

SYLLABUS

Course Description

This course teaches a method for studying passages in the Greek New Testament for the purposes of preaching, teaching, and forming theology. Students will increase their knowledge of Koiné Greek by translating and examining 1 Peter. Students will learn the processes of exegetical method and begin textual criticism. They will also study two passages of 1 Peter in depth and report their findings to the rest of the class.

Course Objectives

Students will increase their ability to read and understand N.T. Greek by translating and class interaction.

Students will learn some pitfalls of exegesis, and will begin to understand textual criticism, by course reading and by classroom discussion and interaction.

Students will apply their understanding to texts 1 Peter.

Students will view 1 Peter as Scripture, and will begin to listen to the Living God speaking through 1 Peter.

Required Course Texts

(Texts available at the Providence Bookstore: 433-7110 or 1-800-668-7768; email: bookstore@prov.ca.)

Abbot-Smith, G. *A Manual Greek Lexicon of the New Testament*. 3rd ed. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1937. [Can be alternated with BAGD – see "Greek-English Lexicons" in bibliography below.]

Michaels, J. Ramsey. *1 Peter*. Word Biblical Commentary. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1988.

Course Requirements

Translation. Students will regularly be asked at the beginning of class to write out a translation of the passage for the day. Students are also responsible for previous translations in that same chapter of 1 Peter, as well as the entire previous chapter of 1 Peter. 25% (semester quizzes = 15%; final translation test involving a few verses from each chapter of 1 Peter = 10%).

Class Discussion and Participation. Students will be able to discuss the reading reports in class. Students are also expected to be able to read the Greek text and translate orally from the Greek text in class, without notes, and to be able to answer basic

questions about that text. For each class students should have read the *Notes* sections in Michaels' commentary on the 1 Peter text for that class. 15%

Reading Reports. Students will hand in a 2/3 to 1 page report and response to the weekly reading, in paragraphs not in point form. This report will be typed, single spaced, with double-space between paragraphs. No title page, just describe your source(s) at the top of the page, and include your name. Restate to be what you found to be the most significant points of the reading. *Record in particular what you can use in your Exegetical Papers.* If there are two or more separate readings for the week, as in the syntax readings, compare the approaches of the different writers. Offer some evaluations. This page is to be handed on the day it is listed. If it is not done for the class, it loses half its grade value. 10%

Two Papers and Presentations. Students will write two exegetical papers on selected passages in 1 Peter, and orally present the results of their study to the class. These presentations will then be the subject of class discussion. The class presentation will consist of 15 to 30 minutes, during which the student will present the main exegetical idea of their passage, and explain how that idea is developed. The main part of the paper and the presentation should be grammatical and structural observations from the Greek text, with some comments on exegetical problems.

Make sure to comment on (1) tense/aspect; (2) the article, including its absence; (3) word order; (4) participles, and (5) sentence structure. Use what you learned in your readings. The commentaries will not discuss these matters, but do not limit yourself to what commentaries contain. The paper should include a diagram of your passage, using the format demonstrated in class. Support your grammar from your Reading Reports. The class presentation should include a one-page (only) outline of the presentation, which you will hand out to each student and instructor when you begin. Presentations will begin about the middle of the semester.

Pick passages of about 4-7 lines of text in the UBS text. Pick them from 1 Peter 3-5. We will not have more than one student per text. First come first serve. Student choices should have the instructor's approval. Student's selections should be finalized by the 7th week.

Each paper should have an appendix that thoroughly processes one textual variation in the passage. Evaluate the mss evidence using the value rating of pp 159-62 of Aland & Aland, *The Text of the NT*, according to the evidence supplied in footnotes of NA²⁷ (i.e. external evidence). Comment on internal evidence as well. This does not necessarily need to be a part of the class presentation. The appendix can be single-spaced. Refer to two commentators' views of the textual problem (Metzger's Textual Commentary can be one of them).

