

Fundamentals of New Testament Greek, by Stanley E. Porter, Jeffery T. Reed, and Matthew Brook O'Donnell.

Fundamentals of New Testament Greek Workbook, by Stanley E. Porter and Jeffery T. Reed.

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The authors offer no shortcuts for the student in this “daunting” approach to elementary Greek (xii). This comprehensive work is intended for serious, sustained devotion to the study of Greek and delves into syntax and grammatical minutiae where other introductory texts do not. Most of the 30 chapters begin with an overview and summation of the concepts presented in the chapter, followed by vocabulary listed by parts of speech. Porter’s expertise transfers well to the work, especially on verbal aspect which is introduced in chapter 4. The resourceful appendices mimic lexical aids by providing a bibliography of grammars, declension and parsing paradigms, verb accent paradigms, a list of 121 verbs’ principle parts, and a Greek-English lexicon.

The supplemental workbook is divided into chapters that correspond to the textbook, and provides Greek to English exercises, morphology exercises, and grammatical questions. There is no answer key for the exercises, but the workbook includes the same helpful appendices as the textbook.

The authors ably achieve all the tasks outlined in their introduction, save one. They claim the work aims to “provide guidance in seeing how careful, scholarly study of Greek can lead to a better understanding of the Bible and to greater spiritual maturity and personal piety” (xii). Though the intention is most admirable, the authors neglect to make the link between familiarity of Greek grammar and syntax with personal reception of the biblical text. The wealth of grammatical concepts presented in the textbook may overwhelm beginning students, but will prove to be a valuable asset if the student pursues an intermediate level Greek course. Overall, the book provides a solid foundation for study of the Greek New Testament and is highly recommended for use in institutions where students have the option for further study of Greek.

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