

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

JESUS' COVENANT WITH YOU

Hebrews 7:22 "Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant."

A covenant is a pledge, agreement, or contract between two or more individuals. It is a guarantee that what someone has said they will do it. A covenant can provide one with peace because of the agreement that has been agreed upon.

Jesus, in His words of institution of The Lord's Supper, ended with these words, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many." (Mark 14:24) What then is the pledge or agreement Jesus gives to you when you receive the Lord's Supper?

First, His pledge is that through the bread and wine of this sacrament you receive His true body and blood which He shed for you. The bread and wine, therefore, do not just represent, but are in fact He gives you His very own body and blood. Secondly, through His gift of you of His body and blood He gives you the forgiveness of your sins. This is exactly what Jesus said as recorded in Matthew 26:28, "This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

In addition to the forgiveness of your sins, Jesus also pledges to give you eternal life and salvation. John writes about this in 1 John 5:11-12, "God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."

And, in the Sacrament, Jesus gives you victory over sin and hell . . . He gives you a new life. Peter writes, "He (Jesus) Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree (cross of Calvary), that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed." (1 Peter 2:24)

Jesus' shed blood is His guarantee to you that ". . . though your sins are as scarlet, He has made them whiter than snow. (Isaiah 1:18)

Prayer: Thank you, Jesus, for the covenant you have made with me. Amen.

Thy body, giv'n for me, O Savior, Thy blood which Thou for me didst shed,
These are my life and strength forever, By them my hungry soul is fed.
Refrain: Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood Be for my soul the highest good!

With Thee, Lord, I am now united; I live in Thee and Thou in me.
No sorrow fills my soul, delighted It finds its only joy in Thee. Refrain:

Who can condemn me now? The Lord is nigh, who justifies.
No hell I fear, and thus securely With Jesus I to heaven rise. Refrain:

Though death may threaten with disaster, It cannot rob me of my cheer;
For He who is of death the master With aid and comfort e'er is near.
Refrain:

My heart has now become Thy dwelling, O blessed, holy Trinity.
With angels I, Thy praises telling, Shall live in joy eternally. Refrain:
(LSB 619)