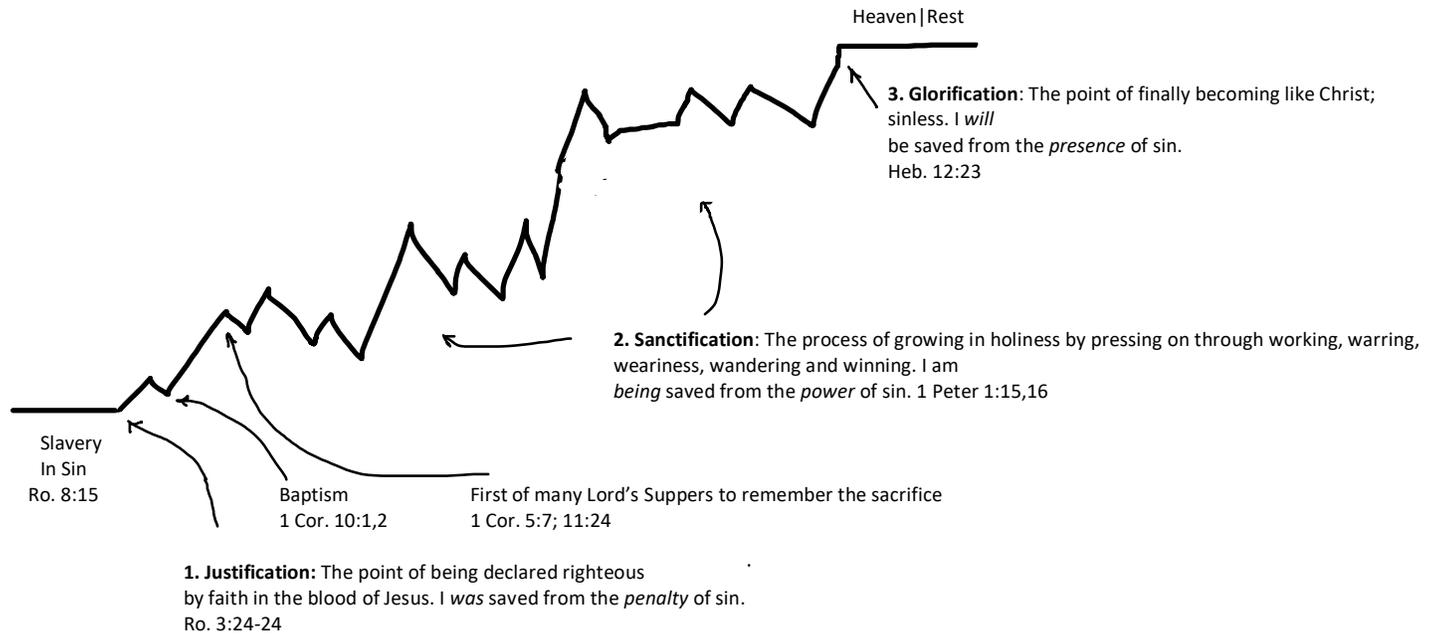


The Christian Life



The Three Imputations: The Great Exchange

1. *The imputation of Adam's guilt to me.* When Adam sinned, it was as if I sinned. As my representative, he did what I would have done. I was born spiritually dead, with the guilt of sin and the inclination to sin. I am not a sinner because I sin—I sin because I am a sinner. I confirm my imputed sin by actually sinning very early. My sin nature desires to sin and does not desire holiness. In this state, I am unable to want Christ or holiness (Romans 5:12–14).
2. *The imputation of my guilt to Christ.* In his *passive obedience* (submitting to suffering), as my representative, he absorbed the wrath and justice I deserve. Upon my faith in Christ, this part of the transaction is completed (Romans 5:15–21; 2 Cor. 5:21).
3. *The imputation of Christ's righteousness to me.* In his *active obedience* (keeping the Law), as my representative, Christ met God's standard of perfect holiness. Upon my faith in Christ, this part of the transaction is completed (2 Cor. 5:21; Romans 4:5,22; Philippians 3:9).
4. *Results:* Christ got what I deserved, I get what he deserves. I therefore enjoy **positional holiness** which is my legal standing before God. He treats me as if I am perfectly holy for Christ's sake. However, in love he is progressively transforming me so that I grow in **actual holiness** until finally my actual holiness is equal to my positional holiness. This transformation begins with **regeneration**.

The Order of Salvation (adapted from Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 670)

1. Election (God's choice of people to be saved)
2. Gospel call (the message is proclaimed)
3. **Regeneration** (being born again/made alive—awareness of sin and desire to be holy)
4. Conversion (faith- turn to Christ; and repentance-turn from sin)
5. Justification (right legal standing through imputation)
6. Adoption (membership in God's family, entitled to inheritance)
7. Sanctification (progressively pressing on in holiness)
8. Perseverance (remaining a Christian, even in testing and temptation)
9. Death (going to be with the Lord; separation of body and soul; intermediate state)
10. Glorification (receiving a resurrection body; final state)

The Process of Pressing On: Paul's Conversion in Philippians 3:1–4:9

1. Master the doctrine of **justification** by faith alone (3:1–9).
2. Accept the responsibility for your **sanctification** (3:10–17).
 - 2.1 The responsibility to accept suffering as necessary for holiness.
 - 2.2 The responsibility to press on when you don't feel like it.
 - 2.3 The responsibility to forget past achievements and failures.
 - 2.4 The responsibility to strain forward into future holiness.
 - 2.5 The responsibility to imitate good examples.
3. Resist the obstacles to your progress in **sanctification** (3:18–4:9).
 - 3.1 Deceit: False doctrine justifies, redefines, or ignores sin (3:18-21).
 - 3.2 Division: Wedges that distance you from the church (4:1-3).
 - 3.3 Discouragement: Difficult circumstances that threaten joy (4:4,5).
 - 3.4 Doubt: Worry that I won't have enough and can't trust God (4:6-7).
 - 3.5 Distraction: What the world offers is attractive and sin is fun (4:8,9).
3. Develop long-term perspective from the doctrine of **glorification** (3:20–21).