

GOD'S WORD IS LIFE

Session Three Greek terms

Romans 3:21-4:25

1. Δικαιοσύνη (Dikaiosynē) - "Righteousness"

- **Scripture Reference:** Romans 3:21-22
- **Meaning:**
 - "Dikaiosynē" refers to the state of being righteous, or the quality of being morally right or justifiable. In the context of Romans, it is the righteousness of God, which is revealed apart from the Law and is given by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. This righteousness is not based on human effort but is a gift from God, embodying His justice, mercy, and faithfulness.
- **Significance:**
 - Paul emphasizes that this righteousness is available to all, both Jews and Gentiles, through faith. This is the central theme in understanding justification, as it is God's righteousness that justifies the believer.

2. Πίστις (Pistis) - "Faith"

- **Scripture Reference:** Romans 3:22, Romans 4:5
- **Meaning:**
 - "Pistis" means faith, belief, or trust. In the context of the New Testament, the word refers to trust in God and Jesus Christ. In Romans, faith is the means by which righteousness is received.
- **Significance:**
 - Paul teaches that faith is the means through which individuals receive the righteousness of God. It is through faith that believers are justified, rather than through works of the Law. This faith is exemplified by Abraham, whose trust in God's word of promise was credited to him as righteousness.

3. Χάρις (Charis) - "Grace"

- **Scripture Reference:** Romans 3:24
- **Meaning:**
 - "Charis" means grace, favor, or kindness. It refers to the unmerited favor of God toward humanity, a gift that cannot be earned. In Romans, grace is the means by which believers are justified freely through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.
- **Significance:**
 - Grace is central to Paul's theology of justification. Grace works together with faith in underscoring that justification is not something humans can achieve through their own efforts but is a gift from God, freely given through Jesus Christ.

4. Ἰλαστήριον (Hilastērion) - "Propitiation"

- **Scripture Reference:** Romans 3:25
- **Meaning:**
 - "Hilastērion" is often translated as "propitiation" or "atonement." It refers to an appeasement or a means by which sin is covered or expiated. In the Old Testament, it is associated with the mercy seat on the Ark of the Covenant, where the high priest would sprinkle the blood of a sacrifice on the Day of Atonement.
- **Significance:**
 - Paul uses this term to describe Jesus Christ as the one through whom God's love is made manifest in the face of sin. Rather than satisfying God's wrath, Jesus' sacrifice on the cross reveals the depths of human sin (we crucified Him) and God's grace and mercy. Through the cross, God justifies sinners not by a transaction, but by breaking the power of sin and death.

5. Λογίζομαι (Logizomai) - "Credited/Counted"

- **Scripture Reference:** Romans 4:3, Romans 4:22
- **Meaning:**
 - "Logizomai" means to reckon, count, or consider. It involves calculating or determining something as true. In Romans, it is used to describe how Abraham's faith was counted or credited to him as righteousness.
- **Significance:**
 - This term is crucial in understanding the concept of imputed righteousness. Paul argues that just as Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness, so too is

the faith of believers credited as righteousness by God. It emphasizes the forensic nature of justification, where righteousness is accounted to the believer by God's declaration.

6. Δικαιόω (Dikaioō) - "Justify"

- **Scripture Reference:** Romans 3:24, Romans 3:26
- **Meaning:**
 - "Dikaioō" means to justify, declare righteous, or make righteous. It is a legal term that signifies acquittal or the act of pronouncing someone as righteous. In the context of Romans, it refers to God's act of declaring sinners righteous on the basis of faith in Jesus Christ.
- **Significance:**
 - Justification is a core theme in Paul's letter to the Romans. It denotes God's act of removing the guilt and penalty of sin while declaring the sinner righteous through faith in Christ alone. This declaration is not based on the individual's own righteousness but on the righteousness of Christ that is imputed to them through faith.

7. Ἀπολύτρωσις (Apolutrōsis) - "Redemption"

- **Scripture Reference:** Romans 3:24
- **Meaning:**
 - "Apolutrōsis" means redemption or ransom. It refers to the act of buying back or delivering someone from slavery or bondage. In the New Testament, it is often used to describe the deliverance from sin and its consequences through the death of Jesus Christ. It reflects a change of status, from bondage to freedom.
- **Significance:**
 - Redemption in Romans is closely tied to the concept of justification. It underscores the idea that believers are set free from the bondage of sin through the sacrifice of Jesus, who paid the full and complete price for their sins. This redemption again serves to point to the main theme: salvation is an act of God's grace, resulting in the believer's justification.