

forth, which flows in every direction for the salvation of the world. It is then we catch distant but transporting views of the glories of the heavenly city, and see the open gates of the new Jerusalem inviting us to enter. It is where heavenly breezes blow, and the sun of Righteousness shines, and where angel voices sing, "Lift your eyes; O lift your eyes onto this Hill, where comes-where comes help." Yes we will lift our eyes to this Hill of Salvation, and triumph in this place of a skull-mysterious, life giving, glorious Golgotha.

"They gave Him to drink, wine mingled with myrrh, but He received it not." Jesus would not allow His mind to be even for a moment incapacitated for His great work to be accomplished and so "He would not drink." He had to implore forgiveness for His murderers. He had to manifest sympathy for His mother, and commend her to another's care, He received the prayer of a dying thief and assured him of paradise He maintained the battle with the foe, and to cry with a loud voice of victory, "It is finished," and so "He would not drink."

"And they crucified Him." They tore off His clothing, which the sick had touched for healing. With cruel nails they fastened to the Cross the feet which had borne Him about on errands of mercy, and the hands which had been stretched out only to bless. They raised Him up to be an object of their scorn, while His life's blood slowly ebbed away. Hear the blows of the hammer which drives in those nails! Jesus was crucified for us. Can we neglect the salvation that cost Him so dearly? "Is it nothing to you, all you that pass by?"

Who nailed Him there? Was it the priests? Was it Pilate? Was it the soldiers? It was our sins - yours and mine. Those sins struck the hammer. We crucified Him. Let us hate those sins; let us renounce them forever. Backslider, will you crucify the Son of God afresh, and put Him to an open shame? Shall we repeat, in any degree, as far as we are able, the insults of His murderers? Lord, forgive us that we should ever have pierced You. Henceforth may we crucify the world, our sins, and ourselves. Therefore, let us trust, adore and love You as our only Savior, our Lord, our Friend, reigning now on Your glorious throne, though once, for our redemption, crucified at Golgotha!

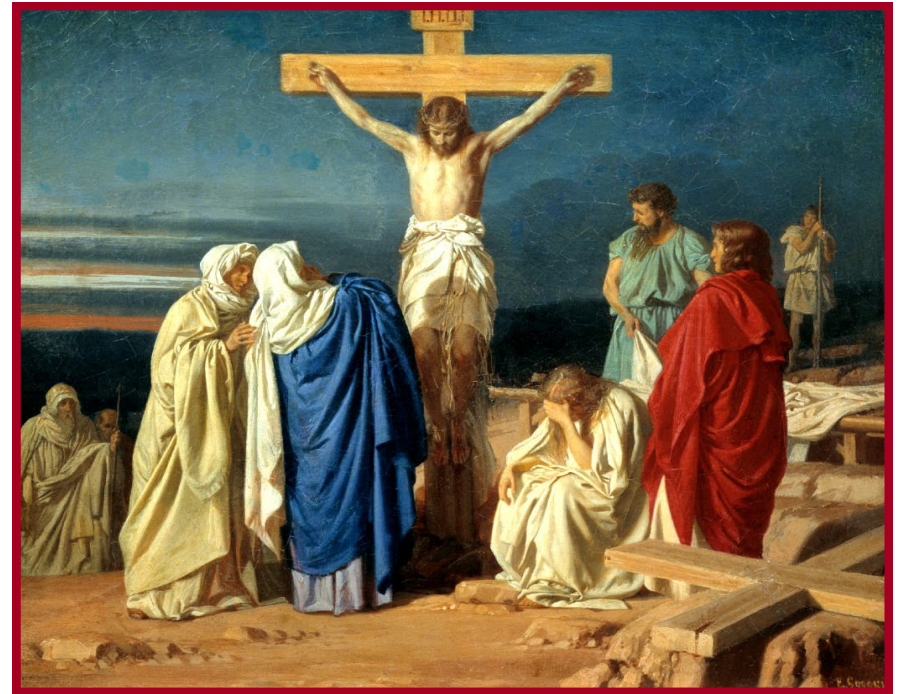


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## **Golgotha**

**the**

### ***"place of the skull"***



***... " He said to His mother,  
'Woman, behold your son!' ...  
Then He said to the disciple,  
...' Behold your mother!' ..."***

