I don't think it's healthy to ever get to a place where
we don't consider every service that we have,
whether it be Wednesday night or Sunday night
or Sunday morning, as not a special service.
Every opportunity that we have to gather and
worship God and to open his word and to learn
from him is a privileged opportunity and every
one of those should be considered special.
However, I think tonight communion is a, I
want to use the term, extra special service.
It has a different feel to me and it has had a different feel to me for a long time.
And I want to talk for just a minute before I read the text.
The purpose of the night is not to teach what,
how we view communion versus how someone else
views communion and those types of things.
Just like baptism, there's different views on those things.
But what I think is crystal, crystal clear when
we read this passage of scripture and many others,
do this, this is about remembering what Jesus Christ did for us.
Do this in remembrance of me.
In Christ alone, my hope is found.
1 Corinthians chapter 23, chapter 11, verse 23.
Apostle Paul has a lot to say here about how this
had been done, in many cases unworthily, lightly.
There's instruction here for a man to examine
himself before he partakes in this ordinance.
Let me, let me say this, this morning we, the
Lord left us two ordinances or two practices
to follow.
One is baptism.
Do you therefore teach all nations, baptizing
them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost?
It is impossible to overstate the significance
of that, what it meant in the, in the times of
the New Testament church and what it should mean in our day today.
That that individual goes down in the watery
grave, he's dead to sin, that old man is gone,
and a new man is raised in the resurrection and the power of the Lord Jesus Christ.
It is a testimony that I am a follower of
the King of kings and the Lord of lords, and I am a different individual.
Communion.
The death, the sacrifice of our Lord.
Paul says not to take this unworthily, a man should examine himself.
This is one of those opportunities that we search our hearts.
Preacher, does that mean I have to be sinless and perfect to partake in communion?
No, if that was the case, none of us could or none of us should.
But if we come here tonight and we have unrepentant

sin in our life, we're holding grudges and guilt
and those types of things, let us not think
that we can nestle up to the table of God and
commune with Him with such vileness within us.
It's one of those times that you really, really,
really have to look and go, Lord is all right
with you and me, and I want to be obedient to what you have left us.
But the scripture says in 1 Corinthians chapter 11, verse number 23, he says,
For I have received of the Lord that which
also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus,
the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread.
And when He had given thanks, He break it and
said, Take, eat, this is my body which is broken
for you, this do in remembrance of me.
After the same manner also He took the cup,
and when He had slept, saying, This cup is the
New Testament and my blood.
This do ye as often as ye drink it in remembrance of me.
Purpose of communion, verse 23, For as often
as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, you do show the Lord's death till He come.
Let's pray.
Dear God, we gather here tonight, Lord, I pray
that you would give us, Lord, clear vision,
renewed vision of the only reason for our hope,
of the great sacrifice that you paid on our behalf.
And Lord, tonight in following your command,
Lord, that we do show your death, we remember your sacrifice.
God, take this time.
May you use it to draw us closer together.
Prepare us for a season of revival where our
hearts may be clean, our ears may be attentive,
our hearts open to your spirit and your word,
Lord, that you might be glorified, that lives
might be changed, that sinners might be saved.
Lord, we ask you to bless this time tonight.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.
Amen.
Charles Spurgeon said, I'd rather be blind,
deaf, and dumb, lose my taste and smell, than not love Christ.
To be unable to appreciate Him is the worst of
disabilities, the most serious of calamities.
It is not the loss of a spiritual faculty, it is the death of the soul.
To be unable to love and appreciate Christ is
the killer of worship, is the killer of a walk,
indeed is the death of a soul.
And I'm convinced that the best way to love

