Greek for Ministry

Week 2

Tonight

- Review
- Building blocks of Language (Nouns, Verbs, Clauses and Phrases)
- Phrasing – An introduction to our Bible Study Method

alpha	a	zeta	z	iota	i	omicron	o	phi	ph
α A		ζ Z		ι I		o O		φ Φ	
beta	b	eta	ē	kappa	k	pi	p	chi	ch
β B		η H		κ K		π Π		χ X	
gamma	g	theta	th	lambda	l	rho	r	psi	ps
γ Γ		θ Θ		λ Λ		ρ P		ψ Ψ	
delta	d			mu	m	sigma	s	omega	ō
δ Δ				μ M		σ ς Σ		ω Ω	
epsilon	e			nu	n	tau	t		
ε E				ν N		τ T			
				xi	x	upsilon	u / y		
				ξ Ξ		υ Υ			

Pronunciation Review

ἄγγελος
angel, messenger

σωτήρ
savior, deliverer

ἀμήν
verily, truly, amen, so let it be

υἱός
son, descendant

ἀπόστολος
apostle, envoy, messenger

Ἰησοῦς
Jesus, Joshua

θεός
God, god

Χριστός
Christ, Messiah, Anointed One

Building Blocks of Language

Now that you are familiar with the Greek alphabet and have had your first exposure (perhaps) to the nature of translations, it is time to talk about how we understand what God's Word means.

Meaning is conveyed not so much with individual words as it is with groups of words. If you don't understand the basics of English grammar, then you can't make sense of what the Bible is saying with its groups of words. You have to know the basics of grammar if you want to be able to study your Bible. What if I said the following?

"book red gives friend a a Todd to."

English Grammar: Nouns - Person, Place, or Thing.

Sometimes the form of a word changes, such as when it performs different functions in a sentence or when it changes its meaning. This is called "inflection."

Case – Nouns perform different functions in a sentence – subjective, possessive, and objective.

1. If a word is the *subject* of a verb, it is in the **subjective** case. The subject is what does the action of an active verb and usually precedes the verb in a sentence. "*He* is my brother."
2. If a word shows *possession*, it is the in the **possessive** case. "*His* Greek Bible is always by *His* bed.
3. If a word is the *direct object*, it is in the **objective** base. The direct object is the person or thing that is directly affected by the action of the verb. This means that whatever the verb does, it does it to the direct object. It usually follows the verb in word order. "Robin passed her *test*."

English Grammar: Nouns

You can usually determine the direct object by asking the question "what?" or "whom?"

Case	Function	Example
Subjective	subject	*He* borrowed my computer.
Possessive	possession	He borrowed *my* computer.
Objective	direct object	He borrower my *computer*.

Other than pronouns, most English nouns do not change their form as they perform different functions. For example, the word "teacher" stays the same whether it is the subject ("The teacher likes you.") or the direct object ("You like the teacher."). However, to form the possessive "teacher" adds an "apostrophe s" (She is the teacher's pet.).

English Grammar: Nouns

Number - Inflection can also be caused by a word's "number," which refers to whether a word is singular (referring one thing) or plural (referring to more than one thing). English generally changes a word's number one of two ways. Most words add a "s" to make the word plural (student-students). Some words change an internal vowel or some other part of the word (woman–women; child-children). The process in Greek is called declensions.

Gender - Some words, mostly pronouns, inflect depending upon whether they are referring they are to a masculine, feminine, or neuter object. This is called "natural gender" (he-she-it; prince-princess; teacher).

Adjective - A word that modifies a noun or pronoun ("Bill threw his *big black* book at the *strange* shadow).

Preposition - A word that indicates the relationship between two words ("The book is under the table").

English Grammar: Verbs - Action or a State of Being

Person – First person is the person speaking (I, we), second person is the person being spoken to (you), third person is everything else (he, she, it, they, book).

Number – IF the subject of a verb is a third person singular, English generally inflects the verb by adding a "s" (I/we kick, you kick, they kick, He kicks).

Agreement – A verb must "agree" with its subject in person and number. This means that if a subject is singular, the verb must be singular and so on (It is not "Bill say to the class," but "Bill says to the class."). The presence or absence of the "s" at the end of the verb, and the difference between "is" and "are," are examples of agreement.

English Grammar: Verbs

Tense – Refers to the time when the action of the verb take place. Present, past, and past participle.

Tense	*"to swim"*	*"to eat"*	*"to walk"*	*"to read"*
Present	swim	eat	walk	read
Past	swam	ate	walked	read
Past Participle	swum	eaten	eaten	read

English Grammar: Verbs

Voice - Refers to the relationship between a verb and its subject. When a verb is *active*, the subject is doing the action of the verb ("I *walk* the dog."). When a verb is *passive*, the subject of the verb is receiving the action ("Fido *is walk* by Tyler.").

Aspect - The *type* of action described by the verb. *Continuous* verbs describe an ongoing process ("The ball *was bouncing* down the stairs."). *Perfect* verbs describe a recently completed action that has present consequences ("I *have studied* hard and should pass the test."). Other verbs say nothing about the type of action other than the event occurred or occurs are called *aorist/undefined* ("I *enjoy* photography.").

Mood - Mood refers to the relationship between the verb and reality. A verb in the *indicative* describes something that *is*, as opposed to the *subjunctive where* something *may* or *might* be, or something that is commanded ("I am rich–Are you rich").

