

- **Here is Love** ... **Augustine**: “The cross was a pulpit in which Christ preached His love to the world” ... [Jo3:16-17](#) ... [1Jo4:9-10](#) ... [Propitiation](#) – the death of Christ satisfied the wrath of God – His wrath towards our sin against Him, of which all of our sin is essentially ... [Rom3:20-26](#) ... **Love**: “Grace and love, like mighty rivers, poured incessant from above; and Heaven’s peace and perfect justice kissed a guilty world in love” ... The brutal cross of Jesus is forever tethered to the bountiful love of God ... So that, whenever one sees a cross, they should be reminded of how far God has gone to demonstrate His precious love
- Before the section we read today, Mark records Jesus being flogged and mocked by the Roman soldiers, which we read about last week ... For criminals the soldiers had no pity; for a criminal suggesting that He was an all-powerful King and God, the soldiers ramped up their cruel antics ... The body of Jesus was beaten and His flesh torn open, all over ... Sharp thorns were forced into His head, as the soldiers continued to hit Him on the head with a scepter ... This was not how the Messiah was to be treated ... This was not the way in which the Messiah was to gain victory over His enemies – the enemies of Israel ... *Lord, these things should never happen to You*, rebuked Peter ... *You are our Messiah; the Leader of our people – this isn’t supposed to happen* ... Yet, Jesus sets out towards Jerusalem determined to finish the work He was sent to accomplish ... And as He did, He continued to speak about the type of death that awaited Him in Jerusalem
  - The soldiers led Jesus out to **Golgotha, the place of the Skull**, and affixed across His shoulders was a 40lb crossbeam ... Those who were condemned to die were forced to carry the beam upon which they would be crucified ... As Jesus proceeds, He becomes weaker and weaker ... The soldiers pull a man out from the crowd who’s just arrived for the Passover celebration ... Mark inserts a comment on the sons, who are part of the church in Rome, the audience Mark is writing ... I wonder if this event causes Simon to give his life to the One who gave His life for him ... As a disciple of Jesus, Simon would truly understand what it meant to deny himself, pick up his cross, and follow Jesus
  - Once at Golgotha, **they crucified Him** ... Neither Mark nor the other gospel writers expound on Jesus’ death other than, they crucified Him ... The audience of the gospels would know what crucifixion entailed ... It was the harshest form of execution known at that time ... It was barbaric; meant to humiliate the person as they slowly suffocated and bled out ... [Ps22:1, 6-8, 14-18](#) ... Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, David penned this words 400yrs before crucifixion existed, and 1,000yrs before Jesus was born ... Gospel writers see what happened to Jesus and realize in what ways Jesus has fulfilled what was previously spoken
- The weight of God’s wrath is poured out in the punishment and death of His Son, through the actions of humanity’s injustice, hate, and revile against the One who claims to be the Son of God (and is) ... He was counted among the rebels, and bore the sins of the rebellious ... He was ridiculed and mocked; those present and those who passed by looked upon Him in contempt ... **Swete**: “The jest was the harder to endure since it appealed to a consciousness of power held back only by the self-restraint of a sacrificed will” ... Jesus refused to dull the pain and suffering that He was enduring ... This needed to be carried out just as it was happening; for He was the propitiation for us all
  - **Tear from Heaven** ... We do not have a God who stands outside of our suffering, instead He stands directly in the middle of our suffering with us ... WHY? Because He loves you! ... And He will endure any suffering with you, proving to you again and again how much He loves you, and will see you through every step
  - Men do we understand the love God has for us ... Fathers, how much do you love your child ... That is just the beginning of how much God loves you ... We’re told as boys to hide our feelings, that it’s not manly to cry or express emotion ... That’s a lie that men have bought into ... **Mullins**: “And everybody used to tell me big boys don’t cry / Well I’ve been around enough to know that was the lie / That held back the tears in the eyes of a thousand prodigal sons / Well we are children no more, we have sinned and grown old / And our Father still waits and He watches down the road / To see the crying boys come running back to His arms”

- [Vs31-32](#) ... In ignorance, those gathered around the cross could not see how this man could be the Messiah and King of God's people, who would be the One to save them ... Many of those who stand outside of the Church, who even stand opposed to the Church, scorn the Cross – how can a loving God and Father unleash unjust wrath upon His Son as described; what type of God allows Himself to be killed by those He is said to love; why the need for so much blood and cruel punishment ... It is so much easier to believe in a God that isn't wrapped up in sin, wrath and death, but is simply love – He loves everyone regardless of who they are and how they live
  - God does love the world, for He sent His Son into the world so that all who would believe in Him may have eternal life ... This life comes because of death, His death on a cross – a self-sacrifice of substitution and propitiation ... God's wrath has been satisfied, and His anger and our sins removed, so that upon the bill of our debt to Him has been stamped "PAID IN FULL" ... [Gal3:13](#), "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us" ... [Heb9:22](#), "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness" ... The wages of sin is death ([Ro6:23](#)) – something has to stand and take the punishment due for sin ... It was either us or Someone else ... And God said, "I'll do it", and thus Jesus came to take our place upon the cross
  - In my place condemned He stood / Sealed my pardon with His blood / Hallelujah! What a Savior! ... Here is love, vast as the ocean / Loving kindness as the flood / When the Prince of Life, our Ransom / Shed for us His precious blood
  - [1Cor1:18-31](#) ... The cross is foolishness to those who do not believe and stand in opposition to it, but for those who look upon the cross and believe in the One who hangs upon it, seeing Him as their only Savior, the cross is the power of God to us who are being saved ... God was pleased to save those who believe through the foolishness of what is preached. For the Jews ask for signs and the Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles ... Instead, God has chosen what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen what is weak in the world to shame the strong. God has chosen what is insignificant and despised in the world – what is viewed as nothing – to bring to nothing what is viewed as something, so that no one may boast in His presence.
  - Where do you stand? ... Do you stand upon the hill of your own merits and wisdom, or do you stand upon the hill with your Savior ... In great and lavish love, God your Father and Christ your Savior say, "Look, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands" ([Is49:16](#)) ... You are ever before Him; you are always in His grace; His care and concern and provision is always with you, because you are in His pierced hands

## Communion Reflection

- 1 Peter 2:24-25