

Greek Exegesis (4NT506) – 2 hours

Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR

Dr Bruce Lowe received his first doctorate in Analytical Chemistry and taught, consulted and researched in a university setting over several years in both the Chemistry and Chemical Engineering departments. He then completed his MDiv at RTS Orlando, becoming an ordained Presbyterian minister and working in university ministry, as a youth pastor and in church revitalization. He is in the final stages of a doctorate in New Testament Studies, where his thesis has focused on the cultural backdrop to Romans. At this year's annual meetings of the Society of Biblical Literature he will co-present a paper with Dr Kidd (RTS, Orlando) on the Greek text of Romans 3.9. He has also published in the Journal of Theological Studies on the Greek text of Rom 4.23-25. Bruce is excited about how Greek can enrich our understanding of Scripture.

< Office hrs: **M**, 3-5:30; **Th**, 10.30-1:00. Email me for an appointment; blowe@rts.edu >

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course aims to hone exegetical skills through better understanding how to *use* the Greek. So often, students finish their formal studies in Greek and still feel “none the wiser” on how to actually apply it to their reading and teaching of the Bible. This course seeks to focus on this very issue, showing the great blessing and benefit of “dialoguing” with the Greek text, for a better understanding God’s word.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. *To become more at ease* with Koine Greek through a deepened understanding of Greek Grammar, Syntax and Vocabulary.
2. *To gain an excitement* for how Greek can enrich your understanding of the Scriptures in general, and thereby *produce a burden* to use the Greek more and more throughout your life.
3. *To apply this learning* of Greek to Galatians, in order to demonstrate the language’s practical usefulness
4. *To understand Galatians.*

5. *To helped you better preach, teach and apply God's word to others.*

ASSIGNED TEXTS

Bauer, Arndt, Gingrich, Danker, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, 3rd ed. (Chicago; University of Chicago Press, 2000).

Wallace, D. B., *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics* (Grand Rapids; Zondervan, 2nd ed, 2003).

Metzger, B. M., *Lexical Aids for Students of New Testament Greek* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2006).

TERM SCHEDULE

Wk	Date	Wallace HW	Class Lecture	Translation/ Dialogue HW	Exegetical Steps	
1	S10	---	English overview		1	
2	S17	206-290 (Article)	Letter Frames	1.1-10; 6.11-18		
3	S24	612-55 (Participle)	Repetition	3.1-14	2 (☺ 1) (☺ 2)	
4	01	12-71 (Nom/Voc)	Word Order	3.15-25		
5	O8	72-136 (Gen.)	Text Crit. (theory)	3.26-4.7		
6	O15	137-205 (Dat/Acc)	Text Crit. (pract.)	4.8-20		
7	O22	291-354 (Adj/Pron)	OT Echoes	4.21-31		
8	O29	355-399 (Prep/Person)	Etymology	5.1-15		
9	N5	399-441 (Num/Voice)	Mirror Readings	5.16-26		
10	N12	442-512 (Moods)	Aspect	6.1-10		
Thanksgiving Week – Note Reading Assignment						
11	N26	494-565 (Pres/Impf/Aor)	Aspect	1.11-24		2*
12	D3	566-611 (Fut/Pf/Plp/Inf)	Narrative	2.1-10		
13	D10	656-725 (Clause/Conj)	Narrative	2.11-21		

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

1 st Hour			2 nd Hour	
15min	30min	10min	50min	5min
Wallace review	Lecture	Translation (Pairs)	Translation(Class)	Appl.

Each week I will expect you to have 1) prepared the assigned text from Galatians (more in first class on what this means); 2) Read and taken the quiz on the assigned section of Wallace; 3) [Emailed me \(blowe@rts.edu\)](mailto:blowe@rts.edu) any questions you have from Wallace by the previous Friday @ 5pm. When we meet together I will a) begin with a teaching section from Wallace (which will include explanation of the questions I have received); b) continue with a lecture on various aspects of exegesis; c) then divide into pairs where you will read and translate part of our passage for that day – the aim in this time is to maximize the chance to read the text aloud (important!) and practice translation on each other. In the second hour we will d) spend a further 50 minutes in dialogue and translation as a class; e) concluding with 5 minutes of application of the text –i.e. how might this passage be effectively taught to people today?

You will notice also that we will not be covering Galatians straight through. This reflects two things: firstly the desire to approach the book wisely as an exegete; and secondly the fact that Galatians 1b&2 is narrative – narratives must be approached in special ways, so this section will be treated separately.

Finally, you will note that the exegetical step section is somewhat confusing... not least in the fact that it only contains 2 steps. What this reflects is the conviction that *dialogue* (a constant questioning of the text) is the real key to understanding... indeed dialogue will form the key foundation for this course (as you will discover!)

ASSESSMENT

- [1] 10 self-corrected weekly quizzes from your reading in Wallace –to be completed before class each week;¹ **(10%) - weekly (submit December 10th).**
- [2] 2 “vocabulary & roots” quizzes (review of vocabulary from Greek I&II, together with Metzger’s section on roots); **(40%) – to be taken the week of Oct 8th (handed in Oct 15th) & Nov 12th or 19th (handed in Nov 26th in class).**

¹ Procedure: 1) Read the assigned sections in Wallace, without looking at the quiz; 2) Take the quiz; 3) Correct it yourself using Wallace to find the answers; 4) Write in the correct answers to the questions you missed, in red. At the end of semester I will ask you to hand this corrected work in. **Provided you have done this correctly and on time you will get the full 10%.** SUBMISSION DATE: **December 10th** in class.

[3] Final translation/exegesis exam from Galatians; **(50%) – Take home exam to be completed within 3 weeks of last class meeting. Exam must be postmarked by January 3, 2008.**