

Summary

Pastor Addison delivered a powerful Good Friday message about the New Covenant established through Jesus' blood. He explained how God's desire for partnership with humanity was broken in Eden and how various Old Testament covenants (with Noah, Abraham, Israel, and David) revealed humanity's repeated failure to keep their commitments. Jesus, at the Last Supper, announced the New Covenant in His blood - referencing Jeremiah 31 where God promised to write His law on hearts and remember sins no more. Unlike previous covenants that required human performance, this New Covenant is entirely based on Jesus' perfect obedience and sacrifice. He fulfilled humanity's side of the covenant and took the punishment for our failures, offering us complete forgiveness and restoration.

The pastor emphasized that salvation is entirely by grace through Jesus' sacrifice, not by our works or merit. He challenged the congregation with the central question: "Are you following Jesus who paid it all for you?" This involves three aspects: making a personal decision about Jesus, continually growing in discipleship through the Holy Spirit's help, and resting in the complete sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice rather than trying to earn salvation through good works.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together to study Your Word and reflect on the incredible sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us today. Help us to set aside our distractions and preconceived notions, and make us receptive to Your truth. Holy Spirit, guide our discussion and help us to encourage one another as we grow in our understanding of Your amazing grace. Show us how to apply these truths to our daily lives. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one tradition or meal from your childhood that holds special meaning for you, and why was it significant?

Key Verses

1. Luke 22:19-20
2. Jeremiah 31:31-33
3. 2 Corinthians 5:21
4. Hebrews 10:11-18

Questions

1. How does understanding the progression of Old Testament covenants help you better appreciate what Jesus accomplished through the New Covenant?
2. Pastor Addison mentioned that the Old Testament covenants were meant to 'draw sin out into the open.' What do you think this means, and how do you see this playing out in your own life?

3. When Jesus said 'This is the new covenant in my blood,' what would this have meant to His disciples who were celebrating Passover?
4. The pastor emphasized that we are 'invited in by no merit of our own.' How does this truth challenge or comfort you in your relationship with God?
5. What does it mean practically to 'follow Jesus' in your daily life? What areas might Jesus be calling you to surrender to Him?
6. How can we avoid the trap of either despair (feeling we're not good enough) or arrogance (thinking we've earned God's favor) in our Christian walk?
7. The pastor mentioned that communion should cause us to ask 'How am I doing at following Jesus?' What would honest self-reflection reveal about your current spiritual condition?
8. How does the truth that 'Jesus paid it all' change the way you approach your relationship with God and your service to others?

Life Application

This week, practice daily remembrance of the cross by asking yourself each morning: 'How am I following Jesus today?' and each evening: 'Where did I rely on His grace rather than my own efforts?' Choose one specific area of your life where you've been trying to earn God's approval through your performance, and consciously rest in the truth that Jesus has already paid it all.

Key Takeaways

1. The New Covenant in Jesus' blood fulfills God's eternal desire for partnership with humanity that was broken in Eden
2. All Old Testament covenants revealed humanity's inability to keep their commitments, pointing to our need for a Savior
3. Jesus fulfilled both sides of the covenant - perfectly obeying as our representative and taking the punishment for our failures
4. Salvation is entirely by grace through Jesus' sacrifice, not by our works, merit, or religious performance
5. Following Jesus involves ongoing transformation through the Holy Spirit while resting completely in Christ's finished work

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the New Covenant established through Your precious blood. Help us to live each day in the freedom and security of knowing that You have paid it all. Guard our hearts from both despair and pride, and keep us focused on following You with grateful hearts. May we never forget that we are invited into Your family not because of what we've done, but because of what You accomplished on the cross. Transform us by Your Spirit to be faithful covenant partners as we seek to honor You in all areas of our lives. In Your holy name we pray, Amen.