

***Intro:***

Main Point of Text: God forbade the Israelites from pagan worship practices that sought to manipulate deistic power. (Pragmatism)

Sermon Point: *Don't Praise Like Pragmatic Pagans.*

***Move 1: Christian worship is about remembering what you have already been given in the past.***

Today's verse has background (Gen. 9:4; Lev. 3:17; 7:26; 16:10; **17:10-14**; Deut. 12:16, 23-27): don't eat the blood of an animal, because *life is in the blood*. Pointed to the Blood of the Lamb that has given eternal life. John 6:54-56: *Whoso ... drinketh my blood, hath eternal life ... For my ... my blood is drink indeed. He that ... drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.* Christ communicates this fellowship through Communion. 1 Cor. 11:25. Christianity is about present peace because of Christ's cross in the past.

***Move 2: Christian worship is about giving thanks for your certain future.***

Levitical sacrifices: blood was to be sprinkled and poured out – not kept around or consumed. Signified God had provided/granted forgiveness for sins that had separated and are now past and not in the way of the future. John 6:54: *Whoso ... drinketh my blood ... I will raise him up at the last day.* The Lord's Supper expresses a past that guarantees your future: 1 Cor. 11:26. So you celebrate that Christ came/is coming for you. Mt. 26:27-28; Luke 22:20. *Eucharist* from Greek words for "give thanks".

***Move 3: Pagan worship is about manipulating for personally getting in the present.***

Connection of first and second clauses of the verse not based on "life is in the blood" so much as a concern with paganism. Eating the blood "with" (lit., on or over) the sacrificed animal. Such idol worship sought omens ("enchantments": lit., practice divination) and sought to conjure up demonic powers ("observe times": soothsaying to predict the future). Pagans their sacrifice in a hole in the earth and put its blood into a vessel for the demons to drink and ate there to commune with and get knowledge of the future. Israelites might have tried to mimic with animals eaten at home or by attending pagan worship. 1 Cor. 10:20-21. Christians must never bow to the influences of *pragmatism*: behavior based on getting not giving.

***Conclusion:***

***Don't Praise Like Pragmatic Pagans.***