

## **The Difference One Man Made: Different Covenants – Romans 5:12a**

Tiger Woods apologized on Monday. I wrote on my blog:

Tiger Woods made his public apology today. In the [apology](#) he said the following: “Buddhism teaches that a craving for things outside ourselves causes an unhappy and pointless search for security... Obviously I lost track of what I was taught.”

I believe that Tiger did not stray from his religious teachings but fell prey to Buddhism’s man-centered teachings. Rather than looking for joy from “outside” himself, such as in a grace-based relationship with Christ, Tiger lived a very self-centered, prideful life of self-sufficiency.

I hope that Tiger and his wife find a way to stay married, especially for the sake of the children. But, sadly, Tiger’s adherence to Buddhism will continue to be a hindrance. All Christians should pray for Tiger Woods that he will look “outside” of himself to help that comes from the true and living God and that he will trust in Jesus Christ alone for true forgiveness and redemption.

I really got some of the Buddhist community upset and they have lashed out at me on the internet. Nothing new.

But it is true that false religions are all self-centered, man-centered, teaching men to find salvation within themselves, according to their own piety and works.

But Christianity teaches that man cannot save himself. Salvation comes from someone above us, our Creator, the true and Living God.

In this section, Paul is giving one of the most important explanations of how we God saves/justifies us.

### **I. Paul Refers to What Happened to Adam**

- **Romans 5:12a** Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin...
- **"sin came into the world"** - Lit., sin *invaded* the world. This does not mean Adam was the first sinner; Eve was. It does not mean that sin began its existence at that time in the Garden of Eden. Paul says sin *entered*, not that it began to be. Sin already existed as a result of Satan's rebellion. This text speaks of sin's inaugural entry into the world of humanity. Sin, therefore, is portrayed as an *intruder*. It was not a constituent element in the original creation.
- **"through one man"** - Adam was a historical figure. He had a mind, body, a spirit just as we do. He lived in space-time history just as we do, in a geographical location no less than you or I. (Cf. 1 Tim. 2:13-15; Mt. 19:4; Mk. 10:6; 1 Cor. 15.)

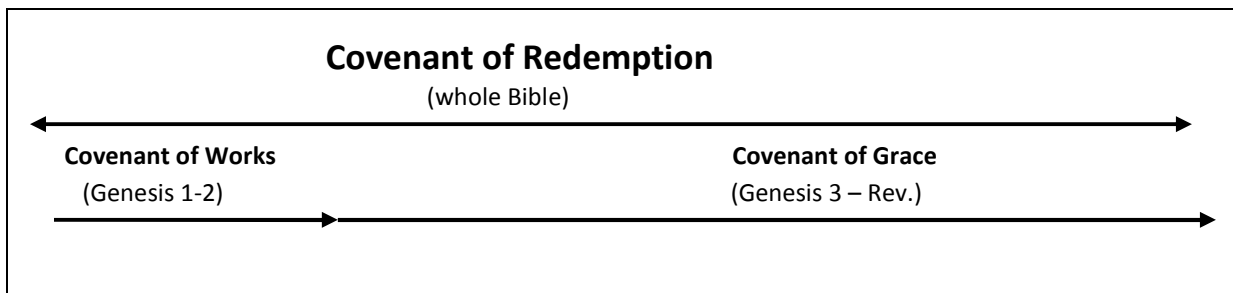
## II. We Call It “The Covenant of Works”

### A. The Definition of “Covenant”

- Generally "covenant" refers to a binding between parties.
- The Hebraic concept is inclusive of two shades of meaning.
  1. Bilateral = a mutual agreement.
  2. Unilateral = The other is more a command; it is an obligation imposed by a superior upon an inferior
- In the Bible we see that God deals with mankind according to covenants.
  1. Agreements made between God and Adam / and Noah / and Abraham / and Moses / and David... there is even agreements made among the three Person of the Godhead

### B. We affirm “Covenant Theology”

- We believe that a covenantal approach gives us a conceptual overview of the Bible: an interpretive framework from which the Bible is understood
  1. Covenant Theology is a system of theology that explains the entire Bible in one systematized story, organized around three great covenants



1. We believe the whole Bible reveals “The Covenant of Redemption” (TCOR)
2. TCOR is divided between the Covenant of Works (TCOW)
3. and the Covenant of Grace (TCOG)

### C. Paul is referring to COW

- Paul would not have called it that. The name COW is a theological name that was assigned to the event as theologians have studied the Bible.

