

## **Covenantal Blood**

### *Prayer*

What is a covenant?

A covenant is a formal agreement between parties. It is more than a contract it is a relationship. Most biblical covenants were unconditional in nature. Each party commits to an action, regardless of whether or not the other party keeps the covenant.

Most covenants formed cause the parties to be bound until death. In the case of covenants between the Father and Israel, they were forever.

The Law enforces contracts. God almighty on the other hand regulates covenants.

Where a contract binds parties together by civil law and the relationship is one of law, in the case of a covenant, the parties are bound together on a personal level.

Covenants are also called testaments and are enacted by the shedding of blood. Covenants required sacrifice. An appropriate sacrifice was surrendered for the covenant. The implication is that if a party breaks covenant, they will suffer a similar fate.

The sealing of a covenant is significant as the word in Hebrew literally means to cut.

## **Upper Room**

Let's fast forward a bit. Many of us know of various covenants such as the Mosaic Covenant, found in Exodus 19-24 in which we are promised that God will make us a kingdom of priests, a holy nation and his treasured possession. Or perhaps the priestly covenant between God and Aaron and his descendants. Another example may be the Davidic covenant in which David and his progeny are established as kings. Which of course is important as Jesus is of the lineage of David. And there are many other examples.

I want to move to the upper room during the Passover feast. Here we find Jesus and his apostles breaking bread together for the Passover. For those who would like a little background on this: The Passover is to celebrate the Jewish nations release from the slavery of Egypt. Passover of Seder speaks to when the angel of death passed through Egypt and took the firstborn of Egypt. This included Children, Fathers, grandfathers and so on. God kept his people safe by the sacrificing of an unblemished lamb and placing the blood on the doorframe. When the angel of death saw this he passed over those protected by the covenant made in blood with God.

Do you know why Jesus is called the Passover lamb? (1 Cor. 5:7,8). He is the new covenant we have with the Father. His perfect blood was shed so that you could be in right standing with God the Father. He was the sacrifice in Blood that bought you freedom. He took our place on that cross. He shed his blood for you and for me that we could be back in covenantal relationship with The Father. His blood was the price for sin.

Folks, what I really want you to understand this morning is that it is not us or our worthiness that makes us fit for communion. We come to the table boldly because the shed blood of Christ is worth more than God's wrath. Jesus took the feast and communion

Our Father God does NOT ignore sin. He does not overlook it. Sin must be paid for. God's sense of justice and what is right must be satisfied. He is Good and there is no evil in him. The very nature of God could not allow this sin to go unpunished. The bible is clear... The wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23) Jesus paid the price we could not pay.

When a sacrifice was made, the person making the sacrifice was saying: "What is happening to this animal deserves to happen to me if I break the covenant." In biblical terms the animal is the scapegoat for our transgressions. Jesus took all our sin upon himself.

We are told to make it right with our brothers or sisters before we take communion and there are reasons for this as we will soon discover. The word says if we partake in an unworthy manner we are guilty of the body and blood of the lord. Many people then simply don't partake, not realizing that it is a commandment that we take communion to recognize his death until he comes. People will say things like: "I am not worthy" or "I am not good enough" yet what they utterly fail to understand is that what they are really saying is the precious blood of Jesus Christ is not sufficient to cover MY sin. Jesus blood can cover anything! If as Martin Luther once said: "One drop of Christ's blood is worth more than heaven and earth. How can we deny his making us worthy of him?"

So why blood?  
Lev 17:11 KJV

*For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.*

In Gen 8:21 we are told that without the shedding of blood there can be no remission of sin. Covenants are not "drafted" they are "cut" Literally to bleed.

In the old covenant – Old Testament  
Animal sacrifice was a placeholder for the Atoning blood of Christ

I want you to consider with me the words of the prophet Jeremiah in Jer. 31:31-34 *Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that 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 bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*

Jeremiah is speaking of the sacrifice to come. He is literally prophesying Jesus. He is revealing his great redemptive plan. The covenant had not yet been made, but we all know it was fulfilled in Jesus.

What is interesting here is that when we cut a covenant with an animal sacrifice for our sin we were forgiven, until the next sin at which point we would need to covenant again for God's grace...

In Jesus, we need to realize that the blood of God is so precious that his shed blood covers us for ALL our sin, we simply need to bring it to Jesus and ask him for his forgiveness and he is faithful and just to forgive us... Then he advocates for us with the Father and stands in our stead when accusations from the enemy are brought to the throne against us. He is the mediator of the new covenant...

Heb 9:15

*For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.*

It is this covenant, which does not need to be repeated! Believe on Jesus and you are FREE! And equipped for service.

Heb. 13:20 NIV

*Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

### **Context**

Let me provide you with some context... In the days of the old covenant, after two people sat down and sealed an agreement or covenant they would set down

together and share a meal. Just like today we share meals together in fellowship with each other and a sense of binding together happens. The breaking of bread and sharing of a cup at a meal of this kind signified that there was agreement and acceptance of the terms of the new covenant. When we take communion we are literally saying that we accept the terms of the new covenant with Jesus as our savior and as the sacrifice for our sins.

In short:

You and I sin... we are guilty before God. As a result of that sin we deserve to be punished. Jesus took our place he covered all of our sins. We simply need to ask him and believe that he is faithful and just to forgive us. Jesus was CUT as the sacrifice for the new covenant. If we accept the covenant then we are covered by his blood and our sins are cast away as far as the east is from the west. They are dropped into the sea of forgetfulness never to return. We have not earned this... We are forgiven because of his sacrifice. As we come into covenant relationship with Jesus, he writes his moral law on our hearts and empowers us to live for him.

The bread and the cup are a wake up call. They are signs of the new covenant and they clearly remind us of the reality of what Jesus has done for us... The reality for every Christian is simple. The cup we take doesn't save us... that is a fact! It is faith is what that cup represents that points us back to our savior Jesus. Communion is a reminder of the covenant between God and us

1 Corinthians 11:28-31 NIV

*Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment.*

1 Corinthians 11:27

*So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.*

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

*For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 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."*

# Let us partake of the body of Christ together.

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." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

# Let us remember the Lord's death and everything he has done for us at his great work on the cross. Now let us partake of the cup together.

*prayer*