

WORDS and the chance to learn a little Greek!

JUSTIFY

Gk. "dikaioō"

We spent most of last Sunday's class thinking about what is meant by Paul's phrase "justified by faith." Remember that "justified" means "put right," and is based on the root "dik-", which is also the root of the Greek word "righteous."

PEACE

Gk. "eirēnē" (English name "Irene") In the context of Rom. 5, it means not so much a feeling of "calm" as "reconciliation."

BOAST

The Gk word "kauchaomai" has none of the negative sense of "bragging." It means rather "to take pride in." Mike Bird (whom you saw in the video interviewing Tom Wright) helpfully describes it as being proud to identify with, as you do when you wear a certain T-shirt, use a bumper-sticker, or have a particular image as the wallpaper on your phone.

HOPE

Gk. "elpis" We use the word "hope" in English when we want something to happen, as in "I hope the weather will be fine." When we use it this way we recognize that it might not be fine. When the New Testament uses the word it's with the sense of knowing that something will happen in the future. Hope is faith in the future tense.

GLORY

Gk. "doxa", Hard to define! God's brilliant, radiant beauty, a state of high honour.

ENDURANCE

Gk. "hypomonē". Literally "remaining under". This word always reminds me of its use by the Greek historian Thucydides when he described how the Athenian army refused to be driven back when they were attacked by the Spartans. They held their ground and didn't yield an inch.