### III. The Covenant of Works is found in Genesis

You don't actually find the word covenant used in Genesis 2 but Hosea affirms that a covenant was made in Genesis 2. **Hosea 6:7 - But like Adam they transgressed the covenant...**

#### Read Gen. 1:24 – all of chapter 2

##### A. Man is distinctly created in God's image

- **Man is distinct from the animal creation.**
  - Five times it is said that the animals are made after their kind, in verses 24 and 25. But in verse 26 it is explicitly said that man is “in Our image according to Our likeness” and this is the Lord speaking. This is the triune God speaking, saying, “I am creating humankind in My image, in My likeness.” Man is unique. It is not that he is simply smarter than the animals. It is not because he is simply more highly evolved than the animals. He is of an altogether different genus.
- **Man is endowed with a capacity for, and a responsibility for, dominion or rule.**
  - So there is an activity of government and ordering that implies that the man has both rationality and righteousness because, in God's world, the function of ordering is for someone who has rational capacities which bear and reflect the image of God and is righteous. Ordering the earth is a moral issue. You can't order the earth from an immoral base. And so the very fact that man is being called to rule reminds one of the rational and the righteous aspects in which he bears God's image.
- **Man is the bearer of certain of God's attributes.**
  - As God is rational, so also is man.
    - As God is rational, so also is man. Now this is implicit of God in **Genesis 1:1-25**. God is revealed as having intelligence and will, having the ability to formulate plans and execute them. And man, too, is endowed with this kind of rationality and knowledge and understanding and this is seen, for instance, in Adam's naming of the animals in **Genesis 2:19-20**.
  - **As God is personal, so also is man.**
    - God is personal as seen in the Trinity. And in **Genesis 1:26** God says, **26** Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

**27** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

- So the male and the female aspect of man is stressed from the very beginning and is seen as part and parcel of His ability to convey the personal-ness of God. Thus the very differentiation of the sexes, male and female, is part of the image of God which we bear and reflect.
- **As God is moral, man is moral.**
  - Genesis 1:31 says that God made all things good. That is because, of course, He is good Himself. He created man morally good.
- **As God's life is sacred, man's life is sacred.**
  - A man's life is sacred because he is created in the image of God with a purpose of living unto God's glory.
  - **Genesis 9:5** -- And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man. **6** "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, **for** God made man in his own image.
- **As God is immortal and spiritual, man is immortal and spiritual.**
  - This is seen not only in the giving of the Tree of Life in the Garden, but it is even seen in the phrase of **Genesis 2:7**-- then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.
- All of this is so that man can **glorify God** (mirror God's attributes and moral character).

## **B. God Initiates a Covenant with Adam**

- There is a blessed relationship initiated by God with Adam, a binding agreement, and blood sealed the deal with a promise of death if the covenant was broken.
- This Covenant is asymmetrical in the sense that there are not two equal parties entering into a relationship.
  1. This is God, out of His goodness, entering into fellowship with Adam, promising certain blessings and requiring certain responsibilities.
  2. God sovereignly imposes those conditions on Adam. Adam was not given the option to say, "Well Lord, I really like that procreation ordinance, but the labor ordinance, I am really going to have to think about that one."

- The requirement upon Adam was perfection, holiness and personal obedience. Which is why we call it the COW – moral works were the basis for blessings or cursing
- COW promised life for obedience and death for disobedience.

### END OF FIRST SERMON

**Romans 5:12** says that because of this one man, all men have been effected.

Through this one man Adam the whole story of human history begins!

What happened with this one man affected us all. It charted human history.

**Romans 5:14** says that what happened to this one man is a type of Christ. In other words if you understand what happened to Adam, then you will better understand who Jesus is and what he actually did.

### C. God Verbally Gives His Law to Adam

- **Marriage**
  - God announces in **Genesis 2:18** “It is not good that the man should be alone...” = solitary fellowship with God even in paradise is not God’s plan for us. By the way, you see in that verse the **seed** for the doctrine of the church as well.
- **Procreation**
  - **Genesis 1:28** -- “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth...” Adam and Eve as two isolated individuals, no matter how powerful in their capacities as unfallen human beings, can’t subdue the whole of this globe. There has got to be procreation in order to harness and order the world as God has established it. And this ordinance, it is made clear in Genesis 1 and 2, was to be expressed only within the bonds of mutual commitment, that is, **marriage**. So this is an obligation and a blessing.
- **Labor.**
  - **Genesis 1:28** - And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” - The *mandate* is to work. The *blessing* is that God has given man rule. This labor ordinance was implicit even in the Sabbath ordinance of Genesis 2:1-3, because what does the Sabbath ordinance do? It puts a limit on labor. It says to man, you can’t work all the time.
- **The Sabbath.**

- We see this in Genesis 2:3 “**3 So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.**”
- We see in Hebrews 3:7 – 4:11 that God’s Sabbath was a gift to man. God didn’t need that rest. That is Jesus’ whole point in Mark 2. God didn’t need the rest. He rested because *you* needed the rest. So His very resting was not a necessity for Him. It was something that you needed that He did out of His love for you. So He rested for your sakes, and we learn in Hebrews 3:7-4:11 that, for believers, the Sabbath is not only a blessing, but it is a promise of a rest to come.
- So the Sabbath is a day for nurturing, for spiritual life, for worship and service.
- **The Special Ordinance = do not eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil**
  - Here the curse for breaking the covenant is introduced.
  - **Genesis 2:17 -- but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.**”
  - So this covenant is binding. You could say it is “Sealed in blood” because blood and death is required if it is broken.
- So basically in the Garden of Eden God gives mankind the Laws of God. A **basic list is recorded in the text** but we **can conclude** that as God and Adam fellowshiped in the Garden, **Adam understood the Laws of God.** Adam knew why he existed and what it meant to glorify and worship God his Creator.

