

Study Guide

Series: Covenant Membership

Message: *New Covenant – He Has Risen!*

Messenger: Pastor Keith

Date: April 20, 2025

Text: Matthew 26.27-28; Mark 16.6-8



Objective: to teach the reason Christ came to shed His blood on the cross and die, and to rise again, was to establish the new covenant between God and humanity.

- At the Lord's Supper, we're reminded Jesus' death was for the remission of our sins and the establishment of the new covenant.
- A covenant is a committed relationship based on an agreement that binds two or more parties together and obligates them to fulfill the terms of the covenant.
- God's core idea of having a covenant relationship with humanity is that He desires to be our God and for us to be His people in a committed relationship.

The Day He has risen from the dead ratifies our new covenant and He becomes the mediator of a new covenant with God:

Hebrews 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. (NIV)

Our New Covenant: Application: 2 Corinthians 5.18-21 (NLT)

1. _____ v. 18. And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him.

- God initiates the reconciliation, not us
- God's reconciliation came through the death and resurrection of Christ
- 'Christ's death and resurrection removed the barrier of sin, reconciles us to God, and restores His covenant with us'
- We love God because He first loved us. I John 4.19

Application: Stop trying to earn God's love. He's already extended it through Christ.

Reflection: Am I living like someone who has been reconciled to God?

2. _____ v19. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. v20. So, we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, 'Come back to God!'

- The heart of God is to restore what sin has broken - not just for a few but for the whole world.
- **Ambassadors:** 'We're not just saved from something - we're saved for something - covenant relationship with God and sharing the message with the people in our world.'
- Gospel is not information but an invitation to restore sinners to God through Christ.

Application: Who in your life needs to hear this message and you be intentional about sharing the gospel with them?

Reflection: When was the last time I shared the message of reconciliation with someone? Is fear, apathy, or insecurity holding me back from sharing the gospel?

3. _____ v21. For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

- Most radical exchange in history: Jesus took our sin, gave us His righteousness to make us right with God. This is the heart of the gospel - justice met mercy, and we were set free.
- Being made right with God is both **positional** and **practical**:

Positional: you no longer see yourself in your sin but clothed in Christ's righteousness.

Practical: you begin to live out that righteousness, setting yourself apart from the world and growing more like Jesus in your attitude, actions, and character.

Application: Live like someone who's been made new. Let the righteousness of Christ shape your identity.

Reflection: How would my identity shift if I truly believed I am 'the righteousness of God in Christ'? What do I believe about myself that contradicts being made righteous in Christ?

Takeaway: Christ died for our sins - so that we could be reconciled to God, brought into the new covenant through His blood, and walk in new life. Now, made right with God, we do not keep it to ourselves – we share this good news with the people in our world.