

Parakaleo

- A. The verb *parakaleo* (παράκαλω) has the following cognates:
1. *Paraklesis* (παράκλησις) (noun), "admonition, exhortation, encouragement, appeal."
 2. *Parakletos* (παράκλητος) (noun), "helper, comforter, energizer."
 3. *Kaleo* (καλέω) (verb), "to call, name, summon, invite."
 4. *Sumparakaleo* (συμπαράκαλέω) (verb), "to comfort together with."
- B. Classical
1. The verb *parakaleo* is a compound verb and literally means, "to call to one's side."
 2. It is composed of the following:
 - a. Preposition *para* (παρα), "to the side."
 - b. Verb *Kaleo* (καλέω), "to call, invite."
 3. Otto Schmitz lists the following classical meanings (Theological Dictionary volume 5, pages 774-776):
 - a. "To call to"
 - b. "To beseech"
 - c. "To exhort"
 - d. "To comfort"
 4. Liddel and Scott list the following meanings (Greek-English Lexicon, New Edition, page 1311):
 - a. Call in, send for, summon; summon one's friends to attend one in a trial, to call them as witnesses; invite; appeal to
 - b. Exhort, encourage, comfort console; excite
 - c. Demand, require
 - d. Beseech, entreat
 - e. Relent; repent, regret
- C. LXX
1. *Parakaleo* is used to translate a number of Hebrew words.
 2. It was primarily used by the translators to render forms of the Hebrew verb *nacham* (נחם), especially in the niphil and piel stems meaning "to be moved to pity, comfort."
 3. Usually the latter is employed.
 4. In 59 of the 78 occurrences where *parakaleo* translates a Hebrew word, it is the verb *nacham*.
 5. This consistent usage demonstrates a shift away from the prominent domains of classical literature.
 6. Wilson states that the origin of *nacham* "seems to reflect the idea of 'breathing deeply,' hence the physical display of one's feelings, usually sorrow, compassion, or comfort. The root occurs in Ugaritic meaning 'to console'" (Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament, volume 2, page 570).
 7. When *parakaleo* renders *nacham* in the LXX, it is most often translated "to comfort, console."
 8. The verb *parakaleo* can also stand for *nacham* in the niphil and hithpael stems meaning "to be sorry, to have compassion on, to have pity on" (Ps. 135:14).
 9. This usage only appears in the LXX.
 10. *Parakaleo* is occasionally used for God's compassion in judgment (Dt. 32).
 11. Where *parakaleo* is used for other Hebrew equivalents, it also means "to encourage, strengthen" (Dt. 3:28; Job 4:3), "to lead astray" (Dt. 13:6), or "to lead along, guide" (Ex. 15:13).
 12. Stahlin commenting on *parakaleo*, writes, "It is striking that in the Hellenistic world more is heard of asking and exhortation, while the emphasis is on comfort where the influence of the OT is felt. One may ask whether this is coincidental, or whether it expresses the comfortlessness which burdened Hellenism and the consolation hoped for in the world of the OT" (Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, volume 5, page 787).
- D. NT
1. The verb *parakaleo* occurs 109 times in the NT.
 2. The NT and particularly in the book of Acts employs the ordinary secular usage of the word as evidenced in classical literature.
 3. But Schmitz states that *parakaleo* and its cognates "receive their content preponderantly from the NT event of salvation" (Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, volume 5, page 793).
 4. Schmitz lists the following NT usages for the word (Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, volume 5, pages 794-799):
 - a. Asking for help

- b. Exhortation
 - c. Consoling for help
 - d. Comforting by men and as God's act
5. Braumann lists the following NT meanings (The New International Dictionary of the New Testament, volume 1, page 570):
 - a. Summon, invite, ask, implore
 - b. Exhort
 - c. Comfort, encourage
 6. Bauer, Gingrich and Danker have compiled the following (A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature, page 617):
 - a. To call to one's side, summon
 - (1) *Tina* with infinitive following to indicate the purpose of the call
 - (2) Invite *tina* with infinitive following
 - (3) Summon to one's aid, call upon for help
 - b. Appeal to, urge, exhort, encourage
 - c. Request, implore, appeal to, entreat
 - d. Comfort, encourage, cheer up
 - e. Try to console or conciliate, speak to in a friendly manner, apologize to
 7. The New Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon has compiled the following lists (pages 482-483):
 - a. To call to one's side, call for, summon
 - b. To address, speak to, (call to, call on) which may be done in the way of exhortation, entreaty, comfort, instruction
 - (1) To admonish, exhort
 - (2) To beg, entreat, beseech
 - (3) To console, to encourage and strengthen by consolation, to comfort
 - (4) To encourage, strengthen
 - (5) It combines the ideas of exhorting and comforting and encouraging
 - (6) To instruct, teach
 8. Louw and Nida list the following (Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament Based on Semantic Domains, volume 2):
 - a. To ask for something earnestly and with propriety – 'to ask for (earnestly), to request, to plead for, to appeal to, earnest request, appeal' (page 408).
 - b. To ask a person to accept offered hospitality – 'to invite' (page 424).
 - c. To call to come to where the speaker is – 'to call together to' (page 423).
 - d. To cause someone to be encouraged or consoled, either by verbal or non-verbal means – 'to encourage, to console, encouragement' (page 306).
 9. Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, "*parakaleo*, primarily, "to call to a person" (*para*, "to the side," *kaleo*, "to call"), denotes (a) "to call on, entreat"; see BESEECH; (b) to admonish, exhort, to urge one to pursue some course of conduct (always prospective, looking to the future, in contrast to the meaning to comfort, which is retrospective, having to do with trial experienced), translated "exhort" in the RV of (Phil. 4:2; 1 Thes. 4:10; Heb. 13:19,22), for KJV, "beseech"; in (1 Tim. 5:1), for KJV, "intreat"; in (1 Thes. 5:11), for KJV, "comfort"; "exhorted" in (2 Cor. 8:6) and (12:18), for KJV, "desired"; in (1 Tim. 1:3), for KJV, "besought."