

#223 Greek Exegesis (#2321 Philippians)
Western Reformed Seminary
John A. Battle, Th.D.
Spring 2018

COURSE INFORMATION

Course description

Study of the history and background of the Macedonian churches; special introduction to Philippians; translation and exegesis of the Greek text; special attention given to Paul's doctrine of Christology, and his attitude toward God's providence in his life.

Course objectives

By successfully completing this course you will have done or be able to do the following:

1. Learned the historical background of the Philippian church and the relationship of that church with the Apostle Paul
2. Learned the outline and contents of Philippians
3. Translated the entire book of Philippians from Greek to English
4. Identify any the grammatical and linguistic features of the Greek of Philippians
5. Apply correct hermeneutical principles to exegete any portion of the book, or the book as a whole
6. Intelligently discuss the various important textual variants in the Greek manuscripts of Philippians
7. Seen how the doctrines taught in Philippians fit in with the rest of the New Testament
8. Completed a special project related to the detailed study of Philippians

Course outcomes

The course Greek Exegesis is designed to equip you to apply the principles learned in the basic, intermediate, and advanced Greek language courses, so that you can confidently translate and exegete any book in the Greek New Testament. It does this by carefully working through the Greek of an individual book, providing a pattern for future study of the other books. The course in Philippians in particular provides a wide variety of content and styles, making it an excellent book for this purpose.

In particular, this course is designed to enable you to do the following:

1. Gain confidence in the use of the Koine Greek language and tools

2. Explain the doctrines emphasized in Philippians and their relation to other NT passages
3. Present sermons or Bible lessons from the book of Philippians
4. Pass ordination exams in the area of NT Greek, as well as in the book of Philippians in particular
5. Apply sound hermeneutical and exegetical procedures for a lifetime of fruitful Bible study

Translation assignment

You will translate the book of Philippians into English, using the format described in class. This translation will be completed in sections, according to the schedule below. During the class you should be able to translate verses from the section without frequent reference to your written translation.

Special project

Select one of the following:

1. Select a standard commentary of Philippians to read. This reading should be done by the final class before the final exam. It will be most helpful to read the sections of the commentary after translating and analyzing each section of the Greek text.
2. Prepare a series of three sermon or Bible study outlines using parts of Philippians.
3. Write a critical review of a scholarly journal article dealing with Philippians. The review should be about 1000 words long.
4. Read a scholarly book related to Philippians or to one of its major doctrines. Write a one-page evaluation of the book.
5. Write a paper explaining the various views regarding a difficult or controversial verse or passage in Philippians. Use exegetical arguments to support the view you prefer. The paper should be about 3000 words long and be in standard format.

Examinations

For the midterm and final examinations you will be expected to translate portions of Philippians, to parse verb forms and identify nouns, and to be able to discuss the grammatical construction of each sentence, using only the Greek NT and a list of brief definitions of infrequent words. You should be able to intelligently discuss textual variants that appear in the UBS text. For the exams you will have use only of the Greek text and a vocabulary sheet of uncommon words. You also will be responsible for other material discussed in class. The midterm exam will cover the

introductory material and Philippians 1 – 2:21. The final exam will cover Philippians 2:22 – ch. 4.

Grading

Translation	30%
Special Project	20%
Midterm Examination	25%
Final Examination	25%

Class schedule

Jan.	23	Introduction; historical backgrounds
	30	Philippians 1:1-11
Feb.	6	Philippians 1:12-20
	13	Philippians 1:21-30
	20	Philippians 2:1-11
	27	Philippians 2:12-21
Mar.	6	Philippians 2:22-30
	13	Midterm Examination
	20	Philippians 3:1-11
	27	(Spring Recess)
Apr.	3	Philippians 3:12 – 4:1
	10	Philippians 4:2-14
	17	(G.W. Presbytery – no class)
	24	Philippians 4:15-23
May	1	Special Project due
	8	Final Examination