

# GOD'S WORD IS LIFE

## Session Four Greek Terms

### Romans 5:1-21

#### 1. Εἰρήνη (Eirēnē) - "Peace"

• **Scripture Reference:** Romans 5:1

• **Meaning:**

"Eirēnē" refers to a state of tranquility, harmony, or peace. In the context of Romans, it describes the peace that believers have with God as a result of being justified by grace through faith. This peace is not just the absence of conflict, but a deep, abiding sense of reconciliation, not unlike the Hebrew 'shalom'. It is a peace and well-being that comes from a restored relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

• **Significance:**

This peace is a central outcome of justification. Paul emphasizes that through justification, believers are no longer enemies of God but are at peace with Him. This peace, the result of reconciliation, is the foundation of the believer's relationship with God and the source of their confidence and hope in the face of trials.

#### 2. Χάρις (Charis) - "Grace"

• **Scripture Reference:** Romans 5:2, 5:15-17

• **Meaning:**

In Romans 5, grace is presented as the means by which believers have access to God and the abundant life that comes through Jesus Christ. Faith comes by or through grace. Grace is also contrasted with the consequences of sin, highlighting that where sin increased, grace abounded even more.

• **Significance:**

Grace is a recurring theme in Paul's theology. In this passage, it is described as the driving force behind the believer's salvation and ongoing relationship with God. Grace not only initiates salvation but also sustains the believer, providing them with the strength and ability to live by faith alone.

#### 3. Δόξα (Doxa) - "Glory"

• **Scripture Reference:** Romans 5:2

• **Meaning:**

"Doxa" refers to glory, honor, or splendor. In Romans 5:2, it specifically refers to the glory of God, which believers can hope to share in through their relationship with Christ. This glory is both a present reality and a future hope, as believers are being transformed

into the image of Christ and will ultimately share in His eternal glory.

- **Significance:**

The hope of sharing in God's glory is a key motivation for the believer's perseverance.

Paul presents this hope as certain because it is grounded in God's promises and the work of Christ. The future glory that believers anticipate provides them with a perspective that enables them to endure suffering and remain faithful in their walk with God.

#### 4. **Ἀγάπη (Agapē) - "Love"**

- **Scripture Reference:** Romans 5:5, 5:8

- **Meaning:**

"Agapē" is the Greek word for love, often described as selfless, sacrificial, and unconditional. In Romans 5, it refers to the love of God that has been poured into the hearts of believers through the Holy Spirit and is demonstrated by Christ's sacrificial death for sinners. This love is not dependent on the worthiness of its recipients but is an expression of God's character and grace.

- **Significance:**

God's love is the basis for the believer's assurance of salvation. Paul emphasizes that God's love was demonstrated while humanity was still in a state of sin, underscoring the unmerited nature of this love. This love is transformative, using us in our vocations as we serve the neighbor.

#### 5. **Δικαίωμα (Dikaiōma) - "Righteous Requirement/Act"**

- **Scripture Reference:** Romans 5:16, 5:18

- **Meaning:**

"Dikaiōma" refers to a righteous requirement, ordinance, or act. In Romans 5, it contrasts Adam's act of disobedience, which brought condemnation, with Christ's act of righteousness, which brings justification and life. It highlights the legal and moral dimensions of Christ's work, fulfilling the righteous demands of the law, making an end of the law, and providing the basis for justification.

- **Significance:**

Paul's use of "dikaiōma" emphasizes the significance of Christ's obedience and its implications for humanity. Just as Adam's disobedience led to death for all, Christ's righteous act leads to life for all who believe. This term reinforces the concept of imputed righteousness where Christ's obedience is credited to believers, resulting in our justification.

#### 6. **Παράπτωμα (Paraptōma) - "Trespass/Offense"**

- **Scripture Reference:** Romans 5:15-20

- **Meaning:**

"Paraptōma" refers to a misstep, fault, or offense. In Romans 5, it specifically denotes the transgression of Adam, whose act of disobedience brought sin and death into the world. This term is used to contrast the destructive consequences of Adam's trespass with the

redemptive power of Christ's obedience.

- **Significance:**

Understanding "paraptōma" is crucial for grasping the depth of human sinfulness and the magnitude of God's grace. Paul's comparison between Adam's trespass and Christ's gift highlights the superiority of God's mercy and grace in overcoming sin. Where Adam's trespass brought death, Christ's obedience brings life, emphasizing the triumph of grace over sin.

7. **Καταλλάσσω (Katallassō) - "Reconcile"**

- **Scripture Reference:** Romans 5:10-11

- **Meaning:**

"Katallassō" means to reconcile, to restore to favor, or to bring back into a right relationship. In Romans 5, it refers to the reconciliation of believers to God through the death of Jesus Christ. This reconciliation is not just a cessation of hostility but a complete restoration of relationship, transforming former enemies into beloved children of God.

- **Significance:**

Reconciliation is a key outcome of Christ's work on the cross. Paul presents it as both a present reality and a cause for rejoicing. Believers are not only justified and forgiven but are also brought into a close and intimate relationship with God. This reconciliation is the foundation of the believer's peace, joy, and hope in their walk with God.