

GOD'S WORD IS LIFE

SESSION ONE GREEK TERMS

Romans 1:1-15

1. "δούλος" (doulos) - Romans 1:1

- **Meaning:** Servant, slave.
- **Significance:** Paul refers to himself as a "doulos" of Christ Jesus, indicating complete submission and devotion to Christ. This term underscores Paul's understanding of his identity as one wholly owned by and serving Christ, emphasizing the humility and dedication required of an apostle.

2. "ἀφωρισμένος" (aphōrismenos) - Romans 1:1

- **Meaning:** Set apart, separated.
- **Significance:** Paul was "set apart" for the Gospel of God. This indicates a divine calling, highlighting that Paul's mission is not self-appointed but divinely ordained, with the purpose of proclaiming the Gospel.

3. "εὐαγγέλιον" (euangelion) - Romans 1:1

- **Meaning:** Gospel, good news.
- **Significance:** The term "euangelion" refers to the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ. It is central to Paul's message, signifying the transformative power of God's plan for humanity, revealed through Christ.

4. "προεπαγγέλλομαι" (proepangellomai) - Romans 1:2

- **Meaning:** To promise beforehand.
- **Significance:** The Gospel was "promised beforehand" through the prophets in the Scriptures, indicating that the coming of Christ was not a new or unexpected event, but the fulfillment of God's longstanding promises.

5. "ἁγίας γραφαῖς" (hagiais graphais) - Romans 1:2

- **Meaning:** Holy Scriptures.
- **Significance:** Paul refers to the Old Testament as the "holy Scriptures," underscoring their divine authority and role in revealing God's plan of salvation. This affirms the continuity between the Old and New Testaments.

6. "ὁρισθέντος" (horisthentos) - Romans 1:4

- **Meaning:** Declared, appointed.
- **Significance:** Jesus was "declared" the Son of God with power through His resurrection. This term highlights the official recognition of Jesus' divine status, affirmed by His victory over death.

7. "χάρις" (charis) - Romans 1:5

- **Meaning:** Grace, unmerited favor.
- **Significance:** Paul received "grace" and apostleship through Christ. This emphasizes that Paul's mission and authority are gifts from God, not earned, but given out of God's kindness and favor.

8. "πίστις" (pistis) - Romans 1:5

- **Meaning:** Faith, trust.
- **Significance:** The obedience that comes from "faith" is central to the Christian life. Paul's mission is to proclaim the Gospel, the means by which we receive the faith which frees us to live out our many vocations.

9. "ἔθνος" (ethnos) - Romans 1:5

- **Meaning:** Nations, peoples, Gentiles.
- **Significance:** Paul's apostleship is directed toward all "nations," indicating the universal scope of the Gospel. It's not limited to the Jews but extends to all people, fulfilling the promise that through Abraham, all nations would be blessed.

10. "κλήτος" (klētos) - Romans 1:6-7

- **Meaning:** Called, invited.
- **Significance:** Believers are "called" to belong to Christ, underscoring that their relationship with God is initiated by God. This highlights the concept of divine election and the purposeful nature of God's call. Paul will later affirm this calling in baptism.

11. "ὀφειλήτης" (opheiletes) - Romans 1:14

- **Meaning:** Debtor, one under obligation.
- **Significance:** Paul describes himself as a "debtor" to both Greeks and barbarians, indicating his sense of obligation to preach the Gospel to all people. This reflects his understanding of the Gospel as a gift meant to be shared universally.

12. "προθυμος" (prothymos) - Romans 1:15

- **Meaning:** Eager, ready.
- **Significance:** Paul expresses his eagerness to preach the Gospel in Rome, showing his readiness and enthusiasm to fulfill his calling. This term conveys his passion for spreading the message of Christ.

13. “Δύναμις” (Dynamis) - Romans 1:16

- **Meaning:** Power, strength.
- **Significance:** Paul describes the gospel as the "power of God" (δύναμις θεοῦ) for salvation. This indicates that the gospel message is the active, dynamic force that brings about faith and salvation in the lives of believers.

14. “Σωτηρία” (Soteria) - Romans 1:16

- **Meaning:** Salvation, deliverance.
- **Significance:** This term highlights the deliverance from sin and its consequences through Christ. Paul points out that salvation is available to everyone who believes, emphasizing the inclusiveness of the gospel.

15. “Δίκαιος” (Dikaio) and “Δικαιοσύνη” (Dikaio syne) - Romans 1:17

- **Meaning:** Righteous, righteousness, justice.
- **Significance:** These terms relate to the "righteousness of God" (δικαιοσύνη θεοῦ) revealed in the gospel. Paul conveys that this righteousness is both an attribute of God and something imputed to believers through faith on account of Christ.

16. “Ἀποκαλύπτεται” (Apokalyptetai) - Romans 1:17

- **Meaning:** Is revealed, uncovered.
- **Significance:** Paul states that the righteousness of God is revealed in the gospel from faith to faith. This suggests a continuous and progressive revelation of God’s Word of righteousness through faith.

17. “Ζήσεται” (Zēsetai) - Romans 1:17

- **Meaning:** Shall live
- **Significance:** This verb, found in the phrase "The righteous shall live by faith" (ὁ δὲ δίκαιος ἐκ πίστεως ζήσεται), emphasizes the connection between righteousness and life. Paul quotes Habakkuk 2:4 to underscore that true life—spiritual and eternal—is experienced through faith. This life is characterized by a deep relationship with God, sustained by faith in His promises, and reflects the fullness of life that comes with the gift of God's righteousness in Christ.