

Perseverance, Character, and the Hope of Glory

Romans 4.16 Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all 17 (as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; 18 who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your seed be." 19 And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. 20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. 22 And therefore "it was counted to him for righteousness." 23 Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was counted to him, 24 but also for us. It shall be counted to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

5.1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

* Why is ch 5 an unfortunate chapter breaks? How does the first part of ch 5 connect with the last part of ch 4?

* Paul is also making it clear that salvation is about ..., and the life of Abraham show us ...

* Remember, God promised Abe that through his seed he would be ... (Rm 4.13; Gal 3.16, 29). That is ... language.

* So justification is not an ..., but a ... (Rm 5.1).

* Reconciliation is also a ..., which is that we are ...

* How does Paul tie together the themes of adoption, sonship, inheritance, suffering, and glory in these passages?

Rom 8.15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

2Cor 3.18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Rom 8.18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God ... 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

* The Greek word for "tribulation" in 5.3 literally means to ...

* How did God use tribulation or suffering in the life of his Son Jesus? (Heb 5.8; Phil 2.8)

* How does God use it in our lives? (Heb 12.5-11)

* How does this give us insight into some deep matters, such as why did God allow evil in the world?

* What vital role does perseverance (patience, steadfastness, endurance) play in the Christian life? (Rm 5.4; Jm 1.3-4; Mk 4.16-17)

* Perseverance (patience) is connected to the idea of "... on the Lord" and "... to the Lord" (Ps 37.9; Dt 30.20).

* How does this relate to the life of Abraham (Rm 4.19-21)?

* What do we learn from the following things God called Abraham and Sarah to walk with him through?

– Waiting in Haran (Gn 11.27-12.3)?

– Abe's and Lot's shepherds feuding (Gn 13.7)?

– Lot taken captive in Sodom (Gn 14.8-16)?

– Protracted childlessness (Gn 15.2-4; 16.1-6; 17.16-19)?

– God's intent to judge Sodom (Gn 18.16-21)?

– Abe having Sarah say she is his sister (Gn 20.1-3)?

– The birth of Isaac, and the command to sacrifice him (Gn 21.2; 22.2; Heb 11.17-19)?

* In sum, what do we see in the life of Abe and Sarah (Rm 5.2-4)?

* If all this was true for Abe and Sarah who looked forward to God's sure fulfillment of his promises, how much more is it true ...?