

The Greek Language Program Westminster Seminary California

πάσα ἡ βουλή τοῦ θεοῦ
“the whole council of God”

GENERAL. The Greek program at Westminster Seminary California is designed to prepare students to exegete passages in the Greek New Testament. This means that we do not focus upon speed reading or reading for a general overview of a passage but for a careful examination of a passage and in all its details. Students need a wide range of knowledge and skills for this kind of foreign language use in the areas of vocabulary, forms, syntax, lexical semantics, etc. The curriculum has been carefully designed with textbooks that were specifically written for our instruction at Westminster.

Occasionally, students who have studied Greek for several years elsewhere but who were taught a different approach find that they need to take all or part of our curriculum. Likewise, students who have mastered certain elements of Greek have passed into advanced classes in Greek or out of our program altogether. The Greek placement exam at Westminster is designed to find out where the student can most profitably enter our program in order to be able to use Greek in the various advanced exegetical and theological classes.

GREEK I (NT 400) SUMMER SESSION. This five week intensive course introduces Greek from the ground up. Students memorize all the common forms of the Greek language and about 300 of the most common words (down to 50 occurrences in the Greek New Testament). This is an immersion approach and is generally quite successful for introducing Greek quickly—for instance, students are reading selections from the Greek New Testament by the *second day*. You should regard this class as a full-time job. Textbooks: S. M. Baugh, *A New Testament Greek Primer* (Phillipsburg: P&R, 1995) (ISBN 0-87552-099-5) and the a Greek New Testament. We cover all the *Primer* at a pace of six chapters per week.

GREEK II (NT 401) FALL SEMESTER. This class meets for three one-hour classes per week. Students have four main tasks: (1) systematically review all the Greek paradigms in the *Primer*; (2) learn more vocabulary (about 300 more words); (3) learn intermediate Greek syntax; (4) and practice reading through a New Testament book (First John). Textbooks: S. M. Baugh, *A First John Reader* (Phillipsburg: P&R, 1999) (ISBN 0-87552-095-2) and a Greek New Testament.

GREEK III (NT 402) JANUARY WINTER TERM. This short class continues and completes the work begun in Greek II by finishing the *First John Reader*. The final lesson introduces lexical semantics and Greek word study procedures. Textbooks same as Greek II with the addition of readings in lexical semantics.

GREEK IV (NT 403) SPRING SEMESTER. In Greek IV we cover the Greek verb system in detail including verbal aspect and the principles governing tense form choice. Students translate selected passages from the Greek New Testament, practice exegetical reading of Greek, and study class materials.