



# Sermon Series Notes

## Communion-The Love of God- March 25, 2015

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2 questions I want to look at today in light of Jesus' sacrifice.

1. Why did Jesus have to suffer and die ?
2. Why is blood required?

Lev. 17:11 makes it clear: *For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.*

Atonement means to pay for a debt. Popular Science: Miracle of blood

Heb. 10 1-22.

But why did Jesus have to die? Couldn't he just say magic words and we all get heaven?

**Two problems: 1. We don't understand God's justice and 2. God's love.**

- a. we don't understand Hell. 64% of Americans believe they will go to heaven, only 1% believes they will go to hell. Terrible place –This is **Why we need to talk about hell:**

1. Wake up call for many -Mark 9:43: CT Studd- Gave it all. Famous quote: *Some wish to live within the sound of Church or Chapel Bell. I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of Hell. Now the main thing is to get the eyes of the people open. They need to see hell as the result of their sin, and that produces fear, the fear of God which is the **beginning** of wisdom. Once get this fear and all will be comparatively easy; but if this fear does not lay hold of a man, his so-called conversion is a sham. True love wakens a man to reality; sham love soaps him down to hell, greases his trail, in fact, to hell. Very many are half asleep or deluded, and make up fancy doctrines of their own, which practically mean that an unholy man can get to heaven without being holy. But remember, Christ did not die to whitewash us, He died to re-create us, and none but His re-creations enter heaven.*
2. Truly Loving thing to do
3. Jesus talked about it more than any other in Bible
4. We choose hell, God doesn't send us there. \_ 2 Thess. 1:9 *They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might* J.I.Packer writes: "*Scripture sees hell as self-chosen*

*. . . [H]ell appears as God's gesture of respect for human choice. All receive what they actually chose, either to be with God forever, worshipping him, or without God forever, worshipping themselves. CS Lewis - "There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done' and those to whom God says, in the end, 'THY will be done.'*

2. Understanding hell is the only way to know how extravagant God's love is. Tim Keller: Fairly often I meet people who say, "I have a personal relationship with a loving God, and yet I don't believe in Jesus Christ at all." Why, I ask? "My God is too loving to pour out infinite suffering on anyone for sin." But this shows a deep misunderstanding of both God and the cross. On the cross, God HIMSELF, incarnated as Jesus, took the punishment. He didn't visit it on a third party, but took it on himself.

So the question becomes: what did it cost your kind of god to love us and embrace us? What did he endure in order to receive us? Where did this god agonize, cry out, and where were his nails and thorns? The only answer is: "I don't think that was necessary." But then ironically, in our effort to make God more loving, we have made him less loving. His love, in the end, needed to take no action. It was sentimentality, not love at all. The worship of a god like this will be at most impersonal, cognitive, and ethical.

3. It's biblical- don't try to explain it away. Take God at his word. Or not all.
4. At the end of the day: Genesis 18:25- Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?

**Communion-** 1<sup>st</sup> communion was a seder – Passover meal. To the Jews, it was more than a festival.