

Bibl 5111 Introduction to NT Greek Exegesis
North Park Theological Seminary
Fall 2011

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Draft

Course Goal

To increase students ability to read the Greek New Testament and to appropriate and communicate the message of the Bible through the translation and interpretation of the New Testament texts.

Objectives

By the end of the course the students will be able to:

1. Translate and explain the grammar of texts in the Greek New Testament making use of lexicons, grammars and other available tools;
2. Assess the validity of translations and exegesis of Greek New Testament texts in English Bibles, commentaries, and other scholarly works;
3. Present their own critically informed exegesis of texts in the Greek New Testament;
4. Articulate the value for Christian life and ministry of study of the Bible in the original languages.

Course Content

1. Translation and grammatical analysis of select texts from the Greek New Testament.
2. Consolidation of students' understanding of Greek vocabulary and grammar.
3. Exploration and execution of an exegetical methodology appropriate to the interpretation of the Greek New Testament.
4. Translation and exegesis of the Paul's letter to the Colossians.

Class Procedure

For the first half of the class each week will include the following elements:

1. The translation, the parsing of verbs, and the identification of grammatical issues of a selected New Testament text.
2. A quiz on the vocabulary of the Greek New Testament.
3. Introduction to an aspect of exegetical methodology.
4. Application of that aspect to the text translated that week.

For the second half of the class each week will include:

1. The translation of the text of Colossians.
2. Exploration of the exegetical issues of the text of Colossians.

Requirements

1. Make your own translation and parse the verbs of the text *using the lexicon and no electronic resources*. It is important at this stage of your learning to fix the words in your

mind. Using computer resources is quicker, but not as valuable for learning. Be prepared to address the translation and grammatical issues associated with the text with the instructor and your colleagues.

2. During the first half of the class students are required use the translated text to explore the exegetical issue of the week. Students are here permitted to, in fact, encouraged to use critical commentaries, dictionaries and any print or electronic source they wish. Students should be prepared to discuss these findings with their colleagues and the instructor.
3. During the study of the books of Colossians students should come to class prepared to:
 - a. Translate the assigned text and parse the verbs;
 - b. Identify the key grammatical issues in the text;
 - c. Identify the key exegetical issues in the text using, especially, the Harris text;
 - d. Discuss the text with their colleagues and the instructor.
4. Complete an exegesis paper on a text in Colossians using Gorman's methodology and model, following it carefully. This is not because the methodology is the only or even the best approach, but because it is comprehensive. Sticking close to such a methodology and model is at this point a good discipline. The students are to turn in by November 1 a one page paper with the passage they plan to exegete and the issues they hope to address. The instructor is always ready to help with text selection. The paper should answer the questions: Why does this text interest you? What are the particular issues of the text? What resources are available for your study?

Grading

Quizzes: 10 quizzes, 10 words each, drawn from Metzger's word lists: 20%

Class participation: 10%

Exegesis Paper: 40%

Final Exam: this will include: (a) a few verses from Colossians to translate *with no lexical aids*; (b) Two essays questions dealing with the exegesis of Colossians. *A suggestion: go to the word lists of the book of Colossians and throughout the term learn the special vocabulary of the book. Work particularly on parsing the verb in Colossians.* 30%

Required Texts

Elements of Biblical Exegesis, Gorman

Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics, Wallace

Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament, Danker

Exegetical Guide to the Greek New Testament: Colossians and Philemon, Harris

Class Schedule

Aug. 29 Introduction to the Class/Introduction to Exegesis

August 31 Translation of Matthew 3:1-6; parse all verbs and use Wallace to identify grammar problems. *This procedure is to be followed with every text translated.*

September 7 Quiz; Introduction to Method, Gorman 1-33, 182-89

September 12 Translation Mark 4:1-9; explore text with regard to Gorman's introduction to Method. What questions are raised by the text?

September 14 Quiz; Gorman 35-59, Come prepared to discuss the pro and cons of various English translations. What English text would you recommend for congregational reading and study and why?

September 19 Translation of Luke 4:16-24. Look at the English translation in three English translations. Which provides the best rendering of the text?

September 21 Quiz; First Element: Survey. Gorman 63-68, 192-202

September 26 Translation of John 6:1-13; Using Gorman's method do a "survey" of the text and come prepared to share your observations.

September 28 Quiz; Second Element: Contextual Analysis. Gorman 69-81, 202-207.

October 3 Translation of Acts 17:22-31. Using Gorman's method do a contextual analysis of this text and come prepared to share your findings.

October 5 Quiz; Third Element: Formal Analysis. Gorman 83-100, 207-209

October 10 Translation of Romans 3:21-30. Using Gorman's method do elements of a formal analysis of this text and come prepared to share your findings.

October 12 Quiz; Fourth Element: Detailed Analysis of the Text, Gorman 101-125, 209-23.

October 24 Translation of Philippians 2:1-11. Using Gorman's method do elements of a detailed analysis of this text and come prepared to share your findings.

October 26 Quiz; Fifth Element: Synthesis; Gorman 127-138, 225,226.

October 31 Translation of 1 Timothy 1:3-10. Using Gorman's method look commentaries on this passage and come prepared to discuss approaches to synthesizing an approach to this text.

November 2 Quiz; Sixth Element: Theological Interpretation; Gorman 139-166, 226-232.

November 7 Translation of Hebrews 1:1-19 Using Gorman's method raise theological questions that need to be addressed in this passage and come prepared to share your findings.

November 9 Quiz on Principle Parts of the Verbs: Seventh Element: Expansion and Refinement of the Exegesis, Gorman 167-172, 231, 232.

November 14 Introduction to Colossians, translate 1:1-8; read Harris on author, audience and other introductory material as well as on the verses translated.

November 16 Colossians 1:9-20. Here and in every subsequent assignment, read Harris, parse verbs, explore grammatical uses in Wallace and come prepared to discuss the key exegetical issues in the passage. Take advantage of critical commentaries in addition to Harris.

November 21 Colossians 1:21-29

November 23 Colossians 2:1-12

November 28 Colossians 2:13-23

November 30 Colossians 3:1-11

December 5 Colossians 3:12-25

December 7 Colossians 4:1-9

December 12 Colossians 4:10-18

December 14 Review and Preparation for Exam