

1 Corinthians 11:23–25

²³ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;

²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

²⁵ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

“A New Covenant in His Blood” I Corinthians 11:25

INTRO:

Why do we celebrate the Lord’s Supper? There are several answers to this question. First, we do this because the Lord commanded us to participate in the Lord’s Supper. Another very important reason is because it pictures for us something very important. The first Lord’s Supper marked the initiation of the new covenant in Christ. Each of the four accounts of the Lord’s Supper in the New Testament mention this covenant. We read here in **1 Corinthians 11:25** these words, *“In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.’”* Why is this important for us to understand when we come to the Lord’s Supper? It is important for two reasons.

- I. Our Relationship with God Is Always Based On a Covenant*
- II. In Christ, God Made a New Covenant with Us.*

I. Our Relationship with God Is Always Based On a Covenant

A. God’s relationship with His people has always been framed as a covenant relationship. When I think of a covenant, I inevitably think about the covenant God made with Abraham. We read of the process in **Genesis 15:7-17**.

“Then He said to him, ‘I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it.’ And he said, ‘Lord GOD, how shall I know that I will inherit it?’ So He said to him, ‘Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.’ Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him. Then He said to Abram: ‘Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions.

Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.’ And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces. On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying: ‘To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates—the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.’”

B. The Covenant God established with Israel after coming out of Egypt is another example,

Exodus 24:3-8 *“So Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, ‘All the words which the Lord has said we will do.’ And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD. And he rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he sent young men of the children of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. And Moses took half the blood and put it in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, ‘All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient.’ And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, ‘This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words.’”*

These are both examples of how God has bound Himself to men. He bound Himself to Abraham and to the children of Abraham. This is grace in action. God, the infinite, eternal, holy God of the universe Who needs no one and nothing, has chosen to commit Himself to us who deserve nothing but hell.

C. There is another very significant mention of covenant in the Old Testament, it is found in **Jeremiah 31:31-34**. This is the New Covenant that God will establish in the New Testament.

“Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: (1) I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; (2) and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. (3) No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. (4) For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

This covenant is the covenant which was established at Calvary and pictured in the Lord's Supper.

II. In Christ, God Made a New Covenant with Us.

A. Let us then think about this new covenant and how it is pictured in the Lord's Supper. To understand this we must think about a passage in **Hebrews 9:18-28**.

“(1) Therefore not even the first covenant was dedicated without blood. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, ‘This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you.’ (2) And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission. (3) For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us. He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.”

What was the Apostle to the Hebrews telling us here? He drew a parallel between the establishment of the Mosaic covenant and the New Covenant. He said three things.

1. First, the writer takes us back to **Exodus 24**. Remember how the first covenant was established. Blood was shed and sprinkled on the people and on the elements of worship. The first covenant was established with the blood of an innocent victim. Their worship was only acceptable to a holy God when offered through the blood!

2. Then he explains to us why this was all necessary in the plan of God. In the Law, all things are purified (from their sinful contamination) through blood. The eternal principle is ***“without the shedding of blood there can be no remission of [sin].”*** (Hebrews 9:22)

3. Third, our Lord Jesus shed His blood to establish the new covenant.

Hebrews 9:26 ***“Once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”***

Our Lord Jesus put away our sin once for all. Every time we partake of the Lord's Supper we must remember as the original Passover was to remind the Jewish people of their redemption from slavery from Egypt. Our Lord Jesus once for all redeemed us from our sin so that the judgment which was ours alone, might pass over us.

B. So, as we take the cup today and hear the words,
1 Corinthians 11:25 *“This cup is the New Covenant in my blood, do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me,”*

we must remember what Christ has done in establishing in this covenant with us. He died that we might have a relationship with God the Father through Him.

Our Lord’s Supper service reminds us about this new relationship, this new connection with the living God. We are able to know God, love God, and serve and worship God acceptably because of this new covenant established through His death on the cross.

Hymn #188 ***At the Cross***