# MARSHALL COUNTY DEVOTIONAL PAGE

"And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted His raiment, and cast lots." - Luke 23:33,34

Our English word Calvary comes from the Latin and is a translation of the Hebrew "Golgotha", meaning "the place of the skull" (John 19:17). This place was not actually situated on a mount, as is popularly described from our Westernized

a large rounded hill located somewhere outside at the North gate of Jerusalem. No one really knows the history of why this place was called "the skull." Some assume that looking at this rounded hill with its outcropping of rocks that from a distance it actually resembles a skull. Others say, that the site was the place of execution and since a skull is the universal symbol for death that is the reason for its name. The site, north of Jerusalem, where the Lord Jesus was crucified is not exactly known. The main reason is that over the centuries much of the geo-

mindset, but it actually was

graphical features have been moved, buried, and destroyed due to the many continued conflicts and wars that have taken place. For example the Lord Jesus Christ prophesied during the last days of His ministry that, "When ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh" (Luke 21:20). Some forty years later the Roman army came and surrounded the city of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 destroying the whole city and the Temple by burning it down. After the fire, the Roman soldiers dismantled the large Temple stone blocks in search for the gold that

**Calvary** 

melted from the horrific fire. All of this fulfilled Christ's prophecy to His disciples that, "Verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down" (Matthew 24:1,2). Therefore, the exact sites are not clearly known. That is why archeological excavation is so popular in this ancient area.

We may not know the exact location of Calvary, but the "where" is not what is important as "what" took place there. In our verse, as the Lord Jesus is hanging there on the cross as the substitutional sacrifice, He cries out, "Father, forgive them for they

know not what they do."

Calvary is both a horrible and wonderful place. Calvary is horrible in the sense that it is a testimony of our sin crimes against God, and there the innocent Son of God willingly suffered and died upon the cross for all sin. Calvary is also a wonderful place because it is also a testimony of God's love, God's grace, and the eternal forgiveness God provided for the self-confessed sinner. There at Calvary, Jesus Christ took the sin penalty for all who will believe and receive Him as their Lord and Savior.

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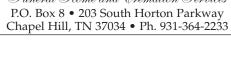
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