

Greek Syntax Notes: 1-3 John

Lee Irons

equivalent to perfect ἐληλυθότα, 1 John 4:2; Moule, p. 101) (ὁμολογέω + double acc.; BDF §416(3))

- 8** Textual problem (see Metzger's *Textual Comm.*): (1) εἰργάσασθε ("that you do not lose what *you* have accomplished") (cp. NIV), or (2) εἰργασάμεθα ("that you do not destroy what *we* [the presbyter] have accomplished" (cp. NASB, ESV)
- 9** καὶ τὸν πατέρα καὶ τὸν υἱόν = "both the Father and the Son" (BDAG καί 1f)
- 10-11** χαίρειν τινὶ λέγω (2x) = "to greet someone" (BDAG χαίρω 2a)
- 12** πολλὰ ἔχων ὑμῖν γράφειν = "though I have many things to write to you" (concessive participle) | οὐκ ἐβουλήθην (epistolary aorist) + infinitive = "I do not want [to write]" (γράφειν implicitly repeated – brachylogy) | στόμα πρὸς στόμα = lit. "mouth to mouth" | πεπληρωμένη ἤ – see 1 John 1:4
- 13** "The children of your elect sister greet you" (ESV)

3 John

- 2** ἀγαπητέ – vocative (cp. vv 5, 11) | εὐχομαι + acc. + infinitive = "I pray that you may be ..." | σου ἡ ψυχὴ = ἡ ψυχὴ σου
- 3** ἐρχομένων ἀδελφῶν καὶ μαρτυρούντων = "when brethren came and testified" (gen. abs.; present in reference to a past event) | σου τῆ ἀληθείᾳ = τῆ ἀληθείᾳ σου = "your faithfulness to the truth" (NIV)
- 5** πιστὸν ποιέω = "to act faithfully or loyally" | ὃ ἐὰν ἐργάσῃ (2s aorist subjunctive ἐργάζομαι) = "in whatever you do" (acc. of respect) | καὶ τοῦτο ξένους = "even though they are strangers to you" (NIV)
- 6** οἱ = "who" | σου τῆ ἀγάπῃ = τῆ ἀγάπῃ σου | οὓς καλῶς ποιήσεις προπέμψας ἀξίως τοῦ θεοῦ = "whom you will do well to send on their way in a manner worthy of God" (καλῶς ποιέω + supplementary aorist participle – BDF §414(5))
- 8** τοὺς τοιοῦτους – "such people"
- 9** ὁ φιλοπρωτεύων αὐτῶν Διοτρέφης = "he who loves to be first among them, namely, Diotrephes" | ἐπιδέχομαι here could mean (1) "to receive into one's presence in a friendly manner, to welcome," or (2) "to acknowledge someone's authority" (cp. ESV, NASB) (but BDAG says idea of authority is not lexically defensible)
- 10** ὑπομνήσκω = "to call attention to, to bring up" | αὐτοῦ τὰ ἔργα = τὰ ἔργα αὐτοῦ | οὔτε = "neither" | καὶ τοὺς βουλομένους κωλύει = "and he forbids those who desire [to receive the brethren]"
- 15** ἀσπάζου – 2s present imperative | κατ' ὄνομα = "by name"

© 2008 Lee Irons
www.upper-register.com

1 John 1

- 1** ὃ ἦν ἀπ' ἀρχῆς = "that which was from the beginning" (ἀπ' ἀρχῆς occurs 10x in the Johannine epistles: 1 John 1:1; 2:7, 13, 14, 24 [2x]; 3:8, 11; 2 John 5, 6)
- 2** φανερόω occurs 9x in 1 John (1:2 [2x]; 2:19, 28; 3:2 [2x], 5, 8; 4:9)
- 3** καὶ ὑμῖν ... καὶ ὑμεῖς = "to you too ... you too" | ἐχητε – 2p present subjunctive of ἔχω | μεθ' ἡμῶν = μετὰ ἡμῶν
- 4** ἧ̄ πεπληρωμένη – periphrastic perfect subjunctive (Wallace, p. 649)
- 5** σκοτία ἐν αὐτῷ οὐκ ἔστιν οὐδεμία = "in him there is no darkness at all" (double negatives reinforce rather than cancel)
- 7** μετ' ἀλλήλων = "with one another" (i.e., between believers and the Father/Son)
- 9** ἵνα – either attenuated ἵνα after adjectives (BDAG 2c) or ἵνα of result (BDAG 3)

