**The wailing of those who mourned. North Christian Church**

**~ In 2020, Looking to See a Perfect Vision of God’s Perfect Plan ~**

***“Where there is no vision, the people perish…”* - Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)**

**In May: Mountain – Top Views**

**“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!” – Isaiah 52: 7**

**Today: A H i l l C a l l e d M o u n t C a l v a r y**

***“*After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. 32As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. 33They came to a place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”).” – Matthew 27:31-33**

**“And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. 21A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. 22They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). – Mark 15: 20-22**

**“As the soldiers led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. 27A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. 28Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. 29For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ 30Then “‘they will say to the mountains, “Fall on us!”  and to the hills, “Cover us!”’ 31For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?” 32Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. 33When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. 34Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.” – Luke 23: 26-32**

**“Finally, Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So, the soldiers took charge of Jesus. 17Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). 18There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle. 19Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: Jesus of Nazareth, the king of the Jews. 20Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek.”**

**– John 19: 16-20**

**This month, we are getting views from Lookout Mountain!**

**We will be looking from several mountain tops. Mount Calvary, Mount Carmel, Mount Sanai, the Mount of Transfiguration, Mount Zion, the Mount of Olives, and even the Sermon on the Mount. We believe it will be a great view…real mountain - top experiences for all of us!**

**This morning, we are revisiting the greatest mountain, or mount of all time in all of history. It’s called Mount Calvary. Now, do not waste your time trying to look up Calvary in the Bible. That term is not in any of the translations…but, actually, it is. The word “Calvary” is a Latin version of the Greek word, “Kranion”, which translates into the English word – “Skull”. Now, the Greek word Kranion also comes from the Aramaic and Hebrew word, “Golgoltha”, which also means “The Skull”. So, when we talk about Mount Calvary in today’s language, we are actually referring to the term,**

**Now, We know that we went through Good Friday and all that happened on that day just four weeks ago, but it is so important for us to keep going back there to remember what happened there for us and the whole world. Mount Calvary is the most important mountain in all of our faith, and in the world! And, this is why, in our series of Mountain-top views this month, our first observation is on Mount Calvary.**

**Today, we will see the crucial Mount upon which Jesus died as a place of punishment, a hill of humiliation, a mount of mortality, and a view of violence. But…look again! We will also see this mount Calvary as a place of payment (for our sins}, a hill for healing (for all humanity), a mount of mercy and manifestation of God’s power, and we will see Mount Calvary today as view of victory, (Victory in Jesus), and not just violence. So, let’s begin…**

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1. **First, we see Mount Calvary as a Place of Punishment.**

**Isaiah 53:3-4; Matthew 27:26-50**

1. **Mount Calvary is, otherwise known as the Place of the Skull, and we all know that the Skull is a sign of death. And this is where Jesus went…for us.**

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1. **Mount Calvary is the Place Jesus went to sacrifice His life for ours, and to give Himself for the sins of the whole world. Mount Calvary, the place of punishment, became the place for payment…His payment for our sins and our salvation.**

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1. **Calvary is the Place He went to take the punishment in our place. Has anyone ever taken the punishment that you deserved? You are guilty, you are sentenced, you are getting ready to be punished, and then someone out of the blue steps forward and says: Here, take me instead and punish me for what they did, and let them go free. Romans 5:7-8. *“Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”***

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1. **So, we look again, that Mt. Calvary is The Place where Jesus went and suffered, and agonized, and bled and died. Why? Because of sin. And hell is the continuation of that pain and awfulness. It’s the ultimate punishment for sin…eternal death and torment. But, good news! We don’t have to go there. If we believe in Jesus.**

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1. **Today, we deserve to be punished. But He was punished for us. We deserve to pay for our sins. But He paid them for us. We even deserve to die. But…He died for us!**

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1. **Second, we see Mt. Calvary as A Hill of Humility.**

**Mark 15:20-22; Philippians 2:5-8**

1. **On a hill far away, stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame…The Romans did not just kill people on Mt. Calvary. Like we said before, they tortured them there…and one main part of their terrorizing technique of torture was humiliation.**

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1. **Yes, Mount Calvary was a hill of humility, yes. In that way, it is also the Hill for Humanity.**

