

# USES OF THE GREEK PRESENT TENSE

## Regular Uses of the Present:

(1) **The Progressive Present.** It signifies action in progress, or a state of persistence. In the indicative mood it is related to present time and ... may denote three points of view.

a. The present tense may be used in a sense of **description**, to indicate that which is now going on. This use might almost be called the “**pictorial present**,” since its distinctive force is to present to the mind a picture of the events as in process of occurrence.

b. The present tense is used to denote the continuation of **existing results** [sometimes called the **perfective present**]. Here it refers to a fact which has come to be in the past, but is emphasized as a present reality.

c. Sometimes the progressive present is **retroactive** in its application, denoting that which has begun in the past and continues into the present. We may call it the present of **duration** or **durative**.

(2) **The Customary Present.** Used to denote that which habitually occurs, or may be reasonably expected to occur.

(3) **The Iterative Present.** Used to describe that which recurs at successive intervals. It is sometimes called the present of “**repeated action**.”

## Special Uses of the Present:

(1) **The Aoristic Present.** Expresses the idea of punctiliar action in present time. It is used for those instances in which an action of present time is conceived of without reference to its progress.

(3) **The Historical Present.** Employed when a past event is viewed with the vividness of a present occurrence.

(4) **The Tendential Present.** Used of an action that is purposed or attempted, though it is not actually taking place. It represents the idea of that which is intended or inclined to occur—that which tends toward realization.

**NOTE:** Special uses (2) *Futuristic* and (5) *Static* are not found in Romans 7:15-25 and are omitted from this visual.