



Today we begin a new series of messages that will focus on what the Apostle Paul calls some matters "of first importance." They are the cornerstone of our faith. Paul writes, "For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures..." (1 Cor. 15:3-4). The starting point for matters of first importance is the death of Jesus Christ. Four things stand out about his death.

I. It was a _____ death.

- A. Christ was chosen _____ the creation of the world.
- B. Fulfilled prophecy is one of the strongest _____ of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

II. It was a _____ death.

- A. Jesus willingly _____ to die.
- B. His voluntary death is the only way the world can be _____ and that sins can be _____.

III. It was a _____ death.

- A. The entire land was covered in _____.
- B. The _____ was torn in two.
- C. There was an _____.
- D. There was a resurrection of the _____.
- E. The _____ of many were _____.

IV. It was an _____ death.

- A. Jesus died a _____ death for us.

"The cross proves that sin is not _____,
that we are _____ and that _____
is possible." (-John Piper)