

Administering The Lord's Supper, Luke 22:17-20,  
The New Covenant In My Blood

Jesus "...took a cup, and when He had given thanks He said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And He 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."

When we read in Jeremiah the disobedience of God's covenant people, we stand amazed at God's statement in Jeremiah 31 of a new covenant. God promised to renew His exiled people, to write His law on their hearts, to forgive their sins, and to give them a true knowledge of Himself.

The New Testament tells us that the new covenant has been set in motion through the cross. Listen to how Jesus identified the cup in Luke 22:20, "*This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.*"

Since we are covenant breakers, how is the cup that God gives to us not wrath, but instead blessing? The cup of blessing is not based on our works. It is not based on the substitute of animals to be sacrificed in our place. The cup of blessing is based on the sacrifice of Christ, the Lamb of God who received the punishment for our sins.

What happens to us? The great promise of the new covenant is "*I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*" Jeremiah 31:34.

Jesus introduced the Supper so that we might look to Him alone as the One who accomplished our salvation.

Forgiveness is ours, and our consciences are free, in Christ.

Our strength comes from Christ.

We serve the Lord, and He is pleased with our serving, through Christ.

In this sacrament, we rejoice in the presence of Christ.