

May 25, 2009

TO: Students Enrolled in Summer Greek 2009

FROM: Mark Vitalis Hoffman, Greek Instructor (www.gettysburgsem.org/mhoffman)

Χάρις καὶ εἰρήνη σοι! (pronounced: *chǎ-ris kai ā-rā-nā soy*)

Χάρις / *charis* = *grace* > charisma (something with which you are gifted or **graced**)

εἰρήνη / *eirênê* = *peace* > eirenic (that is, something related to **peace**)

>> Grace and peace to you!

You are on your way to learning Greek!

1. The Greek Adventure Begins: Friday, August 14—The First Day of Class

Our first day of class will be Friday, August 14. We will meet at **8:30 a.m. in Valentine 310** as our adventure begins. On that first day we will meet in both the morning and in the afternoon. We will want to focus on two things

- Lessons 1-2 of our text book
- Getting to know our companions for the Greek adventure

2. Assignment for the 1st Day of Class

Yes, there is an assignment for you to complete *before* you come to class on the morning of August 14. You should read Lesson 1 in our Greek textbook:

- Croy, N. Clayton. *A Primer of Biblical Greek*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007.

The book may be ordered from the seminary bookstore. You can contact the bookstore manager, Ms. Sherry Rippman, either by phone or e-mail.

- Phone: 1-800-MLUTHER-extension # 3005.
- E-mail: srippman@ltsg.edu

The assignment to be completed prior to the first class session is:

- Read Lesson 1 in Croy (Read but don't worry about §5 on accents. You do **not** have to do the Exercises in §7.)
- Memorize the Greek alphabet (small case letters only)
- Memorize Greek vowels, diphthongs, breathing marks, punctuation
- To summarize and enhance your learning of the alphabet from the book, I have included my renderings with this letter. You can also check it out online along with other resources at: www.gettysburgseminary.org/mhoffman/greeksummer09 (It is not essential that you check out the web references given in this letter. They simply provide additional help.)
- For practice, try the Lord's Prayer exercise on the back of the alphabet sheet.

There will be a quiz given on Friday morning covering this material!

3. The Greek Adventure Continues: Daily Class for Summer Greek

Beginning Monday, August 17 we will be meeting in four classes each day. We meet in the mornings from 8:30-10:30 or so with a break. There will be (optional) tutoring sessions and time to work on exercises from 10:45-11:45. In the afternoons we meet from 1:30-3:30 with a break with (optional) tutoring sessions from 3:30-4:30 and an evening tutoring session as well. There will be assignments to be completed after each session (i.e., after each morning session and each afternoon session). ***It is imperative that you attend EVERY session of summer Greek.*** Sessions cannot be made up, and each session introduces new material, and so attendance at both the morning and the afternoon sessions is required. If there are unavoidable conflicts where you may need to miss a class, check with me to work something out.

4. The Greek Adventure: Exam Days

Exam days will on Fridays (**August 21 and 28**). We will meet in the morning to take the exam (8:15-10:30), and then regather in the afternoon to review the exam and be introduced to the next lesson.

5. The Greek Adventure Guide: Summer Greek Assistants

We have a Greek Action Team (GAT) to help you in the Greek adventure! Our Summer Greek tutors will be Traci Marriott Bowman and Cassandra Lamb. During summer Greek, Traci and Cassandra will be available following the morning and afternoon sessions and for scheduled evening hours to review lessons, help with homework, and prepare you for quizzes and exams.

We also have a social coordinator, Jess Hamme, who has a variety of responsibilities including helping coordinating worship, scheduling other activities, helping you and your families get acclimated to the seminary campus, and providing care for your mental health. She will definitely be of great assistance to all of us during our upcoming Greek adventure. Jess can be contacted by e-mail at: jhamme@ltsg.edu. On the course webpage there is also a link to the [GAT group on Facebook](#). Join us there to start getting to know each other!

6. The Greek Adventure: Additional Preparation

An indispensable way to prepare for learning the Greek language is to review the basics of the English language. For a very brief overview, check the resource I have posted at:

- www.gettysburgsem.org/mhoffman/greek/GrammarReview.htm

For a more thorough overview

- www.ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/terms.htm

If you don't have web access, just about any grammar book or effective writing book should be able to refresh you on such basics as: Noun (including nominative case, possessive case, direct object, indirect object), Adjective, Pronoun (personal, demonstrative, relative, intensive, reflexive), Conjunction, Preposition, Article (definite, indefinite), Verb (transitive, intransitive, person, number, tense, mood, voice). You might especially consider (and on the course website there are links to):

- *English Grammar to Ace New Testament Greek* by Samuel Lamerson
- *Grammatical Concepts 101 for Biblical Greek: Learning Biblical Greek Grammatical Concepts Through English Grammar* by Gary A. Long

You are also going to discover that the Internet and your computer will be your friends as you develop your Greek skills. *Please do not buy any Bible software at this time.* I have important information to help you make a good decision. In September we also provide ways to get the software for reduced prices. You can, however, get your computer set to handle Greek. I have directions on the course website to help you.

I look forward to our Greek adventure. It will not always be easy, but if you keep at it I promise that this adventure will open the Bible to you in new and exciting ways that henceforth will change how you read the New Testament.

If you have any questions between now and our first day of class, please feel free to contact me:

Phone: 1-800-MLUTHER-ext.# 2414 email: mhoffman@ltsg.edu

Now, what did Χάρις mean again?

See you on August 14, and let the adventure begin!

The Lord be with you!



Mark Vitalis Hoffman