



# Learning Koine Greek

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# Introduction



- The seminary (\$\$) used to be the only place to learn the Greek New Testament.
- There is a growing movement of people that now study it without going to seminary. **For Free!!**
- I had to spend a few dollars, but I will tell you how to do it for free.

# Motivation



- To Ministers - translations were never meant to be used by ministers. They were for lay people.
- For lay people – the lay people of ancient Corinth and Ephesus and even modern day Greece read the original scriptures. Why not you?
- The bible is not a mystery book. It is given to us to know the scriptures (Matthew 13:11).

# Benefits



- The scriptures become clearer.
- Your attention to detail increases.
- You put your position to have proof of what a verse is saying rather than guessing.
- It helps you look at the bible from a 1<sup>st</sup> century standpoint rather than a 21<sup>st</sup> century standpoint.
- You can prove and disprove what is truth or error in any commentary

# Time Requirement



- This is a huge endeavor. I have been dealing with it casually for 8 years and I am still at an intermediate level.
- But, don't you plan on studying the bible for the rest of your life anyway?
- This is not a race.

# Warning



- Studying the Greek Bible requirements learning and studying the Greek Language. However, studying the Greek Language does is not studying the bible. You still need your devotion.

# Agenda



- Grammars
- Audio Resources
- Declension/Inflection Paradigms
- Studying the Greek New Testament
- Intermediate and Beyond
- Further Investment (\$\$)
- Recommended Approach



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# GRAMMARS

# CLARIFICATION



- The books listed do not interpret the bible for you. It tells you how to understand it for yourself.

# Text Kit



- <http://www.textkit.com/>
- If you do not want to buy a textbook, this site is absolutely necessary. It contains classic Greek Grammars and other textbooks converted to PDF that cover many aspects of grammar and syntax. It contains titles such as:
  - “Greek Grammar,” William W. Goodwin
  - “First Greek Book,” John Williams White
  - “A Brief Introduction to New Testament Greek,” Samuel G. Green
  - “Greek Prose Composition,” North and Hillard
  - “Greek Grammar,” Herbert Weir Smyth

# Early Christian Writings



- <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/davis/>
- This site contains “Beginner's Grammar of the Greek New Testament” By William Hersey Davis, M.A., Th.D. It is another grammar available to you for free, but it is not downloadable.

# NT Gateway



- <http://www.ntgateway.com/greek/learning.htm>
- This site has a lot of links that are worth checking out. Especially the link designed for beginners labeled “**Little Greek.**” It contains information similar to this presentation. It is always good to have someone else’s perspective.

# NT Greek



- <http://www.ntgreek.org/>
- This site gives a curriculum on how to learn the scriptures.

# Biblical Greek



- <http://www.biblicalgreek.org/grammar/>
- This web page (as well as the rest of the biblicalgreek.org site) has tons of links to other sites about the Greek alphabet and grammar, free software for vocabulary cards, English grammar, and methods for teaching and learning Greek.



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# AUDIO RESOURCES

# Listening to Greek



- <http://www.greeklatinaudio.com/>
- For you to progress more rapidly in your learning, it is better to hear the words in addition to reading the words. In addition to reading, this gives you an extra sensory perception in your learning which causes you to pick up words faster. This website has recordings of the entire New Testament in the ethnic pronunciations. CAUTION: Most textbooks teach Erasmian (or academic) pronunciations which are very different than the ethnic pronunciations used on this site (ethnic pronunciations are more along the lines of modern Greek pronunciations).
- The best alternative is free and contains the entire Greek New Testament on audio. Hovering your mouse over the Greek text at [greekbiblestudy.org](http://greekbiblestudy.org) (mentioned below in the “Study the Greek New Testament” section) gives you an option to listen to audio. This sends you to a site where you can download a compressed file onto your computer in MP3 format. From there you can make CDs or put it on your IPOD (I prefer the IPOD).

# Listening cont'd



- Listening to the Greek bible on audio should be accompanied by reading the text and keeping up with the reader. In order for you to do this, however, you must understand the phonetics of the language well enough to do so.
- The CD “New Testament Greek Vocabulary” and “Readings in the Greek New Testament” (both by Jonathan T. Pennington) are excellent and reasonably priced. The Greek Vocabulary CD is worth the money when you begin to use flashcards for vocabulary study. *Readings* only offers selected passages in the scripture, but the pace at which he reads is noticeably slower than the other resources mentioned.

# Bill Mounce



- <http://www.teknia.com/>
- This website is sponsored by William Mounce, the author of *The Basics of Biblical Greek*. He now has a mission to train pastors in mission fields by offering free training in Koine Greek Grammar. This site contains audio of classes taught to actual students and is based upon his book. Of course, it is best to have his book, but I'm quite sure there is benefit to the listener otherwise. Highly recommended.



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# DECLENSION/INFLECTION PARADIGMS

# Paradigms



- <http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~ancgreek/paradigmsU/paradigmtables4BOM.html#parindex>
- There are many modifications to Greek words (called inflections or declensions) and this site lists the paradigms (the changes) for verbs, adjectives, nouns and pronouns. Once you get into the grammar, this will prove to be helpful as an alternative to the examples pointed out by the books.
- The number of inflections may be overwhelming at first. Technically, one word can be modified more than 30 ways. (Fortunately, in the NT most possibilities for a given word do not occur).

# Software for Paradigms



- <http://www.kalos-software.com/>
- Kalos software gives you declension paradigms and morphological searches as well. The software is downloadable in a limited unregistered user mode. To get the real power of this software a registration fee of \$40 is required. I have not used the registered version and I do not recommend using it in its unregistered mode.



