

## Administering The Lord's Supper, Luke 22:19-20

As we have been finding in our study of Jeremiah, there is a common theme in the Old Testament: the sins of unbelief and disobedience. Despite God's faithfulness and patience, the covenant people were covenant breakers. There was nothing wrong with the old covenant, but there was something wrong with the people. God would need to supply "something more," in order for the people to receive His blessings.

The words "a new covenant" only appear once in all of the Old Testament Scriptures! After 30 chapters of disobedience, in Jeremiah 31, verses 31-34, God promised a new covenant, when God would renew His exiled people, write His law on their hearts, forgive their sins, and give them a true knowledge of Himself. This is the "something more" that God would supply in order to establish an eternal relationship with His people.

Listen to the words of our Savior Jesus, just before He went to the cross in Luke 22:19-20 (ESV) "...[Jesus] took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood..."

Jesus knew that He had lived perfectly in order to supply what the people could not do – perfect covenant obedience. Jesus would give His A plus report card to them. But what about their failures? Jesus also knew that He would receive the punishment required for their covenant breaking. Through Jesus' blood shed for us on the cross, we are reconciled to God and the Holy Spirit has written His law on our hearts. The Apostle Paul confirmed this in 2 Corinthians 3:3, "...you are a letter from Christ....written not with ink but with the Spirit...not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts." In the New Covenant, we truly know God and love Him with our heart, soul, strength and mind, the central thing that the Old Covenant called believers to do, but they could never do perfectly.

Under the Old Covenant, believers trusted in God's promises of a new covenant coming later, but their animal sacrifices could not remove the guilt of their sin. Similarly, this bread and cup cannot remove our guilt of our sins. Only the blood of the once-for-all sacrifice of the Lamb of God Jesus can remove the guilt of our sins.

The Old Covenant believers received forgiveness the same way that we do – by what Jesus would do many years later. New Covenant believers receive forgiveness by what Jesus did, many years ago.

Hebrews 10:10, "we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." And a few verses later, in Hebrews 10:17, there is a quote from the same passage in Jeremiah 31:34, where God promised, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."

The great promise of the new covenant was that God will remember our sins no more.

Since God Himself remembers your sins no more, there no room left for us to remember our own sins. No room for a guilty conscience. He has forgiven us. Our consciences are clean. His Word is written on our hearts by His Spirit. We are free to serve God. Receive the bread and wine as proof of His sacrifice, proof of His forgiveness, and rejoice in the spiritual presence of Christ.