’t need you. The fear of the Lord is just about gone completely. There’s no respect or reverence for morals and for what’s just and pure.

Our generation rails against the Bible and God’s Commandments – rails against Christians and righteous living. They don’t want to be condemned and told they are wrong – “This is the Unbelievers Cross!” We don’t need or want your preaching Jesus, we’d rather have our sins and pleasures of the world. People live like there’s NO Afterlife and coming judgment. They do not realize there is an eternal burning Hell beneath their feet and when they die they will fall into it! The thief on the Sinners cross had no faith, for he said to Jesus - “If Thou”. Therefore the soul of this man had no future. This man’s name going into eternity will never be mentioned again. Nobody knows who he was, where he came from or where he was buried. You’ll not find a nice gravestone anywhere in the Holy Land with his name on it and an epitaph inscribed: “Gone to be with Jesus.” I would hate to think that I would live in this life 80 to a 100 years or less and then go into Hell to suffer forever the agonies and tortures of the damned because I didn’t believe and call on Jesus! If this man could only call his life back for just 5 minutes beside of Jesus on the middle Cross, I’m sure he would change his mind. But now it’s too late!!

NOW THE SWEETEST STORY OF ALL

 We now leave the Sinner’s cross and look on the other side of Jesus to the Believers Cross. This poor dying man believed in Deity! He acknowledged the Saviour on the middle Cross. Think about it – of all the people that was around Jesus’ Cross, he is the only one who called Him Lord! **Verse 40** says that this humble dying thief looked past Jesus to the other dying criminal and rebuked him and said – “don’t you fear God? We’re getting what we deserve for our wrongs.” In essence he was saying – don’t you realize that you are going to stand before God for your sins? We are going to die and we’re headed to the judgment – there’s no way out of it! Our time is running out! Don’t you realize this man Jesus is dying to Save us?

 **Verse 42** says – this humble, broken, repentant thief now looks at Jesus the Saviour on the middle Cross and says – Lord, REMEMBER ME when thou comest into thy Kingdom. What’s this man saying? What’s his heart crying? “Jesus, I acknowledge I’ve done wrong. I’ve sinned, I am a sinner dying without hope. I want a better place to go. Lord, I know I’m getting what I deserve but would you please forgive me!! Remember me. I can’t save or forgive myself – I’m too sinful! Lord, it would sure feel awful good if I knew I was forgiven! Would you forgive me (Remember me)?

Lord, I heard you praying for those who nailed you to the Cross; you asked your Heavenly Father to forgive them – I need it too. I don’t want to die here with all this heavy weight of sin in my soul. Jesus, I felt your deep love as you prayed for others – I need it and want it. I acknowledge your Grace around this Cross.

This thief believed. His eyes were open and he received. Can I tell you – there is an all out attack on our faith now more than ever in these last days by the devil. The greatest sin that sends more people to Hell than any other is the Sin of Unbelief! Most people now days don’t believe in God, they don’t believe in His Son, they don’t believe you have to change, that you have to repent of your sins to be saved.

This young millennial generation doesn’t believe in the Bible, they don’t believe you have to go by the way of the Cross. They see no importance of God’s bleeding Son – the sacrifice for sin! They won’t come to Jesus, ask Him to save and heal them, put their lives and homes back together that Satan and sin has destroyed. They would rather have the world and go on blindly without a Saviour and end up in the end lost without God.

This poor sinner - dying thief, realized his time was running out – his minutes were counting down, then he would plunge into eternity without hope if he didn’t call on the man on the middle Cross – Jesus! It was his only Hope. He realized “Today is the Day of Salvation” – it was his last hope, last opportunity and only chance to get ready and make things right in his heart before he passed. When this repentant man said to Jesus – “Lord, Remember Me”, Jesus looked at him with Love and Compassion and said – “Today shalt thou be with me in paradise!” Jesus has a tender merciful heart if only people would believe and ask Him to save them. It doesn’t matter how old you are, where you have been, what you have done in life, or how low you have sunken and all the bad you have done – Jesus still Saves and Forgives if you will humbly ask Him!!

THREE CROSSES ON A HILL. Which Cross do you identify with? Do you really believe? Have you made your choice who you will serve? Has Jesus won your heart at Calvary by His suffering and atoning work? He did it all because He loved you. Every drop of Blood was shed just for you!

There was Mercy at the Cross! One sinner wanted it, the other didn’t. God’s Grace was displayed there - One man believed, the other would not!

On the Middle Cross hung a man, God’s only Son, His gift of Salvation – forgiveness and cleansing for every man, woman, boy and girl. It wasn’t the nails that held Him there, it was God’s Love for you and me.

If you have troubles, suffering burdens and loss; if you need cleansing and healing – just bring it to the Cross. If worries and fears steals your sleep and makes you turn and toss – bring it all to Jesus and hang it on His Cross. All your burdens, all your obstacles of doubts and cares that you come across – bring them now to Jesus and hang them on the Cross. For Christ has borne our griefs and sorrows, took our sins and brokenness – and He dearly paid the cost to turn all our trials into triumph……Hanging it on the Cross!! May God richly Bless all my Readers! Merry Christmas to all!