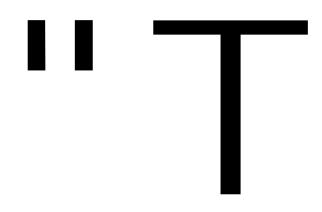# Study Guide
For The
Greek Placement Exam

" T

Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary

The purpose of the Greek Placement Exam is to ensure that students have the Greek skills necessary to understand and carry out effective Biblical exegesis both in seminary exegesis classes and in sermon and teaching preparation during their ministries.

Rev. April 2016

BASIC FACTS ABOUT THE EXAM

- **The Greek Placement Exam is given during Seminary Orientation each August and May.**
  (See below for the differing vocabulary requirements of the Intermediate Greek final exam.)
- Students wishing to take either exam must register with the New Testament Department secretary (269-471-3219) at least one week before the exam is to be given.
- A passing score on the Greek Placement Exam, or a C (65%) in Intermediate Greek, is here f30000 3D 9600 .560000 TD(te Gre)Ted of .8

- The Exam may also be used to fulfill the Greek language requirement for the MA Religion and the PhD/ThD programs.

PREPARING FOR THE EXAM

The Greek Placement Exam will test your knowledge of and ability to use New Testament Greek at the Beginning and Intermediate Levels. Five skill sets are necessary to complete the exam successfully: Vocabulary, Parsing, Syntax, Translation, and Comprehension. These are described in more detail below.

A Greek tutorial, focusing mainly on morphology, is available on the web at: www.andrews.edu/sem/semtech/greek_tutorial. Optional review sessions are offered before the Placement Exam during Seminary Orientation.

1. Vocabulary

- Know the basic meaning of all Greek words used **50 times or more** in the New Testament.
- *(Those taking the Intermediate Greek final exam in July or April must know all words used **30 times or more**.)*

- Don't forget to pay attention to:
  - changes in the meaning of a preposition when followed by a genitive, dative, or accusative.
  - rough breathing marks
- Appropriate word lists may be found in:
  - Metzger, Bruce. *Lexical Aids for Students of New Testament Greek.*
  - Van Voorst, Robert. *Building Your New Testament Greek Vocabulary.*
  - Trenchard, Warren C. *Complete Vocabulary Guide to the Greek New Testament.*
  - Kubo, Sakae. *A Reader's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* (Appendix I).

2. Morphology : Parsing Individual Words

- Be able to parse nouns, articles, adjectives, pronouns, and verbs.
  - Nouns (in all three declensions)
    - Case - nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, and vocative
    - Gender - masculine (m), feminine (f), neuter (n)
    - Number - singular, plural
  - Articles
    - Case, Gender, Number
  - Adjectives and Pronouns (in all three declensions)
    - Case, Gender, Number
    - Some pronouns also have 1st, 2nd, and 3rd person forms
  - Verbs (regular and irregular verbs, contract verbs, and -mi verbs)
    - Mood - indicative, subjunctive, imperative
    - Tense - present, aorist, imperfect, perfect, future, pluperfect
    - Voice - active, passive, middle, deponent
    - Person - 1st, 2nd, 3rd
    - Number - singular, plural

- Infinitive - tense, voice
- Participle - tense, voice, case, gender, number
- The test will use the order and abbreviations listed above.
- Not all parsing elements will appear in every parsing question on the exam
- Helpful introductions to parsing may be found in:
  - Richards, W. Larry. *Read Greek in 30 Days (or less).* (available from the Seminary New Testament office or the Andrews University Bookstore)
  - Summers, Ray. *Essentials of New Testament Greek.*
  - Mounce, William D. *Basics of Biblical Greek: Grammar.*

3. Syntax: Relationships Between Words

- Know how to analyze a Greek sentence in order to ascertain how a particular word influences or takes its cue from other words. *For example: 1) Be able to identify the usage and, if necessary, the antecedent of* autoj *in a given context.* Or *2) Be able to recognize the types of conditional sentences.*
- Understand the range of possible meanings for:
  - each case of the noun family
  - the article or lack of article
  - each tense, voice, and mood of the verb
  - the infinitive
  - the participle
- Be able to choose the meaning most appropriate to the particular context in which the word is found.
- It is important to understand **each** of the basic syntactical categories of Greek nouns and verbs. Categories dealt with on this exam are based on Daniel B. Wallace's *The Basics of New Testament Syntax* (see list on the back of this booklet).

