

The Crucifixion
Message 05 in the series, "24 Hours That Changed Everything"

A. The death of Jesus was part of the hidden wisdom of God — a secret plan conceived before creation.

"God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth." Ephesians 1:9-10 (NLT)

Three reasons Jesus had to die:

1. To restore our relationship with God.

"For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God."
Romans 5:10-11 (NLT)

2. To change our relationship with God.

"For we will be counted as righteous when we obey all the commands the LORD our God has given us." Deuteronomy 6:25 (NLT)

"...Even if you are unaware of what you have done, you are guilty and will be punished for your sin." Leviticus 5:17 (NLT)

3. To remove the penalty of our sin.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23 (NLT)

"...for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." Genesis 2:17b (ESV)

B. The crucifixion was not a tragedy, it was a glorious achievement.

"But it was the LORD's good plan to crush him and cause him grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have many descendants. He will enjoy a long life, and the LORD's good plan will prosper in his hands." Isaiah 53:10 (NLT)

Three things that were achieved at the cross:

1. He stripped demonic powers of their authority.

"He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him." Colossians 2:15 (ESV)

"But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil."

1 John 3:8 (NLT)

2. A new covenant was established.

"The day is coming,' says the LORD, 'when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife,' says the LORD. 'But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel after those days,' says the LORD. 'I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.'"

Jeremiah 31:31-33 (NLT)

"So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit." Romans 8:1-4 (NLT)

3. We have been seated with Christ above every power and authority.

"...and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come."

Ephesians 1:19-21 (ESV)

"But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus." Ephesians 2:4-6 (NLT)

Note: The cross already secured the victory — our job is not to wait for it but to walk in it.

"I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself." Ephesians 1:19-23 (NLT)

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