English Grammar: Clauses and Phrases

In a normal English sentence, words don't occur in isolation but in groups. Much of learning to study your Bible has to do with understanding how these groups, or "clauses" and "phrases," work.

Clause – a group of related words that includes a subject and verb

After I went home, the rain stopped.

I will serve God because I love Him.

Phrase – a group of words that does not have a subject or an indicative verb.

After going home, the rain stopped.

Because of love, I will serve God.

English Grammar: Clauses and Phrases

Dependent Clause – Cannot grammatically stand on its own (All phrases are dependent).

after the rain stops – because I am tired – which I read to you

Independent Clause – Can stand on its own as a sentence.

Conjunctions – Normally little words that connect words, phrases, clauses, and sentences (ex. And, but, for, or, so, yet). *Coordinating* conjunctions connect independent clauses ("Jesus has died for us; *therefore,* do not sin."). *Subordinate* conjunctions begin a dependent clause and often link it to an independent clause ("I studied *because* I want to pass this class.").

English Grammar: Clauses and Phrases

Prepositional Phrases begin with a preposition and contain the preposition's object and other modifiers ("The flashlight is *under the bed*.")

Participle Phrases begin with a participle and can include its direct object and other modifiers ("The dog *sitting in the road* is in real trouble."

A sentence can be broken into two basic parts, the subject and the predicate. The *subject* is the subject of the main verb and anything that modifies it. The predicate is everything else, including the main verb.

The great big dog lying under the table is licking my toes.

English Grammar: Clauses and Phrases

A **compound** sentence has two or more independent clauses connected with a coordinating conjunction or punctuation ("Mark loves Greek and Tyler loves Hebrew.").

A **complex** sentence has one independent clause and one (or more) dependent clause ("Whenever I think back to Hebrew class, I start to sweat.").

A **compound-complex** sentence has two (or more) independent clauses and one (or more) dependent clauses ("I went to class and he went home because he was tired.").

English Grammar: Clauses and Phrases

These are not just grammatical niceties. As we get into learning how to study our Bible, we will be analyzing the author's flow of thought and how he constructs his sentences. Grammatical distinctions are a crucial key to analyze meaning.
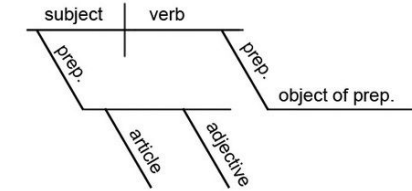
Greek is a **hypotatic** language. This means that it tends toward having a main clause with a series of dependent clauses modifying it. This is opposed to language like English and to a greater degree Hebrew, which are **paratactic**. These languages are more linear, tending to link one independent clause to the next with coordinating conjunctions such as "and" and "but."

This is why understanding clauses and phrases and how they relate to each other is so important; it is a reflection of the way the language is written.
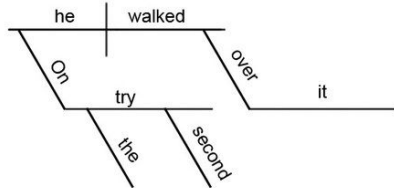
Our Bible Study Method
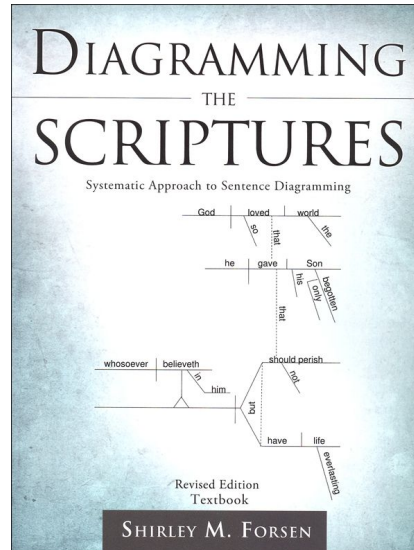
Which do you prefer?

Grammatical Diagramming

Phrasing

Mark 8:34b

Whosoever will come after me,
   let him
      deny himself,
      and take up his cross,
      and follow me.

Phrasing

Imagine you have been asked to teach a Bible study on 1 Peter 1:2. How are you going to do it? How will you start?

Phrasing starts with two steps: (1) finding the beginning and the end of the passage, (2) and then breaking the passage into manageable sections.

Step 1: Find the beginning and the end of the passage.

- Look for major shifts in the topic of discussion, shifts in audience, changes in key words or repeated themes, or even transitional phrases.
- Write out the passage headings

Phrasing

Step 2: Identify the sections

- Break the passage into sections. Get the big picture. The structure.

Step 3: Identify the phrases

- A phrase in this study methods is broader than its typical grammatical usage. It is an assertion, a proposition, something that means something.

Step 4: Identify the main phrase(s) and modifying phrase(s).

- Put the main phrases to the farthest left.
- Ident the other phrases under or over the word they modify.

Phrasing in your Bible

- **Divide the passage into sections (if necessary) by writing letters (for major sections) and numbers (for subsections) in the margin.**
- **Underline or highlight main clause(s).**
- **Draw double slashes to separate the main phrases, and single slashes to separate secondary phrases.**
- **Underline (in different colors) the repeated themes and words. Circle the major conjunctions.**