- While all of the syntactical categories are testable, listed below are a few which differ most from English usage.
  - Nouns
    - Nominative: Predicate, Vocative
    - Genitive: Absolute, Comparison, Subjective, Objective, Dir. Obj.
    - Dative: Possession, Instrumental, Locative, Direct Object
    - Accusative: General Reference, Respect (Reference)
  - Verbs
    - Present Tense: Futuristic, Historical, Tendential (Conative)
    - Future Tense: Imperatival
    - Aorist Tense: Ingressive (Inceptive), Gnomic, Dramatic
    - Imperfect Tense: Tendential/Conative
    - Perfect Tense: Intensive, Dramatic (Aoristic/Historical)
    - Middle Voice: Intensive (Indirect)
    - Subjunctive Mood: Hortatory, Prohibition, Emphatic Negation
    - Infinitives: Time, Result
    - Participles: Imperatival, Attendant Circumstance, Telic (Purpose)
- Because the titles for syntactical categories vary from grammar to grammar, answer options will give a basic description of the category as well as its title. Therefore, understanding the different categories of usage for a particular case, tense, etc. is more important than memorizing terminology.
- Helpful intermediate grammars which address the issues of syntax include:
  - Black, David Alan. *It's Still Greek To Me*.
  - Wallace, Daniel B. *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics*.
  - Greenlee, J. Harold. *A Concise Exegetical Grammar of New Testament Greek*.
  - Brooks, James A. and Carlton L. Winbery. *Syntax of New Testament Greek*.

4. <u>Translation of Greek Phrases, Clauses and Sentences</u>

- Use your knowledge of vocabulary, morphology and syntax to:
  - Translate NT Greek sentences, clauses, or phrases.
  - Choose the best translation for words as required by a particular context. *For example:* ἔρχομαι *may mean "I come" or "I go" depending on the context.*

- Fill in an implied subject, noun, or verb, as directed by the context. *For example: In some sentences* εἰμι *is implied*

elements found with the passage. (Definitions for lexical forms used less than 50 times will be provided.) The passages will be taken only from the New Testament, excluding Hebrews, 1 & 2 Peter, and Jude.

The Greek Placement Exam may be taken **only once during a student's first year at Seminary**, plus as the final exam when taking NTST552 Intermediate Greek. If a student has taken the examination these two times and has not passed at the intermediate level or has not obtained a grade of C or higher in NTST552, then NSTS552 must be repeated.

UNDERSTANDING

Sample Syntax Questions

VApekri,nato ou=n o` VIhsou/j kai. e;legen autoij/\ amhn amhn legw
umih(ou;v du,natai o` ui`o.j <u>poiei,h</u> a,fV e`autou/ou,den e,a.n mh, ti bleph|
ton pate,ra poiou,hta\ a[gar a.n e,kei,hoj poih(/ tau,ta kai. o` ui`o.j
o`moi,w|j poiei,A o` gar pathr filei/ton ui`o.n kai. pa,nta deiknusin
autw/ a[au,toj poiei(kai. <u>meizona tou,twn</u> deixei autw/ e,rga(i[|a
u`mei/j qaumazhteA

Words used less than 50 times in the NT:
file,w love, have deep feeling for
dei,knumi (fut. deixw; aor. e,deixa, impv. deikon; aor. pass. ptc.
    deicqei,j) show, point out; reveal, explain; prove
qauma,zw marvel, wonder, be amazed

4. The function of <u>poiei,h</u> in the sentence is to:
   a. Give more information about ui`o.j
   b. Indicate the purpose of the main verb
   c. Indicate the result of the main verb
   d. Complete the idea of the verb

   _____

9