

## “The Doctrine of Sanctification”

Romans 4:17-5:5

- *Romans 4:17*: The basis of Abraham’s (our) faith is trusting God’s Word and believing in His power (Hebrews 11:6). This faith was essential for Abraham’s (our) salvation and his (our) sanctification (Romans 4:5). Believing God has the power to give life to the dead and call into existence things that do not exist.
- *Romans 4:18-19*: Abraham’s (our) faith was not based on the physical evidence (Hebrews 11:1) of the promise being fulfilled, but was based on the reliability and power of the one who made the promise. His body was as good as dead, yet God gives life to the dead (Ephesians 2:5, Hebrews 11:19). Sarah’s womb was barren yet God calls into existence things that do not exist (Psalm 148:1-6). These limitations didn’t destroy Abraham’s faith.
- *Romans 4:20-21*: Struggling faith is not an abandoned faith (2 Corinthians 1:9-11). Struggling faith is normative inside of Christianity; abandonment of faith is not (Romans 1:16-17). Stronger faith is produced by persevering through a struggling faith by focusing on God, not the circumstances. We glorify God by affirming His power and trustworthiness (Psalm 28:6-9).
- *Romans 4:22-25*: Abraham’s (our) faith in God made him righteous at salvation and shows God’s righteousness through sanctification. Our faith does not earn salvation, but our faith humbly receives salvation by trusting in the work of Christ.
- *Romans 5:1*: This therefore is connecting chapters 3 and 4 to chapter 5. In Christ our justification is *past tense* and being at peace with God is *present tense*. This peace with God is not a feeling, but is a fact. I was God’s enemy and I was under His wrath (Romans 5:9-10), but I was declared righteous by faith in Christ. I was hostile towards God (Romans 8:7), but now I am His son/daughter, a joint-heir with Christ (Romans 8:15-17), a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17); I am at peace with God by faith in Christ.
- *Romans 5:2*: Through Christ we have direct access to God (Matthew 27:51). It is not our faith that is the basis of our strength and stability, but it is His grace (Romans 8:31-34). Our hope which is *future tense*, is that we will be glorified (Romans 8:30). That is we will be clothed in the glory of Christ. The basis of this privilege is that by the work of Christ we have been justified and made at peace with God.
- *Romans 5:3*: We should rejoice in our future guaranteed glorification and rejoice in the evidence of that hope, that is, our sanctification. Our sanctification takes place through suffering that comes on account of knowing Christ (Matthew 5:10-11). This type of suffering is pointing towards our future glorification (2 Corinthians 4:17).
- *Romans 5:3-4*: If we are maturing or being sanctified these things will be growing in our lives:
  - *Endurance*: A steady pace, despite obstacles and opposition (willful obedience).
  - *Character*: A tested Christian character/an emotional and relational stability (emotional commitment).
  - *Hope*: A growing trust in the promises and power of God (an understanding).
- *Romans 5:5*: We will never have regret or disappointment (put us to shame) in the beautiful outcome of sanctification (1 John 2:28-3:1-2). All of this beautiful and beneficial suffering is because of God’s love for us and is empowered by the Holy Spirit who seals us and empowers us (Ephesians 1:13-14).

**Worship:** Glorious Day (Casting Crowns)      Good Good Father (Chris Tomlin)

His Mercy is More (Matt Boswell)

**Closing Song:** Before the Throne of God Above (Sovereign Grace Music)