

THE NEW COVENANT

I. Jeremiah 31:31-34 Matthew 26:26-29 1 Peter 1:17-21

A. John 15:5 (NKJV) **Jesus says:** *5 I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.*

B. This past July 20th, 2019, we celebrated the 50 year anniversary of man landing on the moon. While Ohioan Neil Armstrong was the first to step down the Lunar Module to the moon's surface, his colleague Buzz Aldrin is less remembered for something he did on that amazing occasion; Aldrin celebrated Communion on the moon. With 600 million people watching the historic event unfold 240,000 miles from earth, Buzz Aldrin chose to celebrate a more monumental event, the redemption won for us by Jesus' death and resurrection. We'll do the same today.

C. The Scripture Buzz Aldrin shared that day was John 15:5. Let me read it again: *"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."*

D. While we might argue that landing a man on the moon is achievable by mankind, achieving our own salvation was and is impossible. Once our relationship with our Creator was broken by our ancestors' sins and mankind was expelled from the Garden of Eden, restoration and reconciliation could only be achieved by God's own doing. And He did that through His one and only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

E. Have you ever wondered why we have the word, *Covenant* as the name of our church? A *covenant* is a sacred agreement between two parties. In our context, it's a sacred agreement between two parties who deeply love one another; God our Maker with we His creatures. In the OT we read of many covenants (sacred agreements) that God initiated and established with His people. Sadly, most of them were broken. But even in the OT, a New Covenant was promised. Jeremiah 31:31-34 (ESV) foretells it: **31** *"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. 33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put My law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."*

F. This New Covenant could not be broken. This Covenant would be established by the Son, who walked in perfect, unbroken obedience and fellowship with God the Father. This Righteous One would become the sacrificial Lamb to suffer the punishment for the unrighteous ones--us. Every time we take the Bread & Cup, we certainly remember the first time Jesus shared the Bread & Cup with His disciples. But more than that, we remember the price of our redemption, the cost of the New Covenant, the priceless sacred agreement established between God and us.

G. Matthew 26:26-29 (ESV) takes us there: 26 *Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." 27 And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, 28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."*

H. The ESV Study Bible makes this clarifying note on the *Blood of the Covenant*:
"The cup foreshadows the shedding of Jesus' blood and the absorbing of God's wrath, which opens the way for the redemption of all peoples through the new covenant relationship with God that was promised to the people of Israel (cf Jer. 31:31, 34)."

I. Because Jesus was of the lineage of Abraham and David, the very Messiah as promised by the OT Scriptures, salvation came to Israel first. But as it was always intended, it not only came *to* Israel, it came *through* Israel to all mankind; to every nation, tribe, and tongue. The New Covenant includes Jews & Gentiles and yes that means us!

J. The cost of this New Covenant, you could not afford. Your sin, and God's wrath against that sin, has been paid for by Another. In exchange for your sin attributed to Christ, His righteousness has been given to you.

K. 1 Peter 1:17-21 (NLT) sheds this great light: 17 *And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must live in reverent fear of Him during your time here as "temporary residents." (OV Exiles) 18 For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. 19 It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. 20 God chose Him as your ransom long before the world began, but now in these last days He has been revealed for your sake. 21 Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed your faith and hope in God because He raised Christ from the dead and gave Him great glory.*

II. Communion

*** As Jesus celebrated the Last Supper, the Passover meal, it not only commemorated Israel's exodus from bondage in Egypt, but foreshadowed what Christ's blood would accomplish in delivering us from sin and death and hell. While the Passover looked forward to the cross, Communion looks back to the cross. It sets our sights on the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of man.**

*** Pray & Serve Communion... (Song: "*I Am The Price*")**

*** Our Benediction today will be the same Scripture Buzz Aldrin quoted above the earth as Apollo 11 prepared to reenter the earth's atmosphere on their epic journey home from the moon. He quoted it juxtaposed to seeing our beautiful blue planet; I see it juxtaposed to Jesus' cross and empty tomb. Psalms 8:3-4a (KJV) says: 3 *When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; 4 What is man, that Thou art mindful of him? (When I consider Jesus' sacrifice, I wonder the very same thing!)***

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

John 15:5 (NKJV)

5 I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (ESV)

31 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, **32** not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. **33** For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put My law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be My people. **34** And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Matthew 26:26-29 (ESV)

26 Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.” **27** And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, **28** for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. **29** I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.”

1 Peter 1:17-21 (NLT)

17 And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must live in reverent fear of Him during your time here as “temporary residents.” **18** For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. **19** It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. **20** God chose Him as your ransom long before the world began, but now in these last days He has been revealed for your sake. **21** Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed your faith and hope in God because He raised Christ from the dead and gave Him great glory.

Psalms 8:3-4a (KJV)

3 When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; **4** What is man, that Thou art mindful of him?

Theological Note on Matthew 26:28

The ESV Study Bible

"...for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." - Matthew 26:28 (ESV)

26:28 blood of the covenant. The cup foreshadows the shedding of Jesus' blood and the absorbing of God's wrath, which opens the way for the redemption of all peoples through the new covenant relationship with God that was promised to the people of Israel (cf Jer. 31:31, 34).

- Theological note on Matthew 26:28, *The ESV Study Bible*, Crossway, p. 1881.