The papers should be 7-10 pages of text (not less), including the appendix. Papers are due at presentation time, and will be penalized **significantly** if late. Consult at least two Greek Text commentaries besides Michaels. 25% (paper: 15%; presentation: 10%)

Class Schedule

- Jan 12 **1 Peter 1:1-5.** Course introduction.
- Jan 19 **1 Pet 1:6-16.** Read "Textual Criticism of the New Testament" (pp 3-16) and "The Majority Text and the Original New Testament" (pp 183-208) in Epp and Fee, *Studies*. (Bring textual criticism photocopies [see Textual Criticism Bibliography below] to this class and every class.)
- Jan 26 *Class Cancelled - Day of Prayer*
- Feb 2 **1 Pet 1:17 - 2:3.** Read "Decision Points in Past, Present, and Future New Testament Textual Criticism" (pp 17-44) in Epp and Fee, *Studies*.
- Feb 9 **1 Pet 2:4-12.** Read D. Wallace, "Challenges in New Testament Textual Criticism fo the Twenty-First Century," *JETS* 52 (2009) 79-100.
- Feb 16 **1 Pet 2:13 – 23.** On Tense/Aspect, read Black, *Learn to Read*, 179-181; Porter, 20-45; Zerwick, 77-80, 91-99.
- Feb 23 **1 Peter 2:24 - 3:7.** On The Article (and on *omitting* the article) read Black, 181-2; Zerwick, 53-62; Porter, 103-114; Dana and Mantey, 149-151; and Moulton, *Vol. I Prolegomena*, 81-83.
- Mar 2 *Class cancelled - March Intrasession/ Spring Break*
- Mar 9 **1 Peter 3:8-17.** On Word Order, read Black, 182-85; BDF, 248-53; Porter, 286-97; A. T. Robertson, 417-25. (*Students select texts*).
- Mar 16 **1 Peter 3:18 - 4:3.** On Participles, read Porter, 181-93; Zerwick, 125-131; BDF, 212-20.
- Mar 23 **1 Peter 4:4-13.** Student presentations.
- Mar 30 **1 Peter 4:14 - 5:4.** Student presentations.
- April 6 **1 Peter 5:5 - 14.** Student presentations.

Bibliography

Commentaries on the Greek Text of 1 Peter

Beare, F. W. *The First Epistle of Peter*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1958; 3rd ed.: 1970.

Bigg, Charles. *The Epistles of St. Peter and St. Jude*. The International Critical Commentary. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1902.

Michaels, J. Ramsey. *1 Peter*. Word Biblical Commentary. Waco, TX Word Books, 1988.

Selwyn, Edward G. *The First Epistle of St. Peter*. London: Macmillan, 1947.

Commentaries on the English Text of 1 Peter

Best, Ernest. *1 Peter*. New Century Bible. Greenwood, SC: Attic Press, 1971.

Elliott, John H. *1 Peter*. Anchor Bible. New York: Doubleday, 2000.

Goppelt, Leonhard. *A Commentary on 1 Peter*. Ed.: F. Hahn, 1978. Translated and augmented: J. Alsup. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1993.

Kelly, J. N. D. *A Commentary on the Epistles of Peter and Jude*. Black's New Testament Commentaries. London: Adam & Charles Black, 1969.

Textual Criticism

Aland, Kurt and Barbara Aland. *The Text of the New Testament*. Revised and Enlarged. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1989. **[Photocopy pp. 159-162]**

Aland, B. and K, et al. *Nestle-Aland Novum Testamentum Graece*. 27th ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1993. **[Photocopy "Introduction" pp. 50* - 57*, and all of 1 Peter]**

Black, D. A. *New Testament Textual Criticism: A Concise Guide*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1994.

Comfort, P. W. and D. P. Barrett. *The Text of the Earliest Greek Manuscripts: New and Complete Transcriptions with Photographs* [of papyri and uncials until 300 CE]. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1999, 2001.

Epp, E. J. and G. D. Fee. *Studies in the Theory and Method of New Testament Textual Criticism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1993.

Greenlee, J. H. *Introduction to New Testament Textual Criticism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1964.

Metzger, Bruce M. *A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament*. 2nd ed. United Bible Societies, 1994.

_____. *The Text of the New Testament: Its Transmission, Corruption, and Restoration*. New York: Oxford, 1964, 1968, 1979, 2005 (with B. Ehrman).

Wallace, Daniel B. "Challenges in New Testament Textual Criticism for the Twenty-First Century," *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 52 (2009) 79-100.

Westcott, B. F. and F. J. A. Hort. *Introduction to the New Testament in the Original Greek, with Notes on Selected Readings*. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1882; Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1988.

A fine online uncial catalogue: <http://www.skypoint.com/~waltzmn/ManuscriptsUncials.html> (Feb 2007).

Greek Grammars

Black, David Alan. *It's Still Greek to Me: An Easy-to-Understand Guide to Intermediate Greek*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1998.

_____. *Learn to Read New Testament Greek*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994.

Blass, F. and A. Debrunner. *A Greek Grammar of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. Trans Robert W. Funk. Chicago: U. of Chicago Press, 1961.

Dana, H. E. and Julius Mantey. *A Manual Grammar of the Greek New Testament*. New York: Macmillan, 1957.

