

Study in Romans

Doctrine > Good News > Temporal Blessings > Freedom from Condemnation Through the Spirit Romans 8:1-4

Before we look at this chapter, let's look briefly at the seven covenants from God found in Scripture:

Covenant	Scripture	Duration*	Sign	Type	Scope
Adamic	Gen. 3:16-19	Everlasting	Curse	Unilateral	Mankind
	God promises all mankind that they will be cursed as a result of Adam's sin, but that there would be redemption made by "the Seed of the Woman."				
Abrahamic	Gen. 17:7	Everlasting	Circumcision	Unilateral	Israel
	God promises to bless Abraham and the rest of mankind through him. God promises to make him into many nations and to give his descendants a homeland.				
Noahic	Gen. 6:18 & 8:20-9:17	Everlasting	Rainbow	Unilateral	Mankind
	God promises not to destroy the world again by a flood.				
Mosaic	Ex. 19-24	Temporary	Sabbath	Bilateral	Israel
	Unlike the others, this one is conditional on both parties. God promises to bless Israel if they kept His law and curse them if they don't (cf. Deut. 28). It was replaced by the New Covenant which is unilateral and depends on God alone for fulfillment.				
Priestly	Num. 25:10-13	Everlasting	Peace	Unilateral	Israel
	God promises an everlasting priesthood to Aaron's descendants after the actions of Phinehas, the grandson of Aaron.				
Davidic	2 Sam. 7: 8-16 & 23:5	Everlasting	Seed	Unilateral	Israel
	God promises David that his descendants would sit on his throne forever.				
New	Jer. 32:40 & 1 Cor. 11:25	Everlasting	Baptism	Unilateral	Mankind
	God promises no condemnation (i.e., eternal wrath) to all who have faith in Jesus' work of redemption.				

* "Everlasting" can mean either: (1) to the end of time or (2) through eternity future.

In 8:1-4, Paul expressly states that the agreements God has made in the past with mankind and with Israel were powerless to prevent sin from twisting the agreements resulting in death. But what the law was rendered powerless to do by sin, God did by sending Jesus in the likeness of sinful man to atone for sin and to live a life of perfect righteousness that we cannot. Those who are in Christ have His righteousness imputed to them and there is no condemnation for them before the bar of God's justice. If we read the word "power" in verse 2, the force of this comes through: "...because through Christ Jesus the *power* of the Spirit of life set me free from the *power* of sin and death."

1. Result: No condemnation from God for those in Christ (v. 1)
2. Reason: The power of God through the Spirit overcame the power of sin and death (vv. 2-3a)
3. Resources: Those who now live according to the Spirit have God's righteous requirements fully met in them (vv. 3b-4)