

In [Matthew 26:39 \(ESV\)](#), while in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus fell on His face and prayed, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” In [Matthew 26:42 \(ESV\)](#), again, for a second time, Jesus went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” Do you hear this language Jesus is using about the cup He must drink?

Then, in the Garden, Judas showed up with some soldiers and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees to arrest Jesus. In his attempt to defend Jesus, Simon Peter drew a sword and cut off the high priest's servant's right ear. In [John 18:11 \(ESV\)](#), Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?” Once again, we hear about the cup Jesus must drink from.

What is this cup? First, it is [The Cup of Wrath](#). Throughout the Bible, the cup was a metaphor for a person's fate. The “cup of wrath” was God's judgment and fury poured out against sinful humanity. Paul, in [Romans 1:18 \(ESV\)](#), says, “The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men.” On the cross, God poured out His wrath (which we deserve!) onto His Son, Jesus!

Second, it is [The Cup of Salvation](#). With a reference to [Isaiah 53:5](#), [1 Peter 2:24 \(ESV\)](#) reminds us, “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his

wounds you have been healed.” On the cross, Jesus, the Christ, God’s Son, shed His blood to forgive our sins. He sacrificed Himself to save our souls. And, with His final breath, He said, “It... is... finished!”

It’s interesting. In the Jewish Passover, they do have five cups of wine. The first four symbolize God’s four promises in Exodus 6:2-8: sanctification, deliverance, redemption, and protection. The fifth promises salvation, “I will bring you into the land.” It is “the cup of the Messiah”. Only, in the Jewish Passover, it sits there every year, un-drunk. They believe Elijah will herald the final, ultimate salvation of God’s people.

Thanks be to God Jesus is our Christ (Messiah), the Son of the Living God. Thanks be to God Jesus drank our cup of wrath and invites us to drink His cup of salvation. Thanks be to God, in the Lord’s Supper cup of the new covenant, we receive Jesus’ blood for the forgiveness of our sins. And, thanks be to God we can offer our bodies as living sacrifices, pouring them out as a drink offering, both to God and others!

Let’s pray. Lord, in 2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV), Paul says, “For our sake, God made him (Jesus) to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” Lord, as we sit on the edge of darkness, help us read closely the burial of Jesus, repent of our sin, receive Jesus as our Savior, and rejoice in our forgiveness. And, Lord, help us ready ourselves for Easter Sunday, the resurrection of Jesus.