

In View of God's Mercies Glossary

ABBA: The Aramaic word for *father*, conveying affection, trust, and love. It is the term Jesus used as He prayed in the garden the night before He was crucified (Mark 14:36).

APOSTLE: The New Testament uses the word *apostle* to refer to the twelve men and Paul who “having seen the risen Christ, [were] a witness of his resurrection, and commissioned by Him, preach[ed] the gospel to all the nations.”¹

BENEDICTION: The giving of a blessing. (See Romans 15:13,33.)

CALLED: God’s call is His summons to follow Him in much the same way Jesus called each of the disciples to follow Him.

CIRCUMCISION: The physical act of removing the foreskin of all eight-day-old male Israelite children, commanded by God in Genesis 17 as a sign of participation in God’s covenant people.

DOXOLOGY: The offering of praise to God. (See Romans 11:33-36; 16:25-27.)

FAITH: The gift of God enabling a person to believe in Jesus and receive the salvation He accomplished.

THE FLESH: Everything in us that is fallen and sinful—everything that demands self-gratification and is opposed to the ways of God.

GENERAL REVELATION: All that God reveals about Himself through His creation, available to everyone. This revelation points us to God, shows that He exists, and should cause us to seek and worship Him.

GENTILES: The Greek word literally means the nations.² It is used to describe anyone who is not Jewish.

GLORIFIED: To be glorified will be the final step in our salvation. It refers to when we will be with Jesus and be like Jesus. At that time, we will be free from the presence of sin (not able to sin!) and live fully in the presence of God.

GOSPEL: The good news that we can be made right with God through faith in the saving work of Jesus.

INTERCEDE: To pray, petition, and plead for another.

JUSTIFIED: To be declared by God to be righteous. It is the opposite of condemnation.

THE LAW: This usually refers to the Law of Moses, the commandments God gave to the nation of Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai. We find most of these laws in Exodus, Leviticus, and Deuteronomy.

MEANS OF GRACE: The ways God has provided for us to receive and grow in faith—especially His Word, prayer, baptism, the Lord’s Supper, and fellowship with other believers.

MERCY: God’s compassion, patience, and loving-kindness that causes Him to withhold what we deserve (wrath and judgment) and, by grace, give us what we don’t deserve (salvation and life).

ORIGINAL AUDIENCE: The person, people, or church to whom the human authors of Scripture were originally writing.

REGENERATION: Literally “re-creation.” It’s the new birth, the new life, and the new heart that God graciously gives His children.

REPENT: Not only confessing our sin to God but turning away from it and running toward God and His righteousness.

RIGHTEOUS: The state of being morally perfect and without sin.

RIGHTEOUSNESS: An attribute of God. He is utterly perfect in who He is and in everything He does. It is also a free gift God graciously gives to all who trust in Jesus.

SALVATION: Our rescue from sin and death through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Our faith in Christ’s work in past means that we can be made right with God in the present and dwell with Him in the eternal future.

SANCTIFICATION: The lifelong process of being increasingly conformed to Jesus’s righteousness through the work of the Holy Spirit.

SIN: The New City Catechism defines sin as “rejecting or ignoring God in the world he created, rebelling against him by living without reference to him, not being or doing what he requires in his law—resulting in our death and the disintegration of all creation.”³

SPECIAL REVELATION: The way by which we come to know how we can be saved. Specifically, the revelation about Jesus Christ found in the Word of God.

TRESPASS: Breaking an explicit command.

ENDNOTES

1. W. C. Robinson, “Apostle,” ed. Geoffrey W. Bromiley, *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, Revised (Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1979–1988), 192.
2. Strong’s G1484, Blue Letter Bible, <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/g1484/kjv/tr/0-1/>.
3. “Question 16,” The New City Catechism, <http://newcitycatechism.com/new-city-catechism/#16>.