

Covenant & Kingdom
Week 19 - Signs of the New Covenant
Matthew 28:18-20, 27:26-29

- God gives members of the New Covenant certain covenant signs
 - Not merely symbols - serve an important function of sealing, ratifying, and renewing covenants
- Signs often serve as **oaths** - equivalent to swearing
 - Typically these oaths point to both blessings and curses of the covenant
- Signs also symbolize outward realities of the covenant - remind of assurances and duties
- **Baptism** - Rom. 6:3-4, Col. 2:11-12, 1 Cor. 10:1-2, 1 Pet. 3:18-22
 - Primarily signifies that one has died and been resurrected with Christ - being “in Christ”
 - Blessings of the New Covenant - union, cleansing of sin, new life
 - Echoes circumcision, but is not the same as circumcision
 - Both are signs of entry into the covenant, both point to being “set apart” unto God
 - Baptism fulfills circumcision and looks forward to final resurrection
 - Covenant membership depends on headship - receiving sign does not put one in the covenant
 - NC membership depends on second birth, therefore only those who show evidence of second birth should receive the covenant sign
 - Baptism constitutes an oath of covenant faithfulness
 - Swearing an oath of allegiance to serve and obey Jesus - to live as one dead to sin
 - Hypocritical (vain) oath taking brings curses
 - Consumed by the waters of judgment rather than passing through them
- **The Lord’s Supper** - 1 Cor. 11:23-32
 - Ongoing sign of covenant renewal that signifies participation in the sacrifice of Jesus
 - Testifies to union with Christ, that His death covers our sin
 - Fulfills the Passover and looks forward to the Marriage Feast of the Lamb
 - Unlike baptism, the Lord’s Supper is explicitly corporate
 - Common covenant meal testifies to union with each other
 - Discord within the body of Christ de-legitimizes this sign - hypocritical
 - Eating communion is swearing an oath of union with Christ and one another
 - To do this falsely is to blaspheme the body and blood of Christ
 - Paul warns of specific curses and ultimate condemnation if this is our manner
- These New Covenant realities necessitate church membership and discipline
 - Elders have the duty of admitting and excommunicating individuals into the covenant body
 - Must guard the covenant and hold individual accountable to their covenant oaths
 - Life inconsistent with the NC must be confronted and disciplined