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1. **But Mt. Calvary also became the Hill of healing. Jesus was inflicted with pain, to feel our pain. He was insulted with humiliation, to feel our humiliation. But Jesus did not just go to the cross to feel our pain. He went there to heal our pain!**

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1. **So look, what man did to Jesus on the cross was to bring shame to Him for all to see. But it turns out, Jesus was lifted up on the cross on Mt. Calvary not for everyone to see His shame, but to see His fame and to come to know His name. Man meant to humiliate, but what man makes bad; God can turn it into good. Right now, God is at work, for the good of those who love Him…**

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1. **On Mount Calvary, Jesus was lifted up to bring Him shame, but now we know that He was lifted up to bring the whole world salvation. Do we believe in Him today? Do we look to Him on Mount Calvary, and there find our healing? Our Peace? Our forgiveness? Our salvation? Look to Him today and believe!**

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1. **I believe in a hill called Mt. Calvary. I believe whatever the cost. And when time has surrendered, and earth is no more; I’ll still cling to the old rugged cross.**

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1. **Next, we see Mount Calvary as a Mount of Mortality.**

**Luke 23:26-34; Luke 23: 44- 46; Philippians 2: 8**

1. **Golgotha means skull, and like we already said, the sign of the skull represents death. Golgotha is a place to go to die. Jesus spent six hours of agonizing torture, and then He said, it is finished, Father into Your hands I commit My Spirit. and then the scriptures tell us that He breathed His last. He died. Mount Calvary is a mortifying place of death…Mount Mortality.**

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1. **But look again. Something else died on the cross that day. What really died on that Cross? Well, we say Jesus did. That’s right. But Jesus died because He bore in His body the sins of the world. So, when He died, sin died with Him.**

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1. **The presence of sin, the power of sin, the wages of sin…all died on the cross…so that we can be freed from sin and its evil power and deadly results.**

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1. **My friends, when we think of Mount Calvary, let’s not just see it as a place where Jesus died. No! It’s the place where sin died!**

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1. **So, Mount Calvary is not the place to find death. It’s the place to find life! A place to go to find life.**

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1. **That’s what really happened on the Mount of Mortality. Sin died. The destructive power of sin was defeated at the crucifixion of Jesus on the cross, and three days later the deadly result of sin was defeated at the resurrection from the grave.**

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1. **In Christ, we have an abundant, new, and eternal life! But we cannot have that new life until we first die to our old life. We need to deny ourselves, lose our lives, put Jesus first, and then start really living.**

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1. **Our Last Observation is that Mount Calvary is a View of Violence.**

**Isaiah 53; John 19: 16-20**

1. **Look at the extent of violence that took place: All the sin that man and Satan could muster came down upon Jesus on that bloodstained cross. And it looks like sin won. Violence won! Hatred won? Man won? The World won? Satan won? NO!**

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1. **Look again…they didn’t win…Jesus Won!! When He said, It is finished…He was saying that He was victorious! The faithful win. We are victorious in Christ…no longer victims to sin!!**

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1. **Forgiveness over sinfulness. Love over hate. Jesus over Satan. Good over evil. Truth over lies.**

**Life over death. Mount Calvary was a violent place…but more than that, it was a victorious place.**

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1. **Mount Calvary is not a view of violence…as much as it is a view of victory! A mountain view of victory. Victory in Jesus over sin! So, we are not victims…because of the place of the skull, because of Mount Calvary…we who believe in Jesus are victors! Victory in Jesus!**

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1. **Today, we have seen a mountain top view on a Hill called Mount Calvary. What did we see?**

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1. **We saw punishment from sin…yes, but also saw the final payment for sin.**

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1. **We saw humiliation from the world…yes, but we also saw salvation for the world. Humility was turned into healing for humanity.**

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1. **We saw death…yes, but we also saw life. The death of Jesus caused the death of sin.**

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1. **We saw violence…yes, but we also saw victory! Do you have the victory today?**

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1. **Mount Calvary! A place of victory for all who believe! Where are you today? Do you have a mountain top view of life? You can! Just come to Mount Calvary, come to Jesus, and God will give you the victory!**

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**Oh, victory in Jesus, my Savior forever. He sought me and bought me, with His redeeming blood. He loved me e’er I knew Him, and all my love is due Him. He plunged me to victory beneath the crimson flood.**