

Doctoral Dissertation
Advisor: Prof. Byung-June Hwang (Ph.D.)

**A STUDY ON SACRIFICE CULTURE OF
TORAJA FOR HUMANISTIC HAPPINESS AND
CHRIST SACRIFICE IN CHRISTIAN
ESCHATOLOGICAL LIFE**

A Dissertation Submitted to the Faculty of
The United Graduate School of Theology
In Partial Fulfillment for the Degree of
Doctor of Philosophy in Practical Theology

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ACCEPTANCE

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**A STUDY ON SACRIFICE CULTURE OF *TORAJA*
FOR HUMANISTIC HAPPINESS AND
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(ABSTRACT)

Sacrifice and happiness in *Toraja* culture are an inseparable series of cause and effect. *Toraja* people focus their lives and the results of their work on the sacrifice of tens to hundreds of buffalo and pigs in traditional ceremonies, in order to obtain satisfaction and happiness. The values of sacrifice and happiness in *Toraja* culture need to be transformed into the Christian faith, because the majority of *Toraja* people are Christians. To examine this issue, the authors use qualitative research methods by means of library research and field research.

The form or type of happiness that the *Torajan* people hoped for and pursued through great sacrifices in traditional ceremonies, namely, social happiness and theological happiness. In Christian theology the sacrifice of Christ is a crucial point for the work of atonement and human salvation. The sacrifice of Jesus abolished all cults of animal sacrifice. Through the sacrifice of Christ, humans obtain perfect and eternal happiness, namely eternal life and a close relationship with God. Local churches, as manifestations of communion, must be more active in bringing all elements of culture to be sanctified and used to glorify God.

Sacrifice in *Torajan* culture has the big potential to be transformed into an offering to God, for the welfare of fellow human beings and the glory of God. The Bible shows that the sincerity of sacrifice is a condition for man to have a right relationship with God and others. The true sacrifice is a broken soul, a broken and crushed heart (Psalm 51:19). The willingness of God's people to sacrifice for God and others is based on Christ's love-driven example of sacrifice.

Keywords: Sacrifice, happiness, Jesus's sacrifice, culture, death ceremony, life ceremony, *Toraja*, social life, contextualization, Trinity, eschatological life, church responsibility.