

## Calvary

I think it's funny where I sometimes get my ideas about which to write some of my NEWSLETTER articles. This particular "inspiration" is truly different from all of the others. The article itself has merit, however, so I'm going to go with it.

It happened again today. Something that just drives me crazy. I was watching a true-life story about a man who worked for the Drug Enforcement Agency on a mission in Columbia. After having been beaten up by one of the local drug lords and then taken out in the jungle and shot, he despaired of life. He thought his partner was dead, and that no one would know to come to his aid. "I knew it was up to me....the CALVARY was not coming."

I knew what he meant. The CAVALRY was not on its way. All of you know that a CAVALRY consisted of mounted U.S. Army soldiers who often saved people from the dangers of the "Wild West." You've seen it in numerous Westerns. You hear the bugle blow "charge" and the CAVALRY comes to the rescue. His misuse of the word CALVARY got me thinking. We all know CALVARY as the place where Jesus was crucified. **Luke 23:33** tells us:

***"And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left." (NKJV)***

To Christians, the word CALVARY has been used to describe the place where Jesus gave His life. It has been used for centuries in song, and when the word is used, we all think of that sacrifice. According to Scripture, that sacrifice on CALVARY:

- Was a selfless act of love and concern for those who were in danger of losing their lives to sin. It gave them back their life. **John 3:16**, a verse with which we are all familiar, tells us: ***"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."***
- Ransomed us from the one who had taken us captive—Satan. **Mark 10:45** tells us; ***"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."***
- Gave us a second chance at life. The blood that was shed on CALVARY by Jesus was indicative of Him giving His "last full measure of devotion for us." He truly did "serve and protect" us from our enemy. **Hebrews 9:26** says of Him: ***"He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself."***

You see, CALVARY was our CAVALRY. Jesus appeared just in the nick of time, gave His life, and will lead us safely home, giving us aid and protection along the way. Every time I hear the word CALVARY used instead of CAVALRY, instead of it driving me crazy, I will be thankful.

*Mercy there was great, and grace was free;  
Pardon there was multiplied to me;  
There my burdened soul found liberty,  
At Calvary. (William R. Newell – 1895)*

---Johnny Stephens