

Covenant is ratified by simply **remembering** the once for all **sacrifice** of **Christ**. Luke records that Jesus calls this **“the new covenant in my blood.”**

Luke 22:20 - 20 And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is **the new covenant in My blood.** NASB

Consider that now as the **ultimate Passover** is coming to fulfilment, so the **Old Covenant** sacrifices are coming to an **end**, along with its **priesthood**, and **altar**, and even its **Temple**. Now Jesus our great **High Priest**, will **offer Himself** as the **once for all time** sacrifice which has **fulfilled** all **Old Covenant** sacrifices and accomplished **eternal redemption** and **forgiveness** of **sins** for God's people.

Matthew 26:28 - 28 for this is My blood of the covenant, **which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.** NASB

So now God has brought to pass His **eternal plan** through the **Lord Jesus Christ** as the **once for all time offering for sin**. And He accomplished this through the **corrupted** Priesthood and **Temple** system that was operating when the Lord arrived at His Temple to be **THE sacrifice**. What the devil, and Judas, and the chief priests and the scribes, and Herod and Pilate all meant for evil, **God meant** for the **eternal redemption** of all His people of all ages. They put Him to death not realizing He was the **ultimate Passover Lamb**, fulfilling all **Old Covenant sacrifices** and **offerings**, and thus accomplished the great and final act of the great High Priest through which Christ has implemented the **New Covenant** in His **blood**. This is what we celebrate at **Holy Communion**.

Hebrews 10:11-14 - 11 And every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, **which can never take away sins**; 12 but He, **having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time**, sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time onward until His enemies be made a footstool for His feet. 14 **For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.** NASB

The writer to the **Hebrews** emphasizes the **“once for all”** nature of **Christ's atonement** as that which accomplishes **“eternal redemption”** and secures for us an **“eternal inheritance.”**

Hebrews 9:11-15 - 11 But **when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come**, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; 12 and not through the blood of goats and calves, **but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.** 13 For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled, sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, 14 **how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience** from

dead works to serve the living God? 15 And for this reason **He is the mediator of a new covenant**, in order that since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive **the promise of the eternal inheritance**. NASB

Here at the **Last Supper**, Jesus has implemented an **ordinance** in the Church by which we simply **remember** that great **work** that He **accomplished**. We partake of the **bread** and the **cup** which represent the **completed act** of His **atonement** where His body and His blood were given for the **forgiveness** of our **sins**. And this is the **simple Gospel** that we **preach**, that God has now sent us to be **witnesses** of. **“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved!”** (Acts 16:31) It is during this **Gospel Age**, the period between Christ’s First and Second Coming, that God is calling people from **every tribe** and **language** and **nation** and people to receive an **eternal inheritance** with Him in **His Kingdom** forever. It is between these **two “comings”** of Christ that Christ now waits for His **flock** to be **gathered**, and then He will come again and **consummate His Kingdom** upon the **earth** and **resort** with His **sheep** forevermore in God’s green pastures. There He will dine with His people just like that wonderful meal at the Last Supper. **“25 “Truly I say to you, I shall never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”** There is coming a day when **Christ** will **gather us all together to dine** at His table and **rejoice** with us in **His presence**. Consider Isaiah’s prophecy of that **Day** when Jesus will again eat and drink with His people. For this **Day** we Christians **wait** with eager expectation.

Isaiah 25:6-9 - 6 And **the Lord of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain**; A banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow, And refined, aged wine. 7 And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, Even the veil which is stretched over all nations. 8 **He will swallow up death for all time, And the Lord God will wipe tears away from all faces, And He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth**; For the Lord has spoken. 9 And it will be said in that day, **“Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation.”** NASB

One important note to see here when Jesus **implemented** the **Lord’s Table** is that it is a ceremony of **remembrance** to be carried out **perpetually** for the **Church**, but it carries with it the **expectation** of the Lord’s **Second Coming**, when we will again be with Him in **His presence** to celebrate it **together**. We only do it **UNTIL** the **Lord comes**. This **expectation** was an **important part** of what He told them to do, as He **promised** to be united **with them** again in the **future** to do it **together**.

Matthew 26:29 - 29 "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on **until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.**" NASB

Communion brings with it **expectation** of a **future Kingdom** upon the **earth** where **Christ** will once again be **"with you."** Even though the King has come and saved us **ALREADY**, He yet looks forward to a **Day** when it will come in grater fulness which has **NOT YET** happened. In this Age we have an **invisible spiritual Reign** of Christ from **Heaven**. But in Communion we look forward to that Day when Christ will come visibly and bodily to bring a **physical earthly Reign** upon the **earth**.

Luke 22:18 - 18 for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on **until the kingdom of God comes.** " NASB

This is something the Apostles understood very clearly and so should we.

1 Corinthians 11:26 - 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, **you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.** NASB

This **ordinance** we call Communion or the Lord's Table **looks back** at the all **sufficient work** that **Jesus accomplished** to save us, but it also **points us forward** to that **Day** when we shall be united **with Him** together in His **Kingdom on earth**. This marvelous meal they shared together was one of the high points of all their time together which they ended in the traditional singing done regularly at the Passover Feast. **"26 And after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives."** Here now the setting will change from a time of **joy and light** to a scene of **darkness and agony**. As the **dark hour** approaches Jesus will prepare by **intense prayer** in the **Garden of Gethsemane**.

Mark 14:27-31 - 27 And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, because it is written, 'I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.' 28 "But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee." 29 But Peter said to Him, "Even though all may fall away, yet I will not." 30 And Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you, that you yourself this very night, before a cock crows twice, shall three times deny Me." 31 But Peter kept saying insistently, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And they all were saying the same thing, too.

As they move closer to **Jesus' arrest**, the looming **testing** of the disciples' falling away will soon be upon them. **"27 And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, because it is written, 'I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered."** It is remarkable that **"all"** the disciples will **fall away** when Jesus is arrested and brought to trial. Yet here we see not only the **weakness of men** but also the **divine plan** coming to pass **"because it is written"** in the Scriptures. This of course as Mark quotes from Zechariah 13:7 regarding **"the**