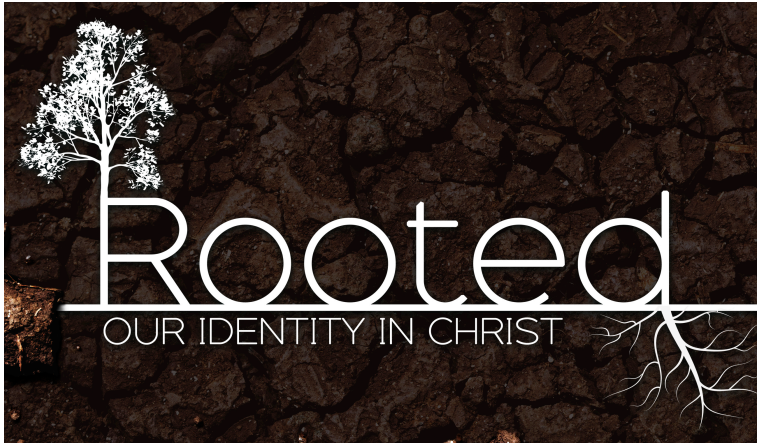


DIGGING DEEPER

Rooted: Witnesses



"We all love a good courtroom drama. The charismatic lawyer calling the witness and grilling them about what they had seen and heard. Being a witness for Jesus has some strange implications for us and how we live in this world. Jesus calls us to be disciples who make disciples but He calls us to do this by being witnesses to the work He is doing in us. What are you a witness to? What have you seen and heard? What "good news" do you have to share?"

Seen and Heard

This phrase occurs 5 times in the New Testament (Luke 7:22; John 3:32; Acts 4:20; Acts 22:15; 1 John 1:3) and shows up in the Hebrew Scriptures many times as well. Someday I'll do more research on this phrase and the hyperlinks it has all over the place... for now- have fun with it! What do you see as the connection?

Witness as the root for Martyr

martyr (n.)

"one who bears testimony to faith," especially "one who willingly suffers death rather than surrender his or her religious faith," specifically "one of the Christians who in former times were put to death because they would not renounce their beliefs," late Old English martyr, from Late Latin martyr, (source also of Old French martir, Spanish martir, Italian martire, etc.), from Doric Greek martyr, earlier martyros (genitive martyros), in Christian use "martyr," literally "witness."

This Greek word is sometimes said to be related to mermera "care, trouble," from mermairein "be anxious or thoughtful," from PIE *(s)mrtu- (source also of Sanskrit smarati "remember," Latin memor "mindful"), however Beekes has phonetic objections to this and suggests it is rather a loan-word from Pre-Greek. For sense shift from abstract "testimony" to "a witness," compare French témoin "witness" from Latin testimonium; English witness (n.) "one who testifies," originally "testimony."

The word was adopted directly into most Germanic languages (Old Saxon, Old Frisian martir, Old High German martyr, etc.), but Norse used a native formation pislavattr, literally "torture-witness." Meaning "one who suffers death or grievous loss in defense or on behalf of any belief or cause" (love, etc.) is from late 14c. General sense of "constant sufferer, a victim of misfortune, calamity, disease, etc.," is from 1550s. Martyr complex "exaggerated desire for self-sacrifice" is attested by 1916.

Witness Resources

BIBLE PROJECT VIDEO ON WITNESS

https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/martus-witness/?utm_source=web_social_share&medium=shared_video



OVERVIEW

For this week's Bible Study, we're exploring the word witness — what it means and how it is used in the Bible. A witness is someone who sees something important or amazing and shares their experience with others. Yahweh called the nation of Israel to be his own witnesses, so that all other nations could see Yahweh as the one true God. Israel had some powerful encounters with Yahweh, so they were in a great position to do this. But they failed miserably, doing injustice and worshiping other gods just like the surrounding nations. Jesus proved to be the faithful witness Israel could not be, and through his life, death, resurrection, and ascension, he made a way for his followers to be faithful witnesses too. As followers of Jesus learn to bear witness to the loving character and powerful acts of God, the surrounding world can know and experience him too.

The NAS New Testament Greek Lexicon

Strong's Number: 3144

Original Word: μάρτυς, υρος, ὁ

Word Origin: martus from (2844)

Transliterated Word: martus

Phonetic Spelling: mar'-toos

Parts of Speech: Noun Masculine

Definition: a witness