

JCI #176
September 2016
The Glory of Grace in the New Covenant

We just celebrated communion as a church fellowship. As a gospel centered local fellowship of believers, we obey the Savior by remembering His death for us as we take the bread and cup as He commanded us.

1 Cor 11: 23 For I received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which he was betrayed took bread; 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, This is my body, which is for you: this do in remembrance of me. 25 In like manner also 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. 26 For as often as you eat this bread, and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till he comes. 27 Wherefore whoever shall eat the bread or drink the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread, and drink of the cup. 29 For he that eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment unto himself, if he discern not the body. 30 For this cause many among you are weak and sickly, and not a few sleep. 31 But if we judge ourselves, we should not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

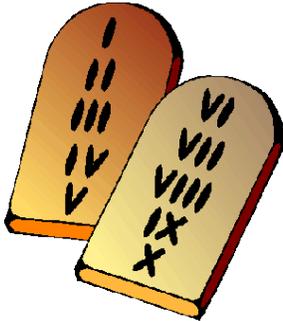
This sobering yet joy-filled celebration of gospel symbols points us to the new covenant. The bread that Jesus said represented His body is 1) unleavened as a symbol of His sinlessness, is 2) broken as a symbol of His death as our sacrifice, and is 3) given to each of us to eat as a personal symbol of our faith in Him on whom we feast for eternal life. The cup that follows is what Jesus said was the symbol of the new covenant in His blood. Let's take a few minutes to more deeply understand His meaning and the incredible privilege we have as those included in the new covenant.

The New Covenant is new in relation to another covenant which has grown old. What is the old covenant? The old covenant is the law given by Moses. The context of the key promise which Jesus references is found in Jeremiah 31:31-34. Notice the contrast is clearly between the covenant God made with Israel on Sinai, the Law, and the coming covenant that will be established by the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

Jeremiah 31:31 Behold, the days come, says Jehovah, that I will make **a new covenant** with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: **32 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt;** which my covenant they broke, although I was a husband unto them, says Jehovah. **33** But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says Jehovah: I will put my law in their inward parts, and in their heart will I write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people: **34** and they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know Jehovah; for they

shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, says Jehovah: for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin will I remember no more.

This passage sets up 8 clear contrasts between the old covenant and the new covenant. Consider these great contrasts as you worship our New Covenant making and keeping Savior, Jesus Christ.



OLD Law Exodus 20:1-18 The law of Moses clearly prescribed God's commands for His people. The law showed right from wrong. It was clear. It was absolute. It was unchanging. It reveals sin and the rebellious heart of every man who confronts it.



NEW Grace Jeremiah 31:31-34 The New Covenant given through Christ does not negate the law, but fulfills it. As *The New Covenant Maker and Keeper* Himself said... "Do not think I came to destroy the law and the prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill." It removes sin and changes the redeemed heart of every man who enters into it.

The Old Covenant was given on **Sinai**.

The New Covenant was given on **Calvary**.

The Old Covenant was **external**. Law written on stone.

The New Covenant is **internal**. Law written on the heart.

The Old Covenant **reveals** sin. Romans 3:20 By the law comes the knowledge of sin.

The New Covenant **removes** sin.

The Old Covenant was **conditional**. Deut 28:1-2 "If you obey all..."

The New Covenant is **unconditional**. Jere 31:33 "God says "I will...!"

The Old Covenant depended on **works** – a continual and complete obedience. "Obey all..." Deut 28:1

The New Covenant depends on a faithful **promise** keeping God. "I will..." Jere 31:33

The Old Covenant was **broken** even before it was received! Exo 32:19 Deut 28:15 Rom 3:23 All fall short

The New Covenant **cannot be broken**. It is **eternal**! Jere 31:34 "I will..."

The Old Covenant **condemns**. Deut 28:45 Romans 6:23

The New Covenant **forgives**. Jere 31:34

The Old Covenant **convicts**. It reveals sin & strikes the heart of the sinner with guilt. Romans 2:15, 3:19

The Covenant **converts**. It transforms the heart by as new birth. Ezekiel 11:19

The law was not the problem. It revealed the problem! The problem was our sin and our own rebellious hearts. The law could reveal the problem, but could not remove or resolve the problem. Only the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ through His death and resurrection could remedy the problem revealed by the law. **Romans 3:19-26** Hence, "the law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ that we might be declared righteous by faith!" **Galatians 3:24**

Self-check

- 1) Do I treasure Christ as the mediator of the new covenant and all the blessings He secures for me?
- 2) Do I ever stray back into thinking I am acceptable to God by my works, rather than the faithfulness of Christ as my Mediator, Sacrifice and Keeper? Do guilt and shame keep me from quick repentance and continual joy in His grace?
- 3) What most impresses your heart about the New Covenant that is ours in Christ's blood?

For Further Study: Key chapters are Galatians 2-4, Hebrews 8-10, and Romans 1-11.

Jeremiah 32:38-40 Ezekiel 11:19-20 Hebrews 8:6-13 Hebrews 13:20

"Lord, I praise You for Your law. It shows me Your holiness. It shows me my sinfulness. It shows me my need for Your Son as my Savior. The law came by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. O how I love You and Your Son and Your Spirit for the gift of saving grace. You sent Your Son to establish the New Covenant by His sacrificial death for my sins. I was under the law's condemnation. Now in Christ, there is no condemnation! Lord Jesus, You are the New Covenant Maker and the New Covenant Keeper. My salvation wholly depends on Your "I will"! And you always will! O Spirit of God, You came, sent by Christ Jesus, to give me a new birth and write Your holy law on my heart. I bless you that by Your work the law is my delight and my desire, and no longer my curse and my shame. O Triune God, I give You my redeemed and sin-cleansed heart in total surrender and obedience. Do with me whatever You will, and all to the glory of Your Son in whose name I pray. Amen."

Remember, you are very special to us and we pray for you.

Living with leaving in view.... John 9:4 Ron& Val

Seeing The Invisible,
embracing The Unapproachable,
declaring The Unexplainable,
changed by The Immutable,

running after The Irresistible
with inexhaustible joy
in our inexpressible sorrows,
spending our time on eternity,
owning nothing yet possessing everything
that matters and lasts.
We are Pilgrims in Paradox.
Welcome to THE JOURNEY