

# The Deepest Darkness Ever

## Ephesians 4:8-10

The traditional view of this passage is that Jesus descended into hell to overcome sin, death and Satan between His death and resurrection

### What?

*In the darkness of Jesus' hour, He overcame for us the enemy's power*

What happened after Jesus died—

Jesus said to one of the thieves that was crucified with Him, "Today you will be with Me in paradise"

The last thing Jesus said before physically dying was "Father, into your hands I commit My spirit"

Jesus was in the Father's hands in spirit in heaven between His death and resurrection

That leaves us with the issue of where Ephesians 4 fits in

This has to do with the concept of Jesus' "hour"

Connection with Jesus—

Jesus was always conscious of moving toward His "hour"

*John 7:30, ESV—So they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come*

*John 12:27, ESV—"Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour"*

This was when He would overthrow sin, death and Satan

**The Big Question—When did Jesus gain His victory?**

The gospels all mention the three hours of darkness

In Gethsemane He said to His arresters, "This is your hour, and the power of darkness"

John said that Jesus appeared as the light and the darkness was not able to extinguish it (John 1)

It was the intention of Satan to extinguish the light

Satan produced the darkness as a symbol of the intention of hell

It was during the three hours of darkness that the Son of Man battled all the forces of hell

Afterwards He said, "My God, why did you forsake Me"

The death that saves was not Jesus' physical death, but rather what happened during the darkness

This is the point at which Jesus descended (Ephesians 4:9)

Afterwards He said, "It has been accomplished" and committed His spirit into the Father's hands

### So What?

Jesus refused to save Himself from the cross, so that He could save you and me

Thank God and rejoice in your forgiveness

Jesus' Spirit enables our victory over sin and Satan

This means that we no longer need to fear death

Also whatever you're going through, Jesus knows your pain

The last word—Paul

*Colossians 2:15, NIV—And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross*

### Now What?

Today is the day to receive salvation from sin and the fear of death

In the face of temptation, claim victory over sin and the evil one because of Jesus' victory at the cross