

## Romans Vocabulary

### **Abraham:**

His story is found in Genesis starting around chapter 12. God promised to Abraham that a nation would come out of his family line that would bless the entire world. That nation was Israel. He and his wife Sarah were the first Israelites. He's a pretty big deal throughout the Bible especially because of the promises God made to him and how he interacted with God.

### **Grace: (Greek word: charis) "favor," "cause delight"**

In the New Testament, grace specifically refers to undeserved and superabundant blessings that God bestows on His people. In Romans, grace is God's gift that forgives believers and frees them to live new lives by the Spirit. Grace is the basis for God's justification of sinners. By grace God counts believers among His Family and endows believers with the ability to serve Him and others, which is the governing principle of life.

### **Law / law / Prophets: "what is proper," "that which is assigned," "standard of right conduct"**

When this word is a capitalized "Law," it refers to the first five books of the Old Testament and specifically the laws God gave Moses. When it is a lower case "law," it refers to the general standards of God. When the text says the Law and Prophets, the practice was to insert all of the books of the Old Testament into the broader category of the Prophets except the poetic literature (Psalms, Song of Solomon).

### **Sin: "to miss the mark"**

Sin is a term taken from archery. When an arrow missed the target, the hunter had "sinned". To sin spiritually is to miss the target of God's perfect standard of righteousness—but it's not just missing it, it is a violation of any of God's laws.

### **Righteousness: (Unrighteousness is obviously the opposite)**

It is following the path of God. Upright. No hint of evil, not even a moral shadow. The essence of God is that He is righteous. He is morally righteous and in all His relationships He always does the right thing. It is who He is and describes His kingdom and those who would be His people.

### **Justify / Justification: "to declare righteous," "to prove innocent," "to vindicate"**

In the New Testament, this verb almost always bears a legal

connotation in which a person is granted the legal status of "not guilty." According to Paul, we are all guilty and subject to the consequences of our sin. Justification - being declared righteous - is not available by means of good works, but it is granted by God's grace alone.

### **Believe:**

Someone or something that causes or generates confirmation or assurance that something is trustworthy or true (*Holman Treasury of Key Bible Words*). The Greeks thought of belief as confidence or trust in the truth of something or someone. E.g. I see a chair that looks like a chair, and it appears to be stable and strong enough to hold my weight.

### **Faith:**

It is a spiritual act of acting on belief placing one's trust in something or someone. While the logic of belief undergirds faith, the decision to act on one's belief is faith. E.g. I sit down in the chair that I believe to be sturdy. The act of sitting is trust. Faith is confidence that even though I cannot see or touch something I will still place my trust, devotion, and life in someone or something.

### **Circumcision:**

This is a sacred rite that God instituted with Abraham (see Genesis 17). The foreskin of a male is cut away as a sign that they belong to the covenant of God. Over time the Israelites made it more than a sign but a rite that saved them.

### **Redemption:**

It is the practice of buying someone out of slavery or captivity. In the New Testament culture someone could become a servant because of an unpaid debt. Someone could come and pay the debt and "ransom" them out of servitude—or a slave could be "ransomed" from an owner and be set free.

### **Atonement:**

It is the action someone takes to make reparation/set things right for a wrong or injury. In the context of our relationship with God, He is the "wronged" party and we need to make reparations for our sin against Him. In the Old Testament, the sacrifice of an animal's life would "atone" for someone's sins. Jesus is the one who sacrificed Himself to make reparations between God the Father and us for the sin we had/have against Him.