



**Darkness Defeated
on the Cross**

Matthew 27:38-43
Colossians 2:13-15

A. The Visible Rebellion at the Cross

- 1. Jesus was counted among the criminals.
“Two rebels were crucified with Him, one on His right and one on His left.” Matthew 27:38 (NIV)
- 2. Jesus endured intense bullying.
“Those who passed by hurled insults at Him, shaking their heads and saying, ‘You Who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if You are the Son of God.’” Matthew 27:39-40 (NIV)
- 3. Jesus showed faithful obedience to God, rather than to the religious elite.
“In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked Him. ‘He saved others,’ they said, ‘but He can’t save Himself! He’s the King of Israel! Let Him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in Him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue Him now if He wants Him, for He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” Matthew 27:41-43 (NIV)

Notetakers are History Makers:

B. The Invisible Victory at the Cross

- 1. There is no such thing as partial forgiveness.
“When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ.” Colossians 2:13a-b (NIV)
- 2. God performed a public execution of debt.
“...having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.” Colossians 2:13c-14 (NKJV)
- 3. Through Jesus, God disarmed darkness-for good!
“And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.” Colossians 2:15 (NIV)

Notetakers are History Makers:

C. The Miracle of Faithfulness

- 1. The crowd wanted the miracle of escape.
Jesus gave them the miracle of staying.
“We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the Champion Who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting Him, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now He is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne.” Hebrews 12:2 (NLT)
- 2. Jesus stayed on the cross until the nail went through the debt.
“When He had received the drink, Jesus said, ‘It is finished.’ With that, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.” John 19:30 (NIV)
- 3. Jesus stayed on the cross until darkness was stripped of its armor.
“When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up his plunder.” Luke 11:21-22 (NIV)

Notetakers are History Makers:

Bottom Line:
Darkness is defeated not because He escaped the cross, but because He finished it.

To begin a relationship with Jesus...
Text: “Jesus” to 570-273-0088

Next Sunday: Darkness Defeated

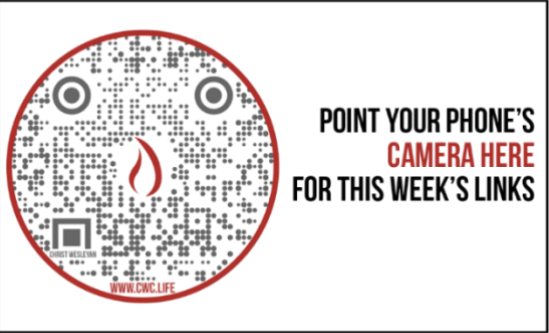
Week 6:

Darkness Defeated in the Grave

Matthew 28:1-10

Milton Campus: Pastor Branden Mestach

Sunbury Campus: Pastor Billy Robel



Giving & Attendance Update

Giving last Sunday: 88.4%

Giving year to date: 86% of goal

Attendance Last Weekend: 1,754

Salvations to date: 306 | Baptisms to date: 65

Upcoming Happenings:

TODAY – Voting by members for leadership positions
(Sunbury and Milton Campus)

Tuesday, February 24th-April 4th – 40 Days of Prayer and Fasting!

Friday, April 3rd – Good Friday Service / Milton Campus
Youth Center / 7:00p

Sunday, April 5th / Resurrection Sunday!
(NO SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE)

Milton Campus: 6:30a (Sunrise Service), 9:00a and 10:45a
Sunbury Campus: 10:15a

Sunday, April 12th - Baptism Class, 10:45, classroom 120

“Reach the One” Campaign Update

457 Total Participants

\$4,000,000 – Giving Goal by Nov. 2027

\$2,350,979.62 - Donations Expected by Nov. 2027

\$1,757,633.12 - Received Donations – 44% of \$4M Goal

Want to pledge, donate, or learn more?

Scan:



Looking for your next step at CWC?

Welcome Party: 1st Sunday of Every Month
(Except for Easter Sunday)

- *If you are new* or if you’ve been around a bit and are looking to build friendships with others, our Welcome Party is for you! **Get to know others** who are newer at CWC as well as our welcome team and our pastors in a relational environment. There will be light refreshments and the opportunity to hear about our small groups, baptism, and your next step of Growth Track. If you’re asking the question, “*How can I make friends here?*” then this is for you! No registration is required, you can just show up. Look for the signs on the first Sunday of the month.

Growth Track: 3-week class on Sunday Mornings

- Growth Track exists to help you learn about the vision of CWC, the gifts God has given you, and how you can use them in specific opportunities to serve at CWC. You’ll learn amongst others of how to become a vital part of the ministries of the church so that we can share the light of Christ with our communities. If you miss a class, don’t worry! Growth Track runs every other month, on Sunday mornings, and we even have an online option you can participate in (though we recommend in-person if you can). You can see what classes are available by going to **cwclife.churchcenter.com/registrations**.

Membership Class: Once a quarter on Sundays after 2nd service

- Membership class is the last step of fully assimilating at CWC. Learn about our denomination, The Wesleyan Church and the bigger movement we are a part of across the world. This 3-hour class with the lead pastor provides you a place to **ask important questions about our beliefs as a church** and allows you to become eligible for our local board of administration. You also become eligible for denominational events like our district and general conferences. To sign up for our next class, let us know at the Hub or email: **loretta.paulhamus@cwclife**