

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
BGR 530 Greek 1A

Joseph L. Castleberry, Ed.D.

Fall, 2003

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the essentials of Greek morphology and syntax designed to prepare the student for translation and exegesis of the New Testament. *Greek 1A does not apply toward fulfillment of degree requirements for students in programs other than the M.A.T.S.*

OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Explain the most basic elements of Koiné Greek—verbs, nouns, articles, adjectives.
2. Read aloud from the Greek New Testament with confidence.
3. Begin translating from the Greek New Testament with the aid of textual glosses.
4. Explain the potential importance of several aspects of Greek grammar for interpreting the New Testament.
5. Investigate the meaning of Greek words by examining their use in context.
6. Classify several modern and classical translations of the Bible according to the various philosophies of translation which undergird them.
7. Evaluate the arguments concerning New Testament textual criticism.
8. Continue studying New Testament Greek in the future.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Castleberry, Joseph. (2003). *New Testament Greek I*. Springfield, MO: Global University Press.

Fee, Gordon. *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*. Third Edition. Louisville, KY: Westminster-John Knox Press, 2002.

BASIC OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

- 1 Introduction: Stand and Deliver (Sept. 3, 5)
- 2 The Greek alphabet and its pronunciation (Sept. 10, 12)
- 3 Breathing marks, accents, punctuation, elision and diaeresis (Sept. 17, 19)
- 4 Present indicative active of omega verbs (Sept. 24, 26)
- 5 Second declension masculine nouns, cases and adjectives (Oct. 1, 3)
- 6 Articles, adjectives, and their positions (Oct. 8,10)
- 7 First declension feminine nouns, second declension neuters (Oct. 15, 17)
- 8 Contract verbs (Oct. 22, 24)
- 9 The future tense (Oct. 29, 31)
- 10 The imperfect Tense (Nov. 5, 7)
- 11 How to do word studies and exegesis in Greek (Nov. 12, 14)
- 12 The first aorist and second aorist tenses (Nov. 19, 21)
- 13 Understanding the textual base of the New Testament (Nov. 26)
- 14 Evaluating and using modern translations of the New Testament (Dec. 3, 5)
- 15 Review and Final Exam (Dec. 10, 12)

METHODOLOGY

The course will include a movie, lectures, self-study, drills, small groups, and humor to create interest, enthusiasm, and commitment to learning New Testament Greek.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Read and complete learning exercises in the textbook.
2. Attend class punctually and participate with enthusiasm. Every unexcused class absence WILL reduce your grade.
3. Show evidence of the completion of homework assignments. The very patient rhythm of the class should make falling behind both irrational and inexcusable.
4. Write a research paper applying your knowledge of New Testament Greek to the exegesis of a passage from the New Testament.
5. Take the take-home Unit Exams and take the Final Exam in class.

ABOUT THE RESEARCH PAPER:

The research paper for this course will give you an opportunity to begin to use the elements of Greek grammar in exegetical work. The paper will be based on Chapter Three

of the Fee book, “Short Guide for Sermon Exegesis,” and will thus consist of two parts. In the first part of the paper, you should systematically report the results of following Fee’s outline with regard to a specific pericope of scripture. (While you will NOT have to do a complete translation from Greek, you should use the Greek you know to enrich your understanding of an existing translation. Present the translation as your own, including the changes you have made.) Part two of your paper will be the manuscript of a sermon which you have prepared based on your exegetical research. Be sure to tear down the exegetical scaffolding so that the simple meaning of the text is not obstructed by technical details. Clothe the meaning in sufficient narrative and rhetorical devices that it makes sense to everyone who may hear/read it. We will discuss this more in class.

GRADING PROCEDURE

It is expected that all work will be completed as scheduled. Late work may be downgraded up to one letter grade per day late. Final grades will be assigned according to the following calculus:

Class participation and daily workbook	10%
Timely completion of unit exams	20%
Research papers	30%
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>40%</u>
Total	100%

SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by Joseph L. Castleberry, Ed.D. on July 24, 2003