

Introduction:

- *"For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."* (Matthew 26:28, NKJV) It was a blood covenant that Jesus declared was the New Covenant He was making!
- My heart in this series of messages has been to encourage us with understanding of covenant. I think many people are scared of covenants because they are afraid of breaking them. IE. HOAs

I. Truths to Recall

- A covenant is a **binding agreement** between two people or parties. God in making covenant with us, literally puts himself into a binding agreement with us.
- God determines the terms of the covenant. It is not a mutual agreement. It is not negotiated. It is given and agreed to.
- The covenants that God makes with man **is for man's benefit!** They declare the goodness and kindness of God towards us.
- Covenants are all about relationship!** God wants relationships with us. That is why He initiates covenant! They are meant to bring people together, by ending strife and conflict.
- Covenants are about the stronger person providing covering/protection etc. for the weaker.
- God initiates the covenant, sets the terms, blood is shed to activate/ratify the covenant, and man is the recipient of the covenant if he so chooses.
- The New Covenant *Heb 8:6-13*

II. The New Covenant

- Covenant Love. As we have looked at the covenants that God made with man. We see Him binding himself to us. I want us to see that this 'binding of God to man' is an act of love from a heart of love. It is covenant love!
 - It is this covenant love that gives us security to stand, to have faith, and to trust our God.
 - This love enables us to give ourselves to God whole heartedly...which we will see, is what God is after.
- Covenant Expression
 - We live in New Covenant times! The OT is a shadow of what we have in Christ. Through Christ we can see and understand what that covenant means to us.
 - Jesus in his life and ministry, is helping us to see what it means to be in covenant relationship with God. He was showing us how to relate to God. What God was offering us and how He was to bind himself to us. In so doing, we would understand covenant love. Jesus was helping us to see the terms of the covenant and the depth of the bond being created.
 - A key covenant expression is seen on our side of this relationship with God. We are to believe that God is who He says He is and to do that with all of our heart, soul, and strength.
 - Faith. Jesus was constantly working with them in the area of faith. It was critical that they know who God is and to trust Him with all their heart. He wanted them to not just have a head knowledge but be convinced in their hearts of what He was fully offering them.

Therefore they would fully offer themselves to Him and He would fully offer Himself to them.

III. Five Core New Covenant Promises

- A. First, there is the promise of the law within the heart: Heb 8:10; Ezk 36:26-27
- B. Second, "the promise of a unique relationship between God and a people:" Heb 8:10; Jer 31:33
- C. Third, there is the promise of the knowledge of the Lord. Heb 8:11; Jer 31:34
- D. Fourth, there is the promise of the forgiveness of sin." Heb 8:12; Jer 31:34
- E. Fifth, there is the promise of an eternal inheritance." Heb 9:15; Not found in Jeremiah.
- F. Ratified by the blood of Jesus and better blood!

IV. Standing in Covenant Position

- A. Covenant is a place of surrender. We lay down all we are to take up all He is. It involves great trust. I.e. David, killed the lion, the bear and then Goliath. When we surrender we are trusting that God has bound himself to us and we stand on that truth.
- B. Covenant Position is:
 1. The place of surrender. Love of God makes this possible!
 2. The place of faith and trust in God. We trust that He is going to do what He said He would do. That He has bound Himself to us for our good. This gives me security!
 - a) All I have to do is believe. *"Jesus told them, "This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one he has sent.""* (John 6:29, NLT)
 - b) He is waiting for us to trust Him.
 3. The place of simply being in Christ Jesus. The place where we believe Him to be who He said He is and that He would do what He said He would.
 - a) *"Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me."* (John 15:4, NLT)
 - b) *"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"* (2 Corinthians 5:17, NLT)
 4. The most contended for position in your life. Daily the enemy wants to take you out of that place. He wants you to panic, become fearful and take your life back into your own hands. We must fight for covenant position! *"... For apart from me you can do nothing."* (John 15:5, NLT)
- C. Learn that praise is the key to your covenant position.
 1. 2 Chron 15:15-ff., 20. Put the praisers out front!
 2. Praise gets your eyes on God and off your circumstances.

Conclusion:

- Covenant position is our place of victory.
- There we have his name, his authority, his victory, his garment and His promises!