#### **D. Blessings and Cursing**

- By keeping God’s Law Adam would be blessed.
- By breaking God’s Law Adam would be cursed.
- The focus of this covenant was centered upon the eating of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. But there seems to have been **other means** in which Adam could have violated the covenant.
  1. He could have refused to be married.
  2. He could have violated the sabbath.
  3. He could have become a sluggard.
- So what do we have here?

1. a relationship divinely established between God and Adam. So we have a bond.
2. We have life and death consequences in the penalty. So we have a bond in blood.
3. And let me also say that we have blessings implied in this relationship, not only in the ordinances, but also in the presence of the tree of life, because that tree of life reappears where? Not only in Ezekiel, but in Revelation. And where is it? It is in the presence of God and the company of the redeemed. And so it is a hint of what is in store for Adam, if he is faithful in the keeping of the obligations.
4. And finally, we have these stipulations, these ordinances and prohibitions sovereignly administered by God.
5. And so we have all the elements of a covenant, whether you want to define it as a bond in blood sovereignly administered, or whether you want to define it as a binding relationship with attendant blessings and responsibilities. All the elements of a covenant are there.

#### **IV. The Covenant of Grace Rescued Adam**

##### **A. God had mercy on Adam in Genesis 3**

- After the fall, God continued to promise redemption to creatures who had violated the covenant of works.
- Failure to be holy earned man God's wrath.
- But prior to Creation God had already determined that He would save men after the fall. That He would have relationship with men on the basis of grace rather than the basis of works.

##### **B. The Gospel is Introduced to Mankind in Genesis 3:15**

- God reveals to Adam that there will come a man who will destroy the Devil and his works.
- This is the first prophecy of Jesus in the Bible. The first gospel sermon – and it was **preached by God himself** to the very first human!!
- God would no longer bless man on the basis of Works but on the basis of Grace.

##### **C. The Covenant of Grace is now and forever in effect – Romans 5:21**

- Ever since Gen. 3 the TCOG has been in effect.

- TCOG has been progressively revealed and inaugurated throughout the Scripture starting with the first Adam and finding its consummation in the Second Adam, Jesus Christ.
- TCOG took form in the Adamic, Noahic, Abrahamic, Mosaic, and Davidic Covenants = all of which were looking towards the New Covenant, which is the final manifestation of the TCOG as prophesied by such prophets as Jeremiah.
- With the Resurrection of Jesus Christ we now live in the New Covenant phase of TCOG – We forever live in the saving grace of God.
- And the Apostle Paul is shedding light on this Covenant in Romans 5 and giving us another reason to rejoice in our salvation.

## **V. Notice the Difference One Man Made**

### **A. TCOW is Still Binding**

- The Laws of Eden were repeated to mankind even after the Fall.
  - Adamic – Genesis 3
  - Noah – Genesis 9
  - Abraham – multiply and descendants will be like sands of sea and bless all nations
  - Moses – Law was given in written form
  - David – God described his desire for global
  - Great Commission
- What God decreed in the Garden of Eden is still binding today. Man is still created in God's image, created for the purpose of obeying and glorifying God.
- Holiness is still required of all men and all men sin as Adam did and fall short of God's glory.
- By our nature and our actions we are morally incapable of obeying the laws of God's Covenant with Mankind in Eden.
- This is why all men need a Savior.
  - We need a man who will live sinless, fulfill the works of holiness, and glorify God in all obedience.
  - We need a Savior, a holy and righteous Adam to redeem mankind.
  - We need a second Adam to redeem what was lost by the disobedience of the first Adam.
- The covenant of grace does not do away with works, it actually ensures that works of obedience are done, for eternal life is impossible without such works

**B. Through Adam TCOW was broken and brought a curse to all mankind, but Through Jesus TCOW was kept and brought salvation to all who believe.**

- **Romans 5:18** Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.**19** For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Adam	Jesus Christ "The Second/Last Adam"
Disobeyed the Covenant of Works Brought curse and depravity to all	Obeyed the Covenant of Works Brought salvation to all who believe

- Adam was a covenant breaker; Jesus was the covenant keeper.
- Adam lived unholy; Jesus lived holy.
- Adam failed God; Jesus fulfilled all of God's Laws and commands.
- Adam failed to gain the blessedness of the tree of life; Jesus blesses us with eternal life.
- You are born a son of Adam and therefore are a cursed sinner.
- By believing in Jesus Christ you are Born Again as a son of the Second Adam, a child of God, and therefore you are blessed with eternal life and relationship and fellowship with God.