[Video Clips & Important Articles](#)

Communion on the Moon - The John 10:10 Project
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8oBlpmwfnel>

Covenants - BibleProject
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ferLlsvlml>

A Little Introduction to Covenants - D.A. Carson (Desiring God)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bbpHh38hVDQ>

10 Things You Should Know About the Biblical Covenants - Thomas R. Schreiner
<https://www.crossway.org/articles/10-things-you-should-know-about-the-biblical-covenants/>

[Bonus Stuff](#)

[Luke 22:14-23 \(ESV\)](#)

14 And when the hour came, He reclined at table, and the apostles with Him. **15** And He said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. **16** For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." **17** And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. **18** For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." **19** 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." **20** And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood. **21** But behold, the hand of him who betrays Me is with Me on the table. **22** For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!" **23** And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this.

[1 Corinthians 11:23-26 \(NIV\)](#)

23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night 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; do this in remembrance of Me." **25** In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood;

do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” **26** For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

Hebrews 8:1-13 (ESV)

1 Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, One who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, **2** a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man. **3** For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; thus it is necessary for this Priest also to have something to offer. **4** Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law. **5** They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, “See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain.” **6** But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant He mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. **7** For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second. **8** For He finds fault with them when He says: *“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, **9** not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in My covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the LORD. **10** For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put My laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. **11** And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest. **12** For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.” **13** In speaking of a new covenant, He makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.*

Hebrews 13:20-21 (ESV)

20 Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, **21** equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Communion - Westminster Confession of Faith

Our Lord Jesus, in the night wherein He was betrayed, instituted the sacrament of His body and blood, called the Lord’s Supper, to be observed in His church, unto the end of the world, for the perpetual remembrance of the sacrifice of Himself in His death; the sealing of all benefits thereof unto true believers, their spiritual nourishment and growth in Him, their further engagement in and to all duties which they owe unto Him; and, to be a bond and pledge of their communion with Him, and with each other, as members of His mystical body.

- WCF, Paragraph I, Chapter Chapter XXIX.

Quote by Charles Spurgeon

"Settle this in your heart: Whether I am up or down, the Lord Jesus is the same. Whether I sing or sigh, the promise is true and the Promiser is faithful. Whether I stand on the summit or am hidden in the vale the covenant stands fast and everlasting love abides."

Quote by Matthew Henry

"Those that set God always before them and walk before Him with all their hearts, shall find Him as good as His word and better; He will both keep covenant with them and show mercy to them."

Quote by A.B. Simpson

"We must surrender ourselves so utterly that we can never own ourselves again. We must hand over self and all its rights in an eternal covenant, and give God the absolute right to own us, control us and possess us forever."

Quote by D.A. Carson

"Both God's love and God's wrath are ratcheted up in the move from the old covenant to the new, from the Old Testament to the New. These themes barrel along through redemptive history, unresolved, until they come to a resounding climax - in the cross."

Quote by John Flavel

"Christ and His benefits go inseparably and undividedly... Many would willingly receive His privileges, who will not receive His person; but it cannot be; if we will have one, we must take the other too: Yea, we must accept His person first, and then His benefits: as it is in the marriage covenant, so it is here."

Covenant

The Reformation Study Bible

The basic structure of the relationship God has established with His people is the covenant. A covenant is usually thought of as a contract. While there surely are similarities between covenants and contracts, there are also important differences. Both are binding agreements. Contracts are made from somewhat equal bargaining positions and both parties are free not to sign the contract. A covenant is likewise an agreement. However, covenants in the Bible are not usually between equals. Rather, they follow a pattern common to ancient Near East suzerain-vassal treaties. Suzerain-vassal treaties (as seen among the Hittite kings) were made between a conquering king and the conquered. There was no negotiation between the parties.

The first element among these covenants is the preamble, which lists the respective parties. Exodus 20:2 begins with "I am the LORD your God." God is the suzerain; the people of Israel are the vassals. The second element is the historical prologue. This section lists what the suzerain (or Lord) has done to deserve loyalty, such as bringing

the Hebrews out of slavery in Egypt. In theological terms, this is the section of grace. In the next section, the Lord lists what He will require of those He rules. In Exodus 20, these are the Ten Commandments. Each of the commandments were considered morally binding on the entire covenant community.

The final part of this type of covenant lists blessings and cursings. The Lord lists the benefits that He will bestow upon His vassals if they follow the stipulations of the covenant. An example of this is found in the fifth commandment. God promises the Israelites that their days will be long in the Promised Land if they honor their parents. The covenant also presents curses should the people fail in their responsibilities. God warns Israel that He will not hold them guiltless if they fail to honor His name. The basic pattern is evident in God's covenants with Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and the covenant between Jesus and His church.

In biblical times, covenants were ratified in blood. It was customary for both parties to the covenant to pass between dismembered animals, signifying their agreement to the terms of the covenant (see Jeremiah 34:18). We have an example of this kind of covenant in Genesis 15:7-21. Here, God made certain promises to Abraham, which were ratified by the sacrificing of animals. However in this case, God alone passes through the animals, indicating that He is binding Himself by a solemn oath to fulfill the covenant.

The new covenant, the covenant of grace, was ratified by the shed blood of Christ upon the cross. At the heart of this covenant is God's promise of redemption. God has not only promised to redeem all who put their trust in Christ, but has sealed and confirmed that promise with a most holy vow. We serve and worship a God who has pledged Himself to our full redemption.

- "Covenant" a Theological note found in *The Reformations Study Bible*, Ligonier Trust, p. 37.