

LSE 1-24-2021

Change is something we often have to deal with in life. Some changes are welcome, while others are dreaded. It also varies from person to person, with some enjoying things being mixed up once in a while and others resisting change even if it is rare. Change can be even harder when it ends up being different than our expectations.

Today I want to take a look at a change of covenant. We don't use that word much in everyday conversation. It refers to a formal relationship between two or more people or entities. When we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we're also remembering the start of a new covenant.

In this case the change was from the old covenant called the Law of Moses to the new covenant of grace through faith. Jesus referred to the new covenant and His blood in Luke 22:20 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. That's part of a passage that describes the first time people participated in what we now call the Lord's Supper.

Several passages in the Mosaic Law, in Leviticus and Deuteronomy, connect life to blood. Hebrews 9:16 points out that this covenant is much like our idea of a will. For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it.

Revelation 7:14 mentions robes being washed in Jesus' blood to make them white and pure.

This is why many hymns focus on Jesus' blood. Jesus' death and blood are directly connected to the beginning of the gracious agreement between God and His church called the new covenant.

Why does the starting point of the new covenant matter? Remember when Jesus told a person to keep the commandments to inherit eternal life? That was said to a person living under the old covenant - the Law of Moses, even though it is in the part of the Bible we call the New Testament. The thief on the cross that Jesus spared also lived and died under that same old covenant Law.

The terms of the new covenant are different from the terms of the old Law, and are laid out for us in Acts chapter 2. They're also expounded upon in much of the rest of the new testament portion of our Bibles. Jesus certainly still has the power to forgive on any terms He chooses, but it seems foolish to ignore the terms of the new covenant and hope Jesus will be okay with that.

Today, we remember Jesus' death, but also His resurrection and the beginning of a new and better covenant. We have much to be thankful for, and much to look forward to in eternity with God. That is a change we call all hope for.