



PREFACE

TEXTBOOK STRATEGY

This textbook was born of the need to bridge the gap between an initial foray into New Testament Greek by the beginning student and the full-blown analysis of advanced courses that focus primarily or exclusively on syntax. In our system, students must assimilate all of Greek grammar in one semester. Such a task is considerable, and their grasp on Greek can be a struggle. In addition, we have students coming to us from our colleges who have had Greek grammar in their religion majors, so they cannot take our introductory grammar for credit. Yet, their initial study sometimes is several years in the past, and they can be pretty cold on the subject. Or, we have students who have had some exposure to New Testament Greek in an online course or some other delivery system and instantly sense inadequacies in their training the first day of class. As a result, students with varied backgrounds of education and experience struggle to get on to the same page with our students who only recently have finished grammar at the seminary level and are hot on the subject. Thus, one purpose for our intermediate grammar course is as a leveler to get all these students in the mix and on the same page.

A second purpose for our intermediate Greek grammar is to review all of Greek grammar. This review, however, reorganizes the material topically for a fresh approach to the subject and adds more depth to the discussion. Also, an attempt is made to build a bridge to syntactical questions to prepare the student for our advanced Greek grammar, which is our syntax course.

A third purpose for our intermediate Greek grammar is to expose the student to more Greek from different New Testament authors and with more surrounding context. Thus, translations move from snippets that illustrate specific grammar to example paragraphs that reoccur from chapter to chapter in the exercises,

but with different grammatical focus each time. Eventually, the student will be translating the entire text of 1 John and part of the nativity story from Luke's Gospel.

A fourth purpose for our intermediate Greek grammar is to expand Greek vocabulary. Our introductory course brings the student to mastering words that occur fifty or more times in the New Testament. This level, of course, is not enough for continuous reading of paragraphs of Greek without constant consultation of a lexicon. Therefore, this textbook expands Greek vocabulary by including seven vocabulary lists that can comprise seven vocabulary exams easily distributed during the course as the instructor desires. These lists will bring the student's vocabulary acquisition to words that occur fifteen or more times in the New Testament.

In sum, this text is meant to:

- (1) level differing backgrounds of introductory Greek
- (2) review Greek grammar and raise syntactical issues
- (3) explore the varieties of New Testament Greek in context
- (4) expand Greek vocabulary to fifteen or more times

Perhaps this text, then, can serve your purposes in the study of New Testament Greek.

Each chapter is organized topically in a total review of Greek grammar and includes exercises taken from the Greek New Testament to illustrate the grammar discussed. "Manuscripts" sections include illustrations that introduce the student to handwritten copies of the New Testament and issues of textual criticism. Five appendixes include a glossary, paradigms, principal parts, lexical middle, and an answer key. These appendixes are followed by seven evenly divided vocabulary lists of decreasing frequency to be used for vocabulary exams, concluding with a total vocabulary list of Greek to English and a list of English derivatives. Finally, a comprehensive and detailed subject index adds to the usability of the text.