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THE PRIMACY OF THE ATONEMENT  
I.COR.15:3

The Christian preacher and teacher are not to be philosophers alone. But their message is prescribed. It is found in the Bible. The Bible is my text book and yours. In it are contained things very fundamental:

a.. Sin. b. The person of Christ. c. Salvation

The essential message of the Bible is "First of all something. A man asked his boy if he were to build a house where would he begin. He replied, "I would put the windows in first." This may be the trouble with most of us we leave off the important foundations that lie beneath the ground and do too much on the windows FIRST.

First of all means primacy. The question comes what follows the first of all in your life. There is a first of all in your life. You need not say there is not. But what is it? Do you set the Gospel and the Cross in the center of it down as fundamental in your life?

Paul said, "I deliver unto you, first of all--- how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures."

But what does it mean to die? We confuse dissolution of the body with death. Jesus insisted that this was a sleep. Little girl and Lazarus. Stephen fell on sleep.

What do we mean by the Savior's death? It is more than the cross, more than a quivering body, and more than dripping blood. Since Jesus died many men have given up their bodies perhaps in a more horrible way than did He.

What did it mean for Jesus to die? It was an experience of the soul. To understand we must look at the sorrowful way. He said,

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He taketh with Him Peter, James, and John and began to be amazed and to be very heavy. They said unto him, "His soul is exceeding sorrowful even unto death. This is the real article."

- A. Sore amazed--all things altered--panic of fear
- B. Began to be heavy--crushed--wax melting into shapeless mass.
- C. Exceeding sorrowful--Caught up in cyclone of grief.

Angel came and strengthened Him.

On the Cross He had a concluding experience. Not in driving of nails but after hours of silence He cried "My God, my God why hast Thou forsaken me?" Separated from God.

That is death--Midnight of the soul. He tasted death for every man. None of us have to taste of death. If we will let Him rule in our lives we only have to go to sleep here and wake up in glory

- With the sinner it is:
  - 1. Sin and abandonment
  - 2. Sin and homelessness
  - 3. Sin and terrible night

Was it right for Him to die?

