Annual Greek New Testament
Reading Program

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2009 Reading Schedule

Tips for Reading

1. Pick a time limit – say 30 minutes a day – and do just enough to get through that day’s reading. Don’t be a perfectionist. Press on even if you don’t understand every Greek construction or nuance.

2. Read every day. It is very hard to catch up when you’re behind. Only use one of your 31 off-days in a pinch.

3. Don’t use your Bible software as your primary reading text, since your long term goal is to be able to read the Greek NT without crutches.

4. Read the Greek out loud. Hearing the words will improve your comprehension and retention. It encourages you to slow down and take the meaning one word at a time.

5. Keep a notebook and write down your exegetical and homiletical observations, or flag any issues that you would like to explore in the future.

6. If you are using the Reader’s Edition, you will not need to look up much vocabulary, since this is provided in the footnotes. But it is still a good exercise to look up words in BDAG from time to time. BDAG is a treasure trove of grammatical, exegetical, and theological information.

7. For syntactical issues, consult my Greek Syntax Notes, which are focused on providing concise explanations of grammatical features that are not immediately obvious.

8. Attempt a wooden translation in your head for each verse. A wooden translation ought to follow the word order and grammatical structure of the Greek as closely as possible.

9. Try not to consult an English version too quickly when you encounter difficulty. Nevertheless, the contemporary English versions are useful for pointing you in the right direction when you’re stuck.


This program provides a synthetic and holistic approach to the mastery of New Testament Greek by using only The United Bible Society Greek New Testament: A Reader’s Edition (2007) and my Greek Syntax Notes. The aim of the program is to deepen one’s skill in reading the Greek NT by exposure to manageable amounts of continuous text on a daily basis, with the goal of completing the Greek NT annually. The program presupposes one year of elementary NT Greek as typically taught at a theological seminary or the equivalent.

The Annual Program

There are 260 chapters in the Greek New Testament. Of these, 74 chapters are 38 verses or longer. To read the Greek New Testament in a year, read one chapter per day. Chapters that are 38 verses or longer may be divided and read over two days. See 2009 Reading Schedule, where, for example, the reading for January 5 is Matt 5a and that for January 6 is Matt 5b. This method yields a total of 334 (260 + 74) daily readings. It also allows you to take 31 days off each year.

Greek Syntax Notes

The best way to improve one’s skill in reading Greek is to read the text “continuously and synthetically” with minimal interruption. The best way to improve one’s skill in reading Greek is to read the text “continuously and synthetically” with minimal interruption. The best way to improve one’s skill in reading Greek is to read the text “continuously and synthetically” with minimal interruption. The best way to improve one’s skill in reading Greek is to read the text “continuously and synthetically” with minimal interruption. The best way to improve one’s skill in reading Greek is to read the text “continuously and synthetically” with minimal interruption. The best way to improve one’s skill in reading Greek is to read the text “continuously and synthetically” with minimal interruption. The best way to improve one’s skill in reading Greek is to read the text “continuously and synthetically” with minimal interruption.

My Greek Syntax Notes are intended to assist those reading the Greek New Testament out of the UBS Reader’s Edition, in which Barclay M. Newman has provided contextual glosses for words occurring 30 times or less, as well as some parsing. My notes pick up where the Reader’s Edition leaves off.

My goal is to provide concise notes enabling you to make sense of the text at the syntactical level. In so doing, I have sought to streamline the experience of reading the Greek New Testament by eliminating the need to stop and look up intermediate, advanced, or unusual grammatical features. With the UBS Reader’s Edition and these notes, one should be able to read large portions of Greek text at a time.

Download notes at www.upper-register.com/papers.html#GNT