1 John 2

- 3** ἐν τούτῳ – forward looking
- 4** ἔγνωκα αὐτόν = "I have come to know him" (NASB) | ὁ governs both participles, λέγων and τηρῶν
- 5** ὃς δ' ἄν + subjunctive = "but whoever" (cp. 3:17) | αὐτοῦ τὸν λόγον = τὸν λόγον αὐτοῦ | ἐν τούτῳ – backward looking
- 6** ὁ λέγων + infinitive = "he who claims that" (indirect discourse) (cp. v 9) | μένω occurs 27x in Johannine epistles (1 John 2:6, 10, 14, 17, 19, 24 [3x], 27 [2x], 28; 3:6, 9, 14, 15, 17, 24 [2x]; 4:12, 13, 15, 16 [3x]; 2 John 2, 9 [2x]) | ὀφείλει + infinitive (περιπατεῖν) | καὶ αὐτὸς = "himself also"
- 9** ἕως ἄρτι = "until now," "still"
- 13-14** τὸν ἀπ' ἀρχῆς (2x) = "him who is from the beginning" (cp. 1:1)
- 14** ἔγραψα (3x) – epistolary aorist (cp. vv 21, 26)
- 16** πᾶν τὸ ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ = "all that is in the world"
- 18** ὅθεν = "from which fact" (BDAG)
- 19** μεμενήκεισαν ἂν μεθ' ἡμῶν = "they would have remained with us" (unreal, contrary-to-fact indicative with ἄν; BDF §360(3)) | ἀλλ' ἵνα ... – "But [they went out], so that it would be shown that they all are not of us" (NASB) (BDF §448(7))
- 20** Who is ὁ ἅγιος? God? The Holy Spirit? Christ? Since we have the χρῖσμα (i.e., the Holy Spirit) from him, ὁ ἅγιος is probably ὁ Χριστός.
- 21** πᾶν ψεῦδος ... οὐκ ἔστιν = "no lie is of the truth" (πᾶς ... οὐ instead of οὐδεῖς – Semitism; Moule, p. 182)
- 22** ὁ ἀρνούμενος ὅτι Ἰ. οὐκ ἔστιν ὁ Χρ. – redundant οὐκ with verb denoting negative idea (BDF §429; Moule, p. 157 n. 1)
- 23** Note contrast between οὐδέ ("not even") and καί ("also")

- 24 καὶ ὑμεῖς = “then you too” (ESV) | μενεῖτε – 2p future active indicative of μένω
 27 καὶ ὑμεῖς = “and as for you” (NASB) (redundant pronoun; Moule, p. 176) | ἵνα = “that” (final sense attenuated; BDAG 2ca)
 28 ἐὰν φανερωθῆ = “when he appears” (subordinate clause) | ἀπό = ὑπό
 29 γεγέννηται – 3s perfect passive indicative of γεννάω (cp. same form in 3:9)

1 John 3

- 1 καὶ ἐσμέν = “and so we are” (ESV) | ἵνα denoting content (Moule, pp. 145-6); common in Johannine writings (cp. vv 11, 23; 4:21; 5:3, 16; 2 John 5-6; 3 John 4; John 6:29, 50; 15:8, 13; 17:3) (cp. BDAG ἵνα 2e; BDF §394)
 3 ἐλπίδα ἐπ’ αὐτῷ = “hope in him” (i.e., in Jesus) (BDAG ἐπί 6b)
 4 καὶ τὴν ἀνομίαν ποιεῖ = “also practices lawlessness”
 8 λύση – 3s aorist subjunctive of λύω (“to destroy”)
 10 ἐν τούτῳ – forward looking | φανερά ἐστιν τὰ τέκνα – neuter pl. subjects take sg. verbs (cp. v 12)
 11 ἵνα – see v 1 | ἀγαπῶμεν – because ἀγαπάω is a contract verb, the present subjunctive (here and vv 18, 23) and present indicative (v 14) are identical
 15 μένουσαν – fem. acc. sg. present participle of μένω
 16 ἐν τούτῳ – forward looking
 18 ἀγαπῶμεν – hortatory subjunctive
 19 ἐν τούτῳ – backward looking (cp. NIV)
 19-20 Options: (1) “we will assure our heart before Him in whatever (ὃ τι ἐάν) our heart condemns us; for (ὅτι) God is greater than our heart” (NASB; cp. NIV); (2) “...; for whenever (ὅτι ἐάν) our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart” (ESV, omitting second ὅτι following a few MSS)
 22 ὃ ἐάν = “whatever”
 23 ἵνα – see v 1
 24 ἐν τούτῳ – forward looking | γινώσκω ἐκ = “to know [something] by/from” (cp. 4:6) (BDAG ἐκ 3gβ)

1 John 4

- 1 τὰ πνεύματα ... ἐστιν – neuter pl. subjects take sg. verbs | εἰ = “to see whether”
 2 ἐν τούτῳ – forward looking (cp. vv 9-10, 13, 17)
 3 τὸ τοῦ ἀντιχρίστου = “the [spirit] of the antichrist”
 4 ἦ = “than”
 6 γινώσκω ἐκ – see 3:24
 7 ἀγαπῶμεν – hortatory subjunctive
 9 ἐν ἡμῖν = “in our case” (BDAG ἐν 8; BDF §220(1)) (cp. v 16)
 10 ἰλασμόν = “[to be] the propitiation” (predicate acc.) (cp. σωτήρα, v 14)
 11 καὶ ἡμεῖς = “we also” | ὀφείλω + infinitive (ἀγαπᾶν)
 13 δίδωμι ἐκ = “to give some of a thing” (BDAG δίδωμι 17b) (partitive)

- 18 ἔξω βάλλω = “to drive out, expel” (BDAG) | ἔχει = “includes in itself, brings about” (BDAG ἔχω 8), “involves” (NASB), “has to do with” (ESV, NIV)
 19 ἀγαπῶμεν – present indicative
 20 ἀγαπᾶν – present infinitive
 21 ἀγαπᾷ – present subjunctive | ἵνα – see 3:1

1 John 5

- 1 τὸν γεννήσαντα (aorist active participle of γεννάω) = “the one who begat” | ἀγαπᾷ – present indicative | τὸν γεγεννημένον (perfect passive participle of γεννάω) = “the one who is begotten” (cp. vv 4, 18)
 2 ἐν τούτῳ – forward looking
 3 ἵνα – see 3:1
 4 νικήσασα – aorist active participle of νικάω
 6 ἐν (3x) = “with” (BDAG 5aβ; Moule, p. 57) | μαρτυροῦν – neuter present participle
 8 εἰς τὸ ἓν εἰσιν = “are in agreement” (NIV) (Semitic εἰς functioning as predicate nom. with εἶμι – BDAG εἰς 8aβ)
 9 First ὅτι = “for,” second ὅτι = “that” | μεμαρτύρηκεν – perfect of μαρτυρέω
 10 πεποίηκεν, πεπίστευκεν – perfects of ποιέω, πιστεύω
 13 ἔγραψα – epistolary aorist
 15 ἐάν (= εἰ) + indicative – rare (BDF §372(1a)) | ὃ ἐὰν αἰτόμεθα = “in whatever we ask” (acc. of respect)
 16 αἰτήσει (future) – subject is τις | δώσει – subject is God | αὐτῷ (dat. sg.) ... τοῖς ἀμαρτάνουσιν (dat. pl. present participle) – in spite of shift from sg. to pl., the substantived participle is in apposition to the pronoun | ἵνα – see 3:1
 18 ὁ γεγεννημένος (perfect passive participle) = “the one who is begotten” | ὁ γεννηθείς (aorist passive participle) = “the begotten one” – could refer to the Son, or to the believer – see textual variant ἐαυτόν (= “himself”) (Metzger’s *Textual Comm.*) | Verbs of touching take gen.
 21 φυλάξατε – 2p aorist imperative of φυλάσσω

2 John

- 2 Note shift from participle (μένουσιν) to finite verb (ἔσται) (Moule, p. 180)
 4 ἐκ τῶν τέκνων σου = “some of your children” (partitive; BDAG ἐκ 4aγ)
 5 ἐρωτῶ – 1s active indicative of ἐρωτάω | κυρία – vocative | γράφων – present participle, nom. sg. in agreement with implied subject (ἐγώ) | ἦν refers back to ἐντολήν – “not as though I were writing to you a new commandment, but the one which we have had from the beginning” (NASB)
 5-6 ἵνα (3x) – see 1 John 3:1
 7 οἱ μὴ ὁμολογοῦντες Ἰ. Χρ. ἐρχόμενον ἐν σαρκί = “who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh” (ἐρχόμενον – present participle, but