



# WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE?

THE MEANING OF THE CRUCIFIXION

## SERMON NOTES

Week 6 April 5, 2026

“The Victory of Christ”

*Ephesians 6:12; 1 John 3:8; Colossians 2:15;*

*John 11:25, 14:1-3, 12:24, 20:21; Romans 7:4, 10:9;*

*Hebrews 2:14-15; Mark 9:24*



### I. Recap/Introduction (The Battle Between Good and Evil)

- A. In the New Testament, there are about a dozen different things that God is trying to say to us through the \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. The atonement theory of Christ the \_\_\_\_\_ is pointing toward this epic battle of good and evil.
- C. There is a \_\_\_\_\_ going on in the world and in our hearts between love and hate, kindness and cruelty, selflessness or selfishness, light and darkness.

### II. Jesus’ Victory Over the Forces of Darkness and Evil

- A. Jesus’ ministry began and ends with this battle between good and \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. One of the reasons Jesus had to die was to demonstrate God’s \_\_\_\_\_ over the forces of darkness in the world.
- C. Jesus dealt a decisive blow to the forces of darkness, but he didn’t \_\_\_\_\_ them. But in his death and resurrection he clearly demonstrated his power over them.
- D. Jesus is enlisting us to join him in the \_\_\_\_\_ against the darkness.

### III. Jesus’ Victory Over Death

- A. Christ has \_\_\_\_\_; and because he lives, we shall live also.
- B. Your life is different when you choose to \_\_\_\_\_ that there is a life beyond this life.
- C. If you seek to follow Christ as \_\_\_\_\_ and you trust that he defeated the darkness you will be saved, delivered, rescued, and given hope.

### *Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message*

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# ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *April 6-11, 2026*

## INTRODUCTION

Over the past five weeks, we have discovered that there are about a dozen different things that God is trying to say to us through the cross. Each of these is like a puzzle piece. And each week, we looked at different pieces of the puzzle as to how exactly Jesus' death does anything to transform our lives and bring us healing, hope and deliverance. In this message, we looked at the last piece of the puzzle called 'Christ the Victor!' So, what does that mean for our lives?

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### Monday: Mark 16:1-8, Matthew 28:5-8

As Matthew reported, "he's been raised from the dead, just as he said." Jesus (as we saw in this series) expected the cross and told the disciples it would happen. But Jesus, against all so-called "common sense," also anticipated his resurrection: "I give up my life so that I can take it up again" (John 10:17). Many people died on Roman crosses. Only one was alive three days later, and he predicted it. How does the singular nature of Jesus' resurrection reinforce its significance?

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### Tuesday: John 12:28-33, 16:33, 19:28-30

Long before Jesus' cross, Moses asked God, "Please show me your glorious presence" (Exodus 33:18), and God "passed in front of him and proclaimed: 'The LORD! The LORD! A God who is compassionate and merciful, very patient, full of great loyalty and faithfulness'" (Exodus 34:6). In human thought, "glory" usually means power or wealth. In what ways is God's mercy, love, patience, and loyalty, which Jesus embodied, a superior kind of "glory"?

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### Wednesday: Romans 5:15-21

Genesis 3's archetypal story captured the human dilemma - the first Adam chose to ignore God's direction, go his own way, and lost innocence, which led to shame, blaming, and, in the end, death. Paul described Jesus as the "second Adam" in both Romans 5 and 1 Corinthians 15. Unlike Adam, Jesus chose to follow God's will at all costs. How did that victory give you the choice to live a life that moves toward goodness, restored innocence, and eternal life?

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### Thursday: Isaiah 25:8, 1 Corinthians 15:23-26, 54-57

Because of Easter, Paul laid out the "plot" of the Bible's sweeping story of redemption this way: "Death came through a human being." See Genesis 3:17-24; Romans 5:12-14. The resurrection of the dead came through one too: See Romans 5:15-18.\* Only as a human could Jesus die and then defeat death by rising fully alive. How does that truth link Christmas with Easter in your faith?

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### Friday: Hebrews 2:14-15, Revelation 1:17-18

You can read about Jesus' arrest, trial and crucifixion in all four gospels. Jesus faced evil and death at their very worst. But you can also read the Easter story in all four gospels to see that Jesus defeated evil and death at their very worst. Early Christians staked their lives on the truth of Jesus' victory over death. In what ways does fear of death subtly shape your life choices? How can Jesus' death and resurrection set you free from that fear?

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## MOVING FORWARD

"Christ the Victor" points toward this epic battle of good against evil in the world. Christ is fighting that battle - it's as if he is stepping into the boxing ring and, in the end, we find that he defeats all the powers of darkness. When Jesus walked out of the tomb, he was declaring that evil, hate, sin and death did not have the final word. If you seek to follow Christ as Lord, and you trust that he defeated the darkness, you will be saved, delivered, rescued, and given hope.

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*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) cross, B) Victor, C) battle. IIA) evil, B) power, C) eliminate, IID) fight. IIIA) risen, B) believe, C) Lord.*

\* Charles A. Wanamaker, study note on 1 Corinthians 15:21 in *The CEB Study Bible*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2013, p. 330 NT.