

Hebrews 9:24–28

²⁴ 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;

²⁵ not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another—

²⁶ He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

²⁷ And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

²⁸ 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.

1 Corinthians 11:25

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:

The Lord’s Table is designed to make us remember what our Lord accomplished on Calvary. Our text tells us, **“For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.”** (1 Corinthians 11:26) Why do we bother to take the Lord’s Table? There are several reasons. The first has to be because the Lord commands 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 for us the initiation of the new covenant in Christ’s blood. Each of the 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:
1. 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 was always a covenant relationship. When we think of a covenant, we should 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”.
“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**.

“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 His people. 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, chose to commit Himself to us who deserve nothing but hell.

C. There is another significant mention of covenant in the Old Testament. We find it in **Jeremiah 31:31-34**. This is the New Covenant which 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: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 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. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

This covenant 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, let us think about a passage in **Hebrews 9:18-28**.

“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.’ Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry. And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission. Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 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; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another—He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, 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 writer 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**. He challenged us to 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 God when offered through the blood!

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

3. Third, our Lord Jesus shed His blood to establish the new covenant. He appeared ***“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 and how the Death Angel passed over them, our Lord Jesus once for all redeemed us from our sin so that the judgment that was ours alone, might pass over us.

B. So, when we take the cup today and hear the words, ***“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 did this in order that we might have a relationship with God the Father through Him!

Hymn# 185 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross