

Why Study Greek?

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Why Study Greek?

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

- It is the language of the New Testament.

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“In so far as we love the Gospel, to that extent let us study the ancient tongues. And let us notice that without the knowledge of languages we can scarcely preserve the Gospel. Languages are the sheath which hides the sword of the Spirit, they are the chest in which this jewel is enclosed, the goblet holding this draught...

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...So, although the Faith and the Gospel may be proclaimed by preachers without the knowledge of languages, the preaching will be feeble and ineffective. But where the languages are studied, the proclamation will be fresh and powerful, the Scriptures will be searched, and the Faith will be constantly rediscovered through ever new words and deeds.”

~Martin Luther

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- It is the language of the New Testament.
- It increases our ability to interpret the Bible.

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All Translations are Interpretations!

“Reading the Bible in a translation is like kissing the bride through the veil.”

God’s love letter is better in the original.

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Studying the Bible in the original languages “provides a window through which we can see for ourselves just what decisions have been made by others and why. Instead of being a second-hander, who can only take someone else’s word for it, a knowledge of the text allows us to evaluate, rather than simply regurgitate...”

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...we will be able to explain to ourselves and to others why people disagree, what the real issues are, and what are the strengths of our own considered conclusions. It will allow us to have reasons for what we believe and preach, without having to resort to the papacy of scholarship or the papacy of personal experience.”

~Scott Hafemann

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- It is the language of the New Testament.
- It increases our ability to interpret the Bible.
- It saves time in ministry.

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“One hour with the text
[in the original language]
is worth ten in secondary literature.”

~Scott Hafemann

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- It is the language of the New Testament.
- It increases our ability to interpret the Bible.
- It saves time in ministry.
- It demonstrates the importance of God’s Word.

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“Learning the languages affirms the nature of biblical revelation, restores the proper authority of the pastor as teacher, and communicates to our people that the locus of meaning and authority of the Scriptures does not reside in us, but in the text, which we labor so hard to understand. We learn the languages because we are convinced of the inerrancy, sufficiency, and potency of the Word of God.”

~Scott Hafemann

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Objections to Studying Greek

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Objections to Studying Greek

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- It is too difficult.

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It is too difficult

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Yes, it is difficult.

- You will need to study vocabulary daily.
- There will be weekly quizzes.
- You will take midterms and final exam.
- Scripture encourages us to be diligent (2 Tim 2:15).

Persevere, for the reward it great!

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Objections to Studying Greek

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- It is too difficult.
- It is not necessary.

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It is not necessary

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“It is precisely because there are so many excellent commentaries available today that the use of biblical languages in preaching becomes more important, not less. The proliferation of commentaries and resource materials simply means the proliferation of opinions about the biblical text. The same reality confronts us with the expanding number of English translations, since every translation is the embodiment of thousands and thousands of interpretive decisions; a translation is a commentary on the Bible without footnotes...”

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It is not necessary

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...What this means is that the busy pastor will be confronted with an ever expanding mountain of secondary literature on the Bible, not to mention different renderings of the Bible itself. Thus, given the many commentaries and Bible resources available today, not to use the languages in our preaching will either cost us too much time and cause frustration in the end, redefine our role as pastors altogether, or deny the very Bible we are purporting to preach.”

~Scott Hafemann

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Objections to Studying Greek

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- It is too difficult.
- It is not necessary.
- It is not practical.

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It is not practical

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
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- Since when is knowing God's Word not practical?
- Don't become discouraged when someone tells you that they never use their Greek.

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It is a privilege

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

- Take advantage of the great privilege you have to study Greek.
- Many wish they were in your position.
- Be a good steward of this opportunity.

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It is a privilege

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
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"Are you alive to what your privileges are? Are you making full use of them? Are you, by this constant contact with divine things, growing in holiness, becoming every day more and more men [and women] of God? If not, you are hardening! And I am here today to warn you to take seriously your theological study, not merely as a duty, done for God's sake and therefore made divine, but as a religious exercise, itself charged with religious blessing to you...."

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It is a privilege

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

...You will never prosper in your religious life in the Theological Seminary until your work in the Theological Seminary becomes itself to you a religious exercise out of which you draw every day enlargement of heart, elevation of spirit, and adoring delight in your Maker and your Savior."

~Benjamin B. Warfield

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