

THE CUP OF BLESSING

PASTOR JONATHAN BURNS

MESSAGE FROM SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2026

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. The Cup of Blessing is Not the Cup of Condemnation

Communion is about celebrating what Christ has done, not examining whether we're "worthy enough." We will never be worthy — that's the whole point of grace.

2. The Four Cups of Passover

- Cup of Sanctification - "I will bring you out"
- Cup of Deliverance - "I will deliver you"
- Cup of Redemption/Blessing - "I will redeem you" (The communion cup)
- Cup of Praise/Restoration - "I will take you for my people" (The cup Jesus will drink with us in His kingdom)

3. You Are God's Possession

Redemption means you have been purchased. You belong to God. There is no indication in Scripture that bad behavior will cause God to "sell you back" to the kingdom of darkness.

4. The Work is Finished

Jesus has completed the work of redemption. Our salvation is based entirely on the application of His blood, not our merit or behavior.





DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Understanding the Sermon

- Before this sermon, what was your understanding of communion? How has that understanding changed or deepened?
- Pastor Jonathan mentioned that Paul uses "cup of blessing" as a technical term from Jewish Passover tradition. Why is it significant that our communion cup is specifically the third cup – the cup of redemption?
- Read Exodus 6:6-7 together. How do each of God's four promises to Israel ("I will bring you out," "I will deliver you," "I will redeem you," "I will take you for my people") apply to believers in Christ today?

Going Deeper

- The sermon stated: "It is the cup of blessing. It is not the cup of condemnation." How does this perspective challenge the way you've approached communion in the past?
- Discuss this statement: "No one earns salvation on your own merit. You don't ever have to worry about whether you are worthy. You're not. That's the whole point." How does this truth bring you comfort? Where might you still struggle to accept it?
- The only requirement for salvation in Egypt was the application of the blood – no background check, no screening, no qualifications about behavior. What does this teach us about grace?

Personal Reflection

- Read Hebrews 9:12-14. What does it mean that Jesus obtained "eternal redemption" for us? How should this reality affect your daily life?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

This Week's Challenge

Option 1: Daily Gratitude for Redemption

Each morning this week, read Psalm 116 and thank God for one specific aspect of your redemption (sanctification, deliverance, salvation, or belonging to Him).

Option 2: Share Your Story

Think of someone in your life who doesn't know Jesus. Pray for an opportunity this week to share what the "cup of blessing" means to you — how Jesus has brought you out, delivered you, redeemed you, and made you His own.

Option 3: Communion Reflection

Before the next time you take communion (whether in church or at home), read Exodus 6:6-7 and Psalm 116-118. Meditate on the significance of the cup of blessing and write down what God reveals to you.

Option 4: Study the Feasts

If you've never attended a Passover presentation, make plans to attend when Pastor Matt Miller does his walkthrough this Easter season. In the meantime, research one of the seven Jewish feasts and how it points to Christ.

MEMORY VERSE

Hebrews 9:12 "And not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once and for all, having obtained eternal redemption."



CLOSING REFLECTION

Read together Psalm 116:12-13: "What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits toward me? I shall lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord."

Final Question: What is one specific way you will "lift up the cup of salvation" this week – celebrating and proclaiming what Jesus has done for you?

CLOSING PRAYER

Close your time by:

- Thanking God for the cup of blessing and the eternal redemption we have in Christ
- Praying for those in your group who are struggling to accept God's unconditional love and grace
- Asking God to help you live as people who truly belong to Him
- Praying for opportunities to share the hope of the gospel with others

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scan QR code for Upcoming Events, News, Giving and more!
<https://linktr.ee/cornerstonejc>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Celebrating Jesus in the Passover - March 25; Registration is open! We expect to sell out, so register early to guarantee your seat.