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# STUDYING THE GREEK NEW TESTAMENT

# Morphological Search



- <http://bible.johndyer.name/>
- This website is a huge blessing to the Body of Christ. It parses (whether it is a verb, noun, etc.) the Greek verbs just by hovering the mouse over the words. You can also do morphological searches of words in the New Testament.

# Parallel Bible



- <http://www.greekbiblestudy.org>
- This site combined with <http://bible.johndyer.name> is a great start to studying the Greek New Testament. It provides a lot of options, but no morphological tag searches. The word studies are available at one click and provide more information than I was able to get with 30 minutes of study several years of study. It provides:
  - a link to listen to the Greek Text being read.
  - all the inflected forms of the Greek word in question as found in the New Testament
  - all verses where the word is used
  - all words based on the same root as the word in question
  - parsing
  - links for grammar lessons

# The Originals



- <http://www.csntm.org/>
- Ever wanted to take a look at the Greek manuscripts that have been passed down to us? The Center for the Study of New Testament Manuscripts is a cool sight to look at for historical purposes. You can actually bring up actual manuscripts and read them. They don't have the accents and word spacing we are used to seeing, but it gives you a feel for the authenticity of scripture. That is the whole reason to learn Greek; choosing authenticity over translation.



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# INTERMEDIATE AND BEYOND

# Beware of Complacency



- Once you've gotten a grip on Greek Grammar, you **MUST** move on to Greek syntax. I know how great you will feel once you've learned all there is to know about Greek grammar. You will feel like you know all there is to know about reading the original scriptures. I would advise you to fight this urge at every cost. Not doing so can lead you down the path of either misinterpreting the scriptures based on novice mistakes or giving up because you thought you were at the end of the road and in fact your road just started. Grammar is the basic rules.
- Syntax is how scripture exists within and sometimes outside those rules. Just like English, Greek is filled with *idiomatic phrases* that some Grammars may not go into.

# Recommended Greek Syntax



- Wallace's "Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics" is a MUST. The book is a result of many years of teaching by a Seminary professor whose notes eventually became this book. It is something that is good for beginners, intermediates and advanced students of Greek.
- **Expository Dictionaries** are a must whether you know Greek or not. Vine's is the trusted favorite, but there are newer dictionaries by William Mounce and others. I still use Vine's and don't own any other, but I can see the reason why new ones exist. At times, Vine's (as well as Strongs) can be unduly tied to a translation.

# Louw-Nida



- <http://www.laparola.net/greco/louwnida.php>
- The Louw-Nida Lexicon lists words by semantic index. When I started learning Greek, I would oftentimes desire to study other words related to the same subject. Oftentimes, I would only be able to look at words that share a similar root. This is an incomplete search. I really needed to know the words that were related and used with the same semantic usage. This site provides this .... sort of. It does not give you everything that the true Louw-Nida provides but you can at least search words on your own based on the semantic index. Once you've been into it for a year or two, it will be proven very useful.
- [http://faculty.gordon.edu/hu/bi/Ted\\_Hildebrandt/New Testament Greek/Text/00-GreekArticlesWebBib.htm](http://faculty.gordon.edu/hu/bi/Ted_Hildebrandt/New_Testament_Greek/Text/00-GreekArticlesWebBib.htm)
- These are some thesis and other articles on intermediate and advanced Greek topics.



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**LET'S SAY YOU ARE WILLING TO INVEST  
RIGHT NOW....**

# My Books



- I can only recommend what I actual use. They are all great books that serve different purposes. They are listed in order of importance from greatest to least, but make no mistake, they are all important.
  - “The Basics of Biblical Greek” and “The Basics of Biblical Greek Workbook” William D. Mounce
  - Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics Daniel B. Wallace
  - The Analytical Lexicon of the New Testament William D. Mounce
  - Morphology of Biblical Greek William D. Mounce

# Used Books



<http://www.biblio.com>

<http://www.abebooks.com>

<http://www.cloydsbooks.com>

- These links are used book sites. Cloyds Books is a website that sells used theological books. I would not recommend buying brand new books. I have personally used Biblio and Abebooks for scores of used Math and Engineering books for as cheap as a dollar. Save the money for something else.



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# RECOMMENDED APPROACH

# Roadmap



- Here's a recommended approach:
  - Start with vocabulary (use flash cards)
  - At the same time start reading through grammars, one section at a time.
    - Nouns (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> declensions first .... 3<sup>rd</sup> declension last) Cases
      - Nominative
      - Genitive
      - Accusative
      - Dative

# Roadmap



- Pronouns
- Prepositions
- Verbs
- Participles
- Intermediate Syntax

# Vocabulary



- **Strategy for vocabulary study.** It is generally a good idea to learn words starting with the most used words first.  
<http://bible.johndyer.name> has functionality to choose a vocabulary list by word frequency.
- [biblicalgreek.org](http://biblicalgreek.org) also has frequency lists already available.

# Greek Bible



- It is my recommendation that you purchase a Reader's Greek New Testament as soon as possible (after all, why learn Greek if you are not going to buy a Greek bible?). It is portable and you don't need a computer to have access to the scriptures. You can find one for less than the price of some English Bibles (\$30 or less).
- In addition, Nicoll's Expositor's Greek Testament (mentioned by Vine's Expository Dictionary several times) can be found at a very reasonable price. I bought the 5 volume set (volume 3 is found on the web) on sale for \$40 several years back. However, this is not necessary.