Him, the surest way to appreciate Him, is to
remember not only who He is, but what this great God did on our behalf.
Paul writes in this brief section of 1 Corinthians
chapter 11, he talks about us remembering the
Lord, and there's a few things that specifically,
before we get into verse number 24 and number
25, that we need to remember about our Lord,
about this entire gospel, about our hope.
But Paul says here in verse 23, we need to remember that this is the plan of God.
This is the Lord's initiative.
Verse 23, Paul writes, it says, For I have received
of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you.
That the message that the message that Paul is writing, it says it is
one that he is delivering, but he also states it is one that he received.
It's not something that he came up with, it's not something that he imagined, it's not
something that he created, but that the Lord himself was the initiator of the word.
The Lord himself was the initiator of the message.
This night, if you turn in the Bible to the Gospels, Mark chapter 11, many other places, this special night where the Lord and his disciples gathered together for communion, was orchestrated by the hands of God.
It was thought of in the minds of God.
God sent them to a special place.
The Lord Jesus had a man prepared with a pitcher in his hand.
He says, When you find him, you go and follow him.
And there will be a room there already
reserved and ready for you when you get there.
It's important that we recognize that this special
time, this special meal, was not of human design.
It was not of human origin.
It was all part of the glorious plan of God.
Folks, we dare not, must not, ever not miss the responsibility that lies with men.
As we looked at this morning, it's very possible for a man to miss him.
But we almost must never, dare not, we cannot forget the reason for our hope.
That communion is a reminder that it is only
because of him that we have hope at all.
That he is the author of our faith.
He is the finisher of our faith.
Because none of us could make it up, God came down for his glory and for our good.
Through his spirit, through his quickening, through his
word, he shined the glorious gospel into our dead eyes.
And opened our eyes.
His spirit was sent and it stirred us and drew us to the cross.
That man has not created this.
Man didn't come up with this.
As we looked at it in Sunday school this morning,
Jesus told Nicodemus, you must be born again.
This isn't done to the flesh or the will of man.

That is accomplished through the very spirit of God.
It's something that man can't do, but that the
Lord is the initiator of all of these things.
He said, remember that this what I'm giving you, I've received it.
I've received it from God.
We're also reminded here of the betrayal.
Look at verse 23.
He says, for I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered in you.
That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed.
The sin of Judas.
I'm convinced there's no sadder man in all of scripture.
There's a lot of men who saw light.
Pharaoh saw lots of light.
Many people that walked with Jesus saw lots of light.
But Judas was a man who had the opportunity to walk with the Lord, to spend
evenings with the Lord, to commune with the Lord, to fellowship with the Lord.
And we know the story of Judas that he betrayed the only Messiah.
But I also thought beyond Judas to the garden itself.
Adam and Eve didn't turn God over, but betrayal was their sin.
They exchanged the truth of God for a lie.
Self-exaltation over humility and obedience.
Pleasant fruit over God's provision.
And the reality is, through nature, through choice, through
personal practice, Adam's sin and Judas' sin is of our very own.
All of us have crossed a line that we can't cross back from.
We've made choices that we have no way to undo.
We all stand guilty before God.
That the Roman cross is fitting punishment for our sin.
And do you know that that punishment was held
specifically for the most grievous transactions?
Resurrection against the government.
Rebellion against the government.
Folks, that is the sin of men.
It is rebellion against God.
It is no accident that this was the means
that the Lord used to purchase our redemption.
Paul says, remember that what we have, the disciples didn't come up with this.
That the early church didn't come up with this.
That same night, and Jesus was betrayed.
The Lord said, you go there to a certain place, and you're
going to find a man there with a pitcher in his hand.
And you follow him, and everything is set up as it needs to be set up.
This night of great heaviness, right before I go to the cross, we're
going to sit down, and we're going to break bread together one more time.
This is a night that I'm going to be betrayed, but I'm
even going to wash the feet of the man who betrayed me.
But remember, remember, remember, remember when