Moulton, J. H. and N. Turner. *A Grammar of New Testament Greek: Vols. I-IV*. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1906 - 1976.

Porter, Stanley E. *Idioms of the Greek New Testament*, 2nd ed. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1994.

Robertson, A. T. *A Grammar of the Greek New Testament in the Light of Historical Research*. Nashville, TN: Broadman, 1934.

Wallace, Daniel B. *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics: An Exegetical Syntax of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1996.

Zerwick, Maximilian. *Biblical Greek: Illustrated by Examples*. Trans. Joseph Smith. Rome: Scripta Pontificii Instituti Biblici, 1963.

Greek Concordances

Bachmann, H. and W. A. Slaby [collaborators]. *Concordance to the Novum Testamentum Graece*, 3rd Edition. New York: Walter De Gruyter, 1987.

Kohlenberger, J. R. III, E. W. Goodrick, and J. A. Swanson. *The Exhaustive Concordance to the Greek New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1995.

Moulton, H. K., S. A. Geden, and W. R. Moulton. *A Concordance to the Greek New Testament*. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1978.

Schmoller, Alfred. *Handkonkordanz zum Griechischen Neuen Testament*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1938, 1982.

Greek-English Lexicons

Abbott-Smith, G. *A Manual Greek Lexicon of the New Testament*. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1937.

Bauer, W., W. Arndt, F. W. Gingrich, and F. W. Danker. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. Chicago: U. of Chicago Press, 1957, 1979, 2000.

Liddell, H. G. and R. Scott. *An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1889.

Louw, J. P. and E. A. Nida. *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament Based on Semantic Domains: Vol. 1 Introduction & Domains; Vol. 2 Indices*. New York: United Bible Societies, 1988.

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Sample Textual Criticism Problem: 1 Peter 1:22

NA²⁷ lists two instances of textual variation in 1 Pet 1:22, and this page examines the second one. The end of v22, translated literally, reads "from (a) *clean heart* love each other sincerely." The three readings below are 1. "from (the) *heart* one-another love," 2. *true heart*, and 3. *clean heart*. The NA²⁷ editors have chosen the third option, but due to doubt put καθαρος, "clean," in square brackets. Manuscript support can be seen below. The number in square brackets after each manuscript comes from the rating of Aland and Aland on the value of the particular ms.¹

1. εκ καρδιας αλληλους αγαπασατε A [I], B [I], 1852 [II], pc vg (a few Vulg mss)
2. εκ καρδιας αληθινυς αλληλους αγαπασατε \aleph^2 vg^{ms} (one Vulgate ms)
3. εκ καθαρας καρδιας αλληλους αγαπασατε P⁷² [I], \aleph^* [I], C [II], P [III], Ψ [II], 33 [II], 1739 [I], M [I], t (a Latin ms), vg^{mss} (some Vulgate mss) sy^h (a Syriac version) co (Coptic translations)

Reading #2 is weak, and I will dismiss it, since it does not have strong internal or external support. It then becomes a choice between internal and external evidence.

Reading #1 has the internal support of scribal tendencies, in that it is the shorter reading, and the reading more likely to produce the others. That is, a scribe would more likely add "clean" than delete it. The few mss that add "true" may support this. (Or, αληθινυς ["true"] may have come from confusion with αλληλους ["one-another"].) The writer's style does not help us much, but perhaps supports the shorter reading: 1 Peter uses καρδια two other places (3:4, 15), neither with an adjective; and there is no other use of καθαρος ["clean"] in 1 Peter. Reading #1 also has some good external support.

But external evidence overall supports reading #3. It has broader mss support, and early versions as well. On this basis NA²⁷ includes καθαρος. UBS⁴ gives this choice a {C} rating, and Metzger implies that the Committee was divided on including καθαρος. Square brackets were included because of some good manuscript support for reading #1, not because of internal evidence.² Michaels has slight preference for reading #1, on the basis of internal evidence, i.e. shorter reading to be preferred.³

Note to students: pick a textual problem that will give you access to two other opinions. Metzger's Textual Commentary is one good choice, as well as the commentaries of Michaels and Elliot. You may offer your own opinion. You may neatly handwrite symbols and Greek letters in ink, instead of using fonts.

¹ Aland and Aland, *The Text of the New Testament*, 2nd ed (Eerdmans, 1989) 159-62.

² Metzger, *A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament*, 2nd ed (1994) 618.

³ Michaels, J.R. *1 Peter* (Word; Waco, TX: Word, 1988) 72.