

A look at just TWO Words  
In the key verse in Romans 1  
“**faith**” and “**righteousness**”

Q. Is it relevant?

A. It's about what you believe and how you live your life!

1, The Bible teaches that your destiny depends on these!

2, Properly understanding these terms may alter the way you read the letter to the Romans since we read it with a reformation perspective.

**That's important!**

**It started here ....**

**1453**



**The events led to many Greek documents coming to western Europe. This was during the time of the Renaissance in Europe.**

# Erasmus of Rotterdam

The man who made it possible.

In 1512 he published an updated text of the New Testament manuscripts so that scholars could make translations and compare them with the original Greek text.

*“Erasmus laid the egg that Luther hatched.”*

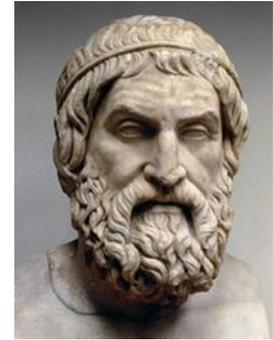
Translations into German and English began to appear.



# But there were 3 styles of Greek

And these influenced the translators

- 1, Classical - The language of the cultured/educated class  
- Sophocles, Archimedes etc.



- 2, Koine/common - 'street' Greek,  
- used in every day conversation

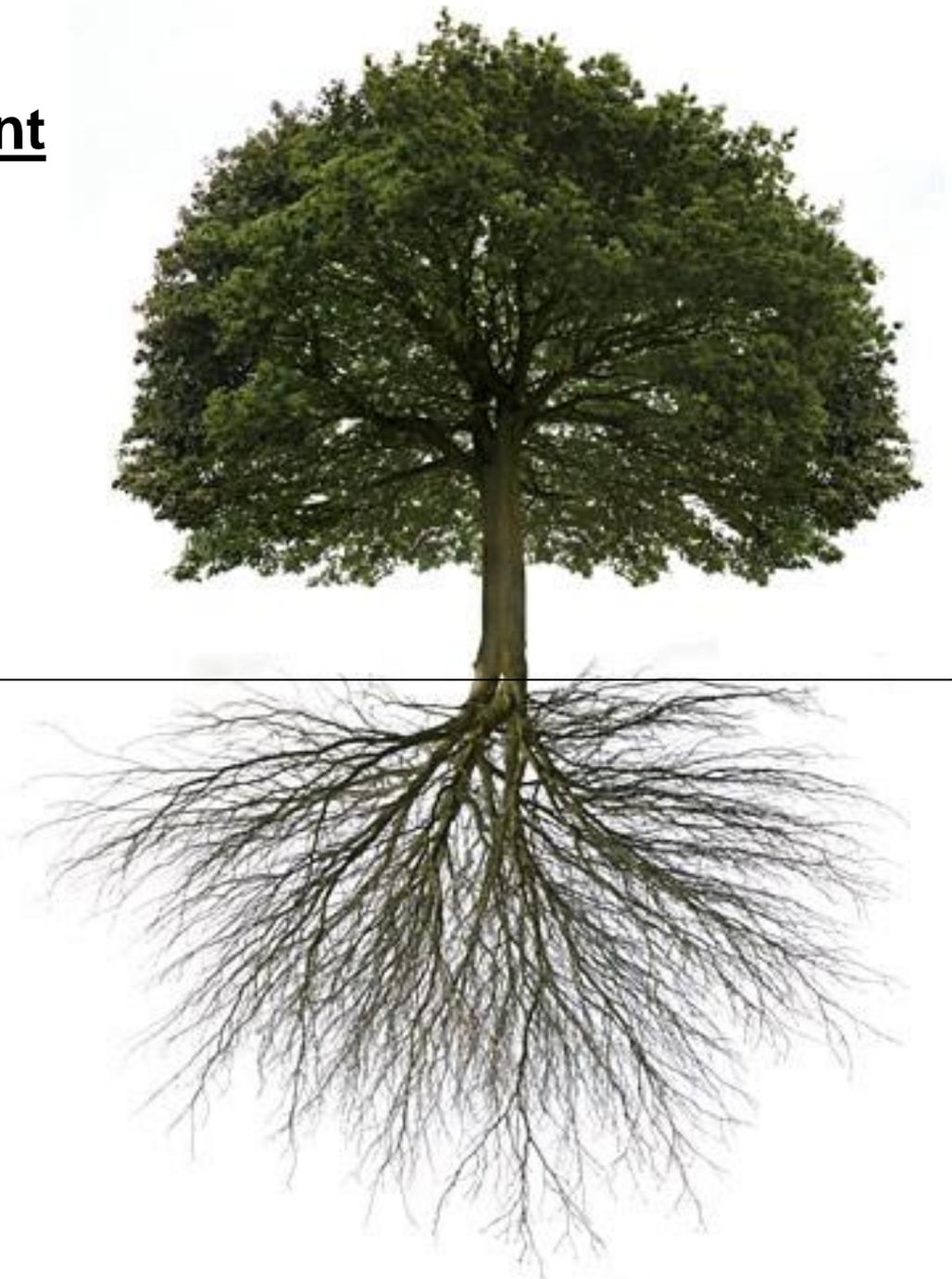


- 3, Jewish Greek – the language of the New Testament - written and spoken in Greek but with a Jewish mind set.  
eg. Listen to a foreigner learning English  
“I am here since 2 years”



(Not that NT writers had a poor knowledge of Greek!)

