

1 Corinthians 11:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

Analysis

After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me—Μετὰ τὸ δεῖπνῆσαι (after supper)—the cup came after the meal (the third or fourth Passover cup). Τοῦτο τὸ ποτήριον ἡ καινὴ διαθήκη ἐστὶν ἐν τῷ αἵματί μου—**this cup is the new covenant in my blood**.

Diathēkē (covenant/testament) evokes Jeremiah 31:31-34 (new covenant), Exodus 24:8 (Moses's blood ratification), and Zechariah 9:11 (blood of covenant). The new covenant, promised by the prophets, is ratified by Christ's blood, replacing the Mosaic covenant's animal sacrifices with His once-for-all offering (Hebrews 9:11-28). **As oft as ye drink it** (ὡσάκις ἔαν πίνετε)—frequency is unspecified but regularity assumed. Each participation re-proclaims covenant membership in Christ's death and the new exodus from sin.

Historical Context

Passover's third cup was the 'cup of blessing' or 'cup of redemption,' celebrating Israel's deliverance from Egypt. Jesus transforms this into the cup of new covenant—deliverance from sin. The phrase 'new covenant' was revolutionary: it declared the Mosaic covenant fulfilled and inaugurated the messianic age. First-century Jews awaited this (Ezekiel 36:25-27, Jeremiah 31:31-34). Paul's inclusion of this

language shows the Table's eschatological significance: we participate now in the age to come.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the new covenant ratified by Christ's blood differ from and fulfill the old covenant ratified by animal blood?
2. What does it mean to 'drink the cup' of the new covenant—what are we affirming about our identity in Christ?
3. How should the frequency of communion practice reflect its covenantal and memorial significance?

Interlinear Text

ὡσαύτως	καὶ	τὸ	ποτήριον	μετὰ	τὸ	δειπνῆσαι		
After the same manner	also	G3588	cup	when	G3588	he had supped		
G5615	G2532		G4221	G3326		G1172		
λέγων,	τοῦτο	τὸ	ποτήριον	ἡ	καινὴ	διαθήκη	ἐστὶν	ἐν
saying	This	G3588	cup	G3588	the new	testament	is	in
G3004	G5124		G4221		G2537	G1242	G2076	G1722
τῷ	ἐμὴν	αἵματι·	τοῦτο	ποιεῖτε	ὡσάκις	ἂν	πίνετε	εἰς
G3588	my	blood	This	do ye	as oft as	G302	ye drink	it in
	G1699	G129	G5124	G4160	G3740		G4095	G1519
τὴν	ἐμὴν	ἀνάμνησιν						
G3588	my	remembrance						
	G1699	G364						

Additional Cross-References

Luke 22:20 (Covenant): Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

Hebrews 13:20 (Covenant): Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

2 Corinthians 3:6 (Covenant): Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

1 Corinthians 10:16 (Blood): The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

2 Corinthians 3:14 (Covenant): But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ.