

II Cor. 3:17 -- "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is..."

LIBERTY

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Calvary

Calvary!

In **awe** I stand beneath that cross
And gaze upon the One—
Full well I know that suffering form
Is God's own precious Son.

Calvary!

In **fear** I stand beneath that cross!
It's not mere man I see—
But God! Creator! King and Lord!
Is dying there for me!

Calvary!

In **shame** I stand beneath that cross!
In shame I hide my face—
For it's **my** sin which hung Him there,
He died there in my place.

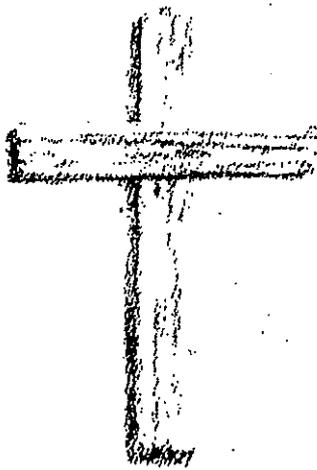
Calvary!

In **love** I stand beneath that cross!
While tears unbidden flow—
To think that He—the sinless One
Could love the sinner so.

Calvary!

In **peace** I stand beneath that cross!
Sin's burdens roll away—
The cleansing blood has been applied.
God's peace has come—to stay.

—Geneva Showerman



THE (SCIENTIFIC) DEATH OF JESUS

At the age of 33, Jesus was condemned to the death penalty.

At the time crucifixion was the "worst" death. Only the worst criminals condemned to be crucified. Yet it was even more dreadful for Jesus, unlike other criminals condemned to death by crucifixion, Jesus was to be nailed to the cross by His hands and feet.

Each nail was 6 to 8 inches long.

The nails were driven into His wrist.

Not into His palms as is commonly portrayed.

There's a tendon in the wrist that extends to the shoulder.

The Roman guards knew that when the nails were being hammered into the wrist, that tendon would tear and break, forcing Jesus to use His back muscles to support himself so that He could breathe.

Both of His feet were nailed together.

Thus He was forced to support Himself on the single nail that impaled His feet to the cross.

Jesus could not support himself with His legs because of the pain, so He was forced to alternate between arching His back then using his legs just to continue to breathe.

Imagine the struggle, the pain, the suffering, the courage.

Jesus endured this reality for over 3 hours.

Yes, over 3 hours!

Can you imagine this kind of suffering?

A few minutes before He died,
Jesus stopped bleeding.

He was simply pouring water from his wounds.

From common images, we see wounds to His hands and feet and even the spear wound to His side...

But do we realize His wounds were actually made in his body.

A hammer driving large nails through the wrist, the feet overlapped and an even larger nail hammered through the arches, then a Roman guard piercing His side with a spear.

But before the nails and the spear,
Jesus was whipped and beaten.

The whipping was so severe that it tore the flesh from His body.

The beating so horrific that His face was torn and his beard ripped from His face.

The crown of thorns cut deeply into His scalp.
Most men would not have survived this torture.

He had no more blood to bleed out,
only water poured from His wounds.

The human adult body contains about 3.5 liters (just less than a gallon) of blood.

Jesus poured all 3.5 liters of his blood;
He had three nails hammered into His members;
a crown of thorns on His head and, beyond that,
a Roman soldier who stabbed a spear into His chest.

All these without mentioning the humiliation.

He passed after carrying His own cross for almost 2 kilometers,
while the crowd spat in his face and threw stones (the cross was almost 30 kg of weight, only for its higher part, where His hands were nailed).

Jesus had to endure this experience, so that you can have free access to God.
So that your sins could be "washed" away:
All of them, with no exception!
Don't ignore this situation.

JESUS CHRIST DIED FOR YOU!



THREE CROSSES

Three crosses on a lonely hill,
A thief on either side,
And, in between, the Son of God
How wide the gulf, how wide!

Yet one thief spanned it with these words,

"O Lord, remember me!"
The other scoffed and turned aside
To lost eternity.

Forsaken is the hilltop now,
And all the crosses gone,
But in believing hearts of men
The center cross lives on.

And still, as when those sentinels
First met earth's wondering view,
The presence of the Lord divides--
Upon which side are you?

JESUS and ALEXANDER

Jesus and Alexander died at thirty-three,
One lived and died for self; One died for you and me.
The Greek died on a throne; the Jew died on a cross;
One's life a triumph seemed; the Other but a loss.
One led vast armies forth, the Other walked alone;
One shed a whole world's blood; the Other gave His own.
One won the world in life and lost it all in death;
The Other lost His life to win the whole world's faith.

Jesus and Alexander died at thirty-three,
One died in Babylon; and One on Calvary.
One gained all for self; and One Himself He gave;
One conquered every throne; the Other every grave.
The one made himself God; the God made Himself less;
The one lived but to blast; the Other but to bless.
When died the Greek, forever fell his throne of swords;
But Jesus died to live forever Lord of lords.

Jesus and Alexander died at thirty-three,
The Greek made all men slaves; the Jew made all men free.
One built a throne of blood; the other built on love;
The one was born on earth; the Other from above.
The one won all this earth, to lose all earth and heaven;
The Other gave up all, that all to Him be given.
The Greek forever died; the Jew forever lives;
He loses all who gets; he wins all things who gives.

We may not know, we cannot tell,
What pains He had to bear;
But we believe it was for us
He hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiven,
He died to make us good,
That we might go at last to heaven,
Saved by His precious blood.



"HE WAS WOUNDED FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS"