

Once again it is the C service and before we come to celebrate all that JC has done for us, let us just look at one phrase that we read each time we take communion and maybe pass over without reflection.

Its found in Lk22 ²⁰ Likewise He also *took* the cup after supper, saying, “This cup *is* the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you. This cup is the New Covenant in my blood!!

Familiar words, But this is the amazing point in history when jc announced and inaugurated the promised and prophesied new relationship between God and man, He not only announced but was and is it!!

Dare I say, this is so much more than JC on the cross for our sins so that we might be forgiven and go to heaven. That’s great but the NC is way more than that, its our new relationship as sons and daughters of God, friends of God, and us filled with the authority and powerful presence of HS.

Now for there to be a new covenant there had to be an old covenant, there were several in fact, but the one we are most familiar with and the one which most influences our thinking is of course the mosaic covenant or the law . the entire law not just the 10 coms which is all written down in the ot. But we will look at two passages just to give us background to the NC.

In ex 19 v5+6 God sets out his intention, and his desire for Israel speaking to Israel’s representative Moses. ⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth *is* Mine. ⁶ And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”

This was the relationship that God wanted to have even back then with people of Israel but But EX 20 v18+19 the Israelites rejected this close relationship with God, being afraid of Him. v¹⁸ Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw *it*, they trembled and stood afar off. ¹⁹ Then they said to Moses, “You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die.”

So what happened next was **a covenant agreement more like** a contract with conditions and penalties for breaking it. A promise of blessing if they obeyed and a promise of punishment if they disobeyed R dt 28v1+2, If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. ² All these

blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God: there follows a list of good things v3

Penalty Clause v15. However, if you do not obey the LORD your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come on you and overtake you: There follows a list of bad things

This was very much reward for good works and obedience to the good law and punishment for failure and disobedience, they could try to obey or choose to disobey and take the consequences. Important to note their obedience relied on their willpower and their motivation was either their desire for blessing or fear of punishment, It was not relationship!!

The New C that we are here to celebrate here this morning is completely different, the old is described as obsolete, . ieno longer any use because of the new. Its not like you had an old car and now you have bought a new better car, The NC is not a better version of the same it's a new altogether like you have grown wings instead of wheels!!

When we accepted Jesus we did it as individuals, but the new covenant is not made with us as individuals. Its not an agreement between Les and God. The new Covenant is this unbreakable binding agreement between God on the divine side and Jesus the perfect representative man, standing on our side. JC who is both the mediator, like mozes and the sacrifice, the lamb of god. He acted for us and as us. Heb 9v14-15

¹⁴ Yet how much more will the sacred blood of the Messiah thoroughly cleanse our consciences! For by the power of the eternal Spirit he has offered himself to God as the perfect^[m] Sacrifice that **now frees**^[n] us from our dead works^[o] to worship and serve the living God.

¹⁵ So Jesus is the One who has enacted a new covenant with a new relationship with God so that those who accept the invitation^[p] will receive the eternal inheritance he has promised to his heirs

Our decision to accept the finished work of Christ for our salvation was also to accept the new covenant. We may not have understood all about the NC But Our faith did not come from our understanding and thinking about all of this:

Our faith came from a revelation from God of his love for us. Its nothing that we did or do or can do or even undo its all because of Gods love and Jesus.

Our motivation for obeying is a sign we love God, as we grow in closeness we learn to trust Him and obey without fear. He is the perfect loving father.....

If God only loved us to the degree we please him we would be forever in doubt about his love for us forever striving to reach a standard that is why the new covenant has no written laws. We would always be struggling to obey them and when we succeed in our own strength become proud and self righteous and condemning of those that fail. (Human Nature?)

God does not empower us to overcome, to be strong to achieve the impossible, remember our righteousness is like filthy rags. We should not be struggling and striving in our faith walk but surrendering yielding to the HS.

Expanded Gal 5 v16 But I say, walk *and* live [habitually] in the [Holy] Spirit [responsive to *and* controlled *and* guided by the Spirit]; then you will certainly not gratify the cravings *and* desires of the flesh (of human nature without God). ampc

Written laws condemn us when we fail but now the law of love is written within our hearts. We just need to practice the presence of the HS within us. We need to learn to take time to listen and hear his voice prompting us.

Heb10 v9-10 tpt **Summarises what I am saying**-⁹ And then he that is Jesus said, “God, I will be the One to go and do your will.” *So by being the sacrifice that removes sin*, he abolishes animal sacrifices^[d] and replaces that entire system with the new covenant.^[e] ¹⁰ By God’s will we have been purified and made holy once and for all^[f] through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus, the Messiah! **Explain through UR Holy = S, Pure = R in Gods eyes Forever**

Not only are we forgiven we are made holy by order of God. This is what we are here to celebrate and remember as we take communion

¹⁵ The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says:¹⁶ “This is the covenant I will make with them

after that time, says the Lord.

I will put my laws in their hearts and I will write them on their minds.”^[b]¹⁷ Then he adds: “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.”^[c]

God made this new covenant, this new as in totally different way we can relate to him as our father,¹⁶ Jesus fulfilled the c9, the HS empowers the New Cov. God wants a relationship with you and me not as obedient subjects, nor as servants but sons and daughters and heirs and heiresses.....Trust his love for you, know his love for you, enjoy his loves for you.....