John 19: 26-27

# THEY BROUGHT JESUS TO THE PLACE CALLED GOLGOTHA

by Newman Hall

Jesus to Golgotha? The perfectly pure One-He who was holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners-He, brought to a spot regarded as the most polluted and defiled, where skulls and bones marked the place of public execution, and which was branded with the anathema of all-Jesus to Golgotha? Jesus-the greatest philanthropist whom the world has ever known-went about doing good, whose life was love-He, brought to the place to which were dragged the violent and the dishonest, the assassin and the murderer-Jesus to Golgotha? Jesus-the incarnate Deity-to whom all power was given in heaven and on earth, whose will the armies of heaven obey-He, seized by wicked men, and dragged as if He were a helpless victim of their cruelty, instead of being their Monarch and their Judge-Jesus to Golgotha?

They bring Him-and He comes! They could not have brought Him against His will. One thought in opposition to their malice would have rescued Him from their impotent grasp. Therefore, if they brought Him, it was because He did not resist them. He said of His own life, "No man takes it from me-I lay it down of myself." Why, then, did He allow Himself to be led to Golgotha-the pure to the place of impurity, the "benevolent One" to a spot identified with violence-the "omnipotent One", as if, like common culprits dragged there, he was helpless?

Jesus went to Golgotha because he was pure and holy; for thus He fulfilled the purposes of the Father, as He said, "I delight to do Your will, O my God." He went to Golgotha because He was benevolent; for thus it was He who must accomplish the redemption of the sinful race He came to save. He went to Golgotha because he was the Son of God; for it was with a view of this very hour that He took our nature, and was found in fashion as a man, "made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death." And so "they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha."

Golgotha was a spot of all others the most disgraceful; and so He who occupied the loftiest seat of honor in heaven stooped to the very lowest, in order to lift up to the highest those for whom Golgotha had been a more fitting place. It was a region of death. Here was the palace of the last enemy; here he held his revels. It was death's chief temple; here ghastly sacrifices were continually offered up. Here, at the very citadel of death, they led Christ to do battle with death.

There is a legend that Golgotha is the very center of the earth's surface-the middle point of the habitable globe. We think nothing of the legend, but very much of the truth it suggests. For the cross of Christ is the true center of the church, where all believers meet, of all tribes and nations, of all parties and sects. Here all may forget their differences; here all, who from different directions converge, are one church.

Another legend has the body of Adam buried at Golgotha, and that the blood of Christ trickle down until it reached the bones; which then were clothed again with flesh and revived. We think nothing of the legend, but very much of the truth which it suggests. For when by faith the blood of Christ is applied to our guilty souls the old Adam, dead by sin, lives again, but lives renewed and purified. Christ is the second Adam, who remedies the ruin of the first, and by whom, paradise lost became paradise regained.

Golgotha is also known as the "Place of a Skull," and everyone of us is going there. Every possession, every enjoyment, has death for its goal. However beautiful the path, it leads us ever onward to Golgotha. How closely does affection bind us to our friends! But they, too, are traveling to Golgotha; and every day brings us nearer to that "place of a skull." Those who have everything to make life happy, as well as those to whom life is a dreary waste of disappointment, are on their way to Golgotha! Those who are radiant with health and beauty, as well as those who are sickly or deformed, and to whom existence is a burden, are on their way to Golgotha! Those who have riches, and honor, and fame, and power, as well as the poor, the unknown or despised, are on their way to Golgotha!

If by faith we are disciples and followers of Jesus, our Golgotha is changed by His. No longer the place of a skull, it becomes the gateway of glory. Sorrow turns to joy, sickness to health, poverty to riches, when, in company with Jesus, we are on our way to Golgotha. Yes, afflictions all become blessings, and death is life, through the grace of Him who was led to Golgotha.

We will look to Golgotha no longer as the place of a skull, but as the Hill of Paradise, the Mount of Salvation. It is where the lily and the rose exhale their fragrance. It is where the tree of life grows, whose leaves are for the healing of the nations, and whose fruit is ever fresh. It is where the river bursts