

The Christian's Memorial

Introduction:

1. Tomorrow we observe a national holiday called Memorial Day. This is a day that is set aside to remember Americans who have given their lives for their country.
2. Did you know that there is a special memorial day for believers? It is a time for us to remember the One who gave His life for us – Jesus Christ. We commonly refer to it as the Lord's Supper, or communion. Turn to 1 Corinthians 11:23-25.
3. Every time we receive that bread and drink that cup, it is a memorial day for us. It is a time to remember Christ's body and His shed blood.
4. This being Memorial Day weekend, I thought it would be appropriate for us to remember what our Savior did for us, and observe the Christian's memorial.
5. Of course, His body was no ordinary body. It was a sinless body. His body became an offering for sin, but ultimately it was a resurrected body.
6. But I want us to focus on His precious blood this morning, represented by the cup. How necessary was the shedding of Christ's blood?
7. What does the Bible teach about the blood of Christ?

First, Christ's blood was innocent blood. Matthew 27:4

1. The blood that flowed through Christ's veins was not tainted by sin or wickedness. It was pure, holy blood. Had it been normal blood, tainted by the law of sin, it would have meant nothing when shed.
2. But this was not the case (1 Peter 1:19). His blood was precious, without blemish and without spot.
3. Judas Iscariot knew the truth. He lived and walked with Christ day in and day out for over three years. He had more sense than many liberal theologians and scholars. It was innocent blood.

Second, Christ's blood has purchasing power. Acts 20:28

1. What a verse! Who is doing the purchasing? God! How did He purchase us? With His own blood!
2. Another Bible word for "*purchased*" is "*redeemed*." God has redeemed us out of the slave market of sin. He paid the price – His own blood. 1 Peter 1:19; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14
3. If Christ had not shed His blood, could I be redeemed from the slave market of sin? Absolutely not! Leviticus 17:11

Third, Christ's blood can justify. Romans 5:9

1. What does this mean? It means we are made acceptable to a holy God. When God justifies, He charges the sin of man to Christ and credits the righteousness of Christ to the believer.

2. Without Christ's shedding of blood, there is no way sins can be forgiven, which means there is no way for a sinner to be justified. Hebrews 9:22; Revelation 1:5
3. It is the blood of Christ applied to a believer's sins that brings peace with God and justifies. Colossians 1:20

Fourth, Christ's blood is sufficient.

1. In the Old Testament, every year the high priest would go in with the blood of sacrificial animals to atone for the sins of the people. Hebrews 9:7
2. But these sacrifices were never sufficient. They could never wash away sins permanently, only cover sins. Hebrews 10:4, 11
 - Every year it had to be repeated.
3. I like the way Hebrews 9:11 starts, "*But Christ...*"
 - Notice "*eternal redemption.*" Christ's blood is sufficient. It doesn't just cover sins. It takes away sins and gives us an eternal standing of righteousness with God Almighty.
4. Read Hebrews 9:25-26, 28, 10:10-12, 14
5. Praise God, His precious blood shed on Calvary is a once-for-all, sufficient sacrifice and offering for sin.