**Why New Testament**  
**Greek is**  
**“Jewish-Greek”**



**Old Testament**

**Hebrew**  
**& some**  
**Aramaic**

# Faith

***“the righteous will live by his faith”*** Habakkuk 2:4

There are a few instances of translating this word as faith in our versions but the same hebrew word occurs about 50 times, and it is usually translated as “faithfulness”

Eg Lamentations 3:23 ***Because of the LORD`s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.***

We tend to think of 'faith' as 'belief', but the hebrew combines the meaning of belief and faithfulness, ie. commitment to the right, and perseverance. It is much more a relationship word than our use of the word 'faith'.



That is why James says, “*faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*” (James 2:17)

### **\*Point of Interest\***

The word is the basis of a word we know well - ‘Amen’

Jesus said, “*I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life.*” (John 6:47).

The verse in the Bible is Jewish-Greek.

“Amen, amen I say to you.” ie. You can depend on this ...

# righteousness

It describes a quality that something/someone possesses. For example, objects can be described as 'righteous'

***Leviticus 19:35 -36 I am the LORD your God. Do not use dishonest standards when measuring length, weight or quantity. Use honest scales and honest weights, an honest ephah and an honest hin.***

'Righteous' is the word translated here as 'honest'.

Here righteousness is about showing honesty, fairness, and justice. The word is sometimes translated as 'justice' (Isaiah 56:1) – ***“do what is right”***. Jesus speaks of ***“acts of righteousness”*** as acts of charity (Matthew 6:1).

# A pair of 'righteous' scales vs. dishonest ones



## **Note:**

**Its 'righteousness' is not something it wears, not the gold plating or the decorations etc. but in how it 'behaves'.**

***This has implications in how we see righteousness applying to us.***

**Q. What qualities/actions does a righteous person have that show his righteousness?**

**Noah:** Genesis 6:9 *Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.*



**Abraham's question:** Genesis 18:23 *Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked?*

(Lot was spared in the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah)

Here righteousness is pointing to a right relationship with God

**Judges' decisions** Deuteronomy 16:18 *judge fairly,*

Deut. 16:20 *Follow justice and justice alone*

(literally – righteousness, righteousness you shall pursue)

Note a very interesting passage in Deuteronomy 6:4, 5, 25

*Hear, O Israel.. The LORD our God, the LORD is one.  
Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with  
all your soul and with all your strength.*



*The LORD commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the LORD our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive, as is the case today. And if we are careful to obey all this law before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness.* (They are not earning it – but living it!)

**BUT**

We see the realization of the affects of sin in:-



Psalms 143:2 “*no one living is righteous before you.*”

Isaiah 64: 5 – 6 “*when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.*”

## When God acts in righteousness it is also described as his salvation work

In these quotes we see them paired together

Ps 40: 10 *I proclaim righteousness in the great assembly; I do not seal my lips, as you know, O LORD. I do not hide your righteousness in my heart; I speak of your faithfulness and salvation.*

Ps 71: 15 *My mouth will tell of your righteousness, of your salvation all day long, though I know not its measure.*

So to gather it all up,

**Righteousness is the quality of acting in integrity, with justice and fairness and for us humans, being in a right relationship with God as part of his covenant people.**

**So how does this apply to Romans 1 ?**



***What is odd about the box ?***



# The Key Verse: Romans 1:17

## A definition of the Good News

*For in it (ie. the gospel) the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.” (NKJV)*

*In the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written.. “The righteous will live by faith.” (NIV)*

Using Jewish-Greek terms of ‘righteousness and faith’ we get something like this :-

***God’s justice*** and saving work ***is revealed in his faithfulness*** (to his purposes to save us and bring us into a relationship with him) ***and leads us to*** our response of ***trust*** in what he has done for us, and to our response of ***faithfulness*** to him.

**It is God-focused and so is our response.**

If now, we look at Paul's words we get a picture of how he lives this out in following the call of Jesus on his life.  
These are examples we can follow.



First, I **thank** my God through Jesus Christ **for all of you**, because your faith is being reported all over the world. God, whom **I serve with my whole heart** in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how **constantly I remember you in my prayers** at all times; and I pray that now at last by God`s will the way may be opened for me to come to you. I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong-- that is, that **you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other`s faith**.

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that **I planned many times to come** to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the other Gentiles. **I am obligated** both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are at Rome.

**I am not ashamed of the gospel**, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.. first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written.. "The righteous will live by faith."

Romans 1: 16 – 17

These 2 verses provide the material for the rest of the letter!

## Faith(fulness) at Work

- 1, Thankful to God for what He's done in others
- 2, All out in serving God
- 3, Fervent in prayer
- 4, Concerned for other's benefit
- 5, Perseverance in the face of obstacles
- 6, A sense of duty in working for Jesus
- 7, Confidence in the power of the gospel to change lives



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