you get together what all of this is about.
But it says also here, verse number 24, we come together to remember his broken body.
Paul writes, and when he had given thanks, this is verse 23,
For I have received to the Lord that which also I delivered unto you,
that the Lord Jesus, the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread.
And when he had given thanks, he break it and said,
Take, eat, this is my body which is broken for you, this do in remembrance of me.
Folks, the Lord Jesus was familiar with bread.
He's the same God who fed over 2 million people
for 40 years in the wilderness for bread.
He's the God that took five loaves of fish, I mean, five loaves of bread,
he took it and he break it and he fed 5,000 men.
He says in John chapter 6, verse 51, he says,
I am the living bread which come down from heaven.
He says in verse 48, I am that bread of life.
And this night, I wish I could go back.
To me, this is the most sweetest scene in
Scripture where Jesus is there with his disciples.
He tells them so much, you start reading in John
chapter 14 and gone through John chapter 17.
Let not your heart be troubled.
You believe in God, believe also in me.
In my Father's house are many mansions.
If it were not so, I would have told you.
I go to prepare a place for you that where I go, you may be with me.
I will not leave you comfortless.
I will send the comforter unto you.
He prays for them.
This is such an intimate, intimate night.
But now the Lord Jesus is there with his disciples,
with his men, and he takes bread and he breaks it.
He said, take, eat.
This is my body, which is broken for you.
Broken.
Certainly, it's a picture of the spear that would be thrust into his side,
the crown of thorns that would be placed upon his head,
the spitting and the smiting of the Roman soldiers that he's there.
But more than anything, this is a picture of Christ going to the cross.
It's what he agonized over in prayer.
Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me,
but nevertheless, not my will, but thine will be done,
that God's lamb knew he was going to the cross,
and he would be crushed.
He would be broken under the just wrath of God
because he would be draped in the sin of humanity.
He says, when you come to communion and you take this cup,
you remember my precious body

that was crushed under the just wrath of my Father.
Now, tonight, when we take this, we go back and go,
what great love God has shown to us
that he would bear the wrath of God,
the wrath of the Father,
and be broken for Brian Williams.
He would be broken for New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church.
And Jesus says, this do in remembrance of me so that you'll love me and appreciate me
and come to me and call on me and serve me and worship me.
He left this for us
that we may remember that body that was broken.
He says here in verse 25, He says here in verse 25,
after the same manner also,
he took the cup, and when he had sucked saying,
this cup is a New Testament,
this is important, this cup is a New Testament in my blood.
This do ye as often ye drink it
in remembrance of me.
Jesus references the New Testament or the New Covenant.
We can go back to the Old Testament and the Old Covenant.
And folks, the Old Testament and the Old Covenant
is a covenant of blood and blood and blood and blood.
Thousands upon thousands of lambs, thousands upon thousands of bulls,
thousands upon thousands of goats,
truckloads, gallonloads, trailerloads of blood
that was spilled over thousands and thousands of years.
Adam and Eve, when they fell in the garden, blood was shed to cover their sin.
When the children of Israel went to Egypt and the death angel was coming,
the Lord tells them, He says,
you take,
you slay that best lamb
and you take the blood and you put it above the door.
Blood and blood and blood and blood.
But here's the reality.
Folks, not one drop of that Old Testament blood
ever saved one single soul.
All it did was cover sin.
All it did was delay the punishment.
It never cleansed a single one.
And that's why Jesus says here in this passage of Scripture,
this cup is the New Testament
and my blood.
We're talking about the blood of the perfect man.
We're talking about the blood of the God man.
A blood that goes beyond the surface and it gets down to the soul.
A blood that would cleanse an individual,
save an individual,

secure an individual,
make the sinner and the scarlet
as white as snow.
He says this is a different type of sacrifice.
This is the final sacrifice.
My blood.
My body.
In New Bethel.
As we gather here tonight,
we do this
for the sole purpose of remembering Him.
Remembering Him.
Let's pray.
Heavenly Father, Heavenly Father,
thank you for the great gift of love
of sending your Son.
Lord, I can't even begin to
begin to comprehend
for the weight of the sacrifice that my Savior endured.
Dear God, you give us a glimpse through your Word.
You show us the wages of sin, the reality of sin,
but the only means for redemption
was for God to become man
and bear the sins of man,
live a perfect life as a man,
die on that cross and raise from the grave,
and now you reign victoriously in glory till you come back
and call your children home.
But dear Lord,
as we serve on this earth,
may we love you
and appreciate you and worship you and serve you.
May we call people to you that they may see
that there the sacrifice has been made,
that the blood has been spilled.
Everything necessary
to finalize our redemption
was secured
by our precious, precious Messiah.
Lord, help us tonight to do this
in remembrance of you.
In Jesus' sweet name I pray.
Amen.
Amen.