**Maundy Thursday**

**What is the New Covenant?**

**Luke 22:14-20. Rev. Thomas Parrish**

***Luke 22:14   And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. 15 And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. 16 For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” 17 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves. 18 For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”***

***19 And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” 20 And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying,***

***“This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.”***

The first time you play a new game what do you want to know? **WHAT ARE THE RULES?**

When it comes to heaven and hell, forgiveness, eternal life most of us want to know the rules.

 ***“Why should I let you into my heaven?”***

There is only one answer: **“The shed blood of my savior Jesus Christ.**”

And God the Father will say, **“WELCOME.”**

Here is the **REAL PROBLEM**: Most people’s idea and belief in Jesus has little to do with the Jesus of the Bible and everything to do with their reflection in a mirror.

# Listen to what Jesus said about this: “*John 5:39-You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, 40yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.*

We often miss the point of Maundy Thursday and the introduction of the New Covenant.

Listen to what St. Paul writes in **Romans *3:20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.***

The New Covenant, which Jesus initiated on this night, has nothing to do with **rules** but it has everything to do with **relationship.**

Now it is true that the Book of Revelation uses that language but that is to miss the point!

John 17:3 says it accurately: ***“Now this is eternal life that the know you the one true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”***

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**KNOWING JESUS CHRIST IS THE NEW COVENANT IN TOTALITY.**

**So what is this New Covenant?**

The Bible teaches that It is the final, eternal covenant (***by the blood of the eternal covenant, Hebrews 13:8)*** of the Lord Jesus Christ between himself and all who submit to him as Lord and Savior.

**It is the covenant of grace that says:**

**STOP! THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO MAKE ME LOVE YOU OR ACCEPT YOU, SO STOP TRYING.**

**INSTEAD, I LOVE YOU BECAUSE OF WHO I AM SAYS JESUS,**

**AND I GIVE YOU THE NEW BIRTH, FAITH AND MY GRACE AS A PURE GIFT**

**NOW RECEIVE ME AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR AND WALK EACH DAY AS MY DISCIPLE.**

**THIS IS WHAT THE NEW COVENANT MEANS: *WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE OF LIFE BECAUSE THE HEART AND LIFE OF JESUS HAVE BEEN TRANSPLANTED INTO OUR SOULS.***

**SO HOW DO WE THEN LIVE AND THINK ABOUT THIS NEW COVENANT?**

**This new covenant that is displayed in Holy Communion is:**

**A call to put on Jesus each and every day:**

*“Jesus, thanks for another day. I surrender to you again and proclaim that you are the one and only savior. Empower me to live for you though out this day.”*

To read and DO His Word, the Bible, in our worldview, actions and reactions to the people and circumstances around us.

See ourselves as someone created in the image of God in Jesus Christ.

We understand our purpose which is to spend the rest of our lives making disciples of as many other people as possible.

We stop trying to be good enough, instead we now live in 100% thankfulness for all Jesus has done for us.

Our perspective is eternal which means we will stand for the truth of Jesus even if it costs us everything here and now.

**DO YOU WANT TO LIVE IN THIS NEW COVENANT?**

***“By the grace of Jesus I will live, think, behave and react to life, people and purpose out of this New Covenant which He has given me at the cost of His very life.”***