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Have you ever been in a race? How can you tell who wins a race? (That's right. The person who crosses the finish line first wins.) It's fun when you get to be the winner. Even though races are fun to win, there are some kinds of contests that are a lot more important.

Sometimes when someone is really sick they might say they had a bout with the flu, meaning they had a fight or contest with the sickness. How do you think you would know if someone won a contest with an illness? (They got better again!)

What's the most important battle of all? (The battle with sin) What's the punishment for sin? (Death) So how would you know if someone won the battle over sin?

We don't often think of Jesus as a great warrior, but Jesus won the battle that all others had failed to win. When Jesus died on the cross he paid the penalty for all our sin. His resurrection proves that he won the battle over sin and death. And now, Jesus gives this same victory to all those who will trust in him.

This verse reminds us that God is almighty and sovereign. He will always accomplish all that he sets out to do. God defeats all his enemies. God will give us victory over sin and death when we turn away from our sins (repentance) and believe in (faith) his son, Jesus Christ. So we don't have to fear death any longer.