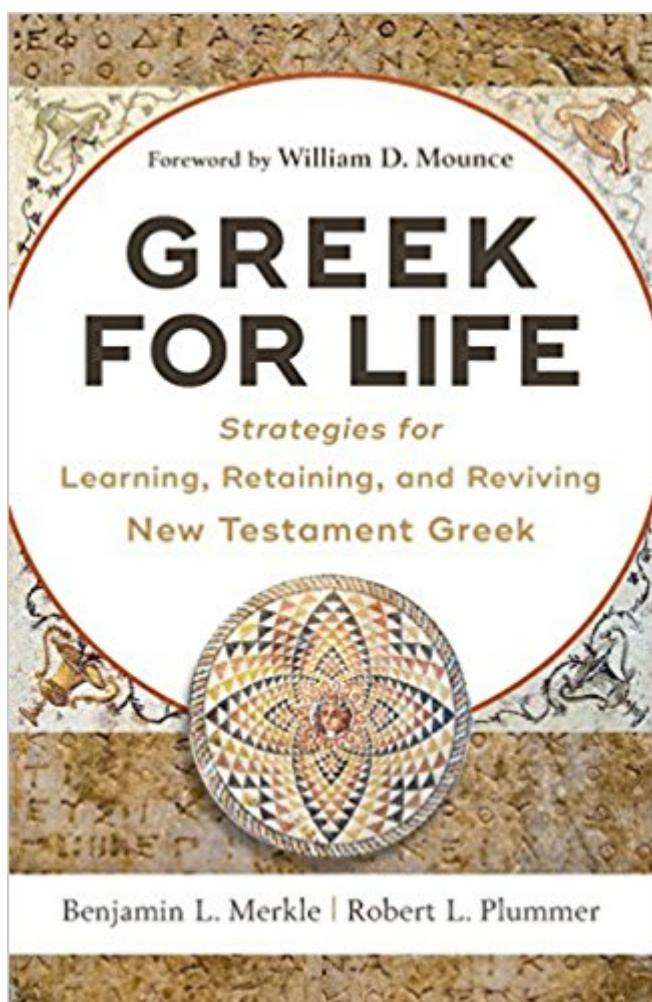


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# Greek For Life: Strategies For Learning, Retaining, And Reviving New Testament Greek



## **Synopsis**

Learning Greek is one thing. Retaining it and using it in preaching, teaching, and ministry is another. In this volume, two master teachers with nearly forty years of combined teaching experience inspire readers to learn, retain, and use Greek for ministry, setting them on a lifelong journey of reading and loving the Greek New Testament. Designed to accompany a beginning or intermediate Greek grammar, this book offers practical guidance, inspiration, and motivation; presents methods not usually covered in other textbooks; and surveys helpful resources for recovering Greek after a long period of disuse. It also includes devotional thoughts from the Greek New Testament. The book will benefit anyone who is taking (or has taken) a year of New Testament Greek.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: Baker Academic (August 1, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0801093201

ISBN-13: 978-0801093203

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.4 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #56,264 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #41 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Language Studies #113 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Bible Study > New Testament #240 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > New Testament

## **Customer Reviews**

Learning Greek is one thing. Retaining it and using it in preaching, teaching, and ministry is another. Greek for Life offers practical guidance, inspiration, and motivation to help readers learn, retain, and use Greek for ministry, setting them on a lifelong journey of reading and loving the Greek New Testament. The book also surveys helpful resources for recovering Greek after a long period of disuse and includes devotional thoughts from the Greek New Testament. "Merkle and Plummer have written a charming and immensely practical book on how to retain and even regain knowledge of Greek. I am thrilled to recommend this book, which so effectively instructs and motivates us to continue studying the Greek New Testament."--Thomas R. Schreiner, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary "Clearheaded, relevant, and oh so timely! Merkle and Plummer provide a

compelling case for Greek and a surefooted guide to retaining it. Greek for Life has the potential to pull us back from the brink and to silence those who suggest, either explicitly or implicitly, that the rules have changed and that the study of the Greek New Testament is passé. It is not time to give away the game, and Merkle and Plummer show us why and how to persevere."--Jay E. Smith, Dallas Theological Seminary"Merle and Plummer have produced a very practical and useful book for beginning and returning students of Greek. Learning and retaining the language can be an intimidating prospect, but they show us that being lifelong students--even when we are convinced that we do not have the time--is important, rewarding, and definitely doable. By providing constructive tips, encouraging words, and examples of how knowing Greek makes a difference in our understanding of the Word, these experienced teachers make their case that every student can learn the language and apply it profitably in life and ministry."--Michelle Lee-Barnewall, Talbot School of Theology, Biola University

Benjamin L. Merkle (PhD, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary) is professor of New Testament and Greek at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina. Robert L. Plummer (PhD, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary) is professor of New Testament interpretation at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. Merkle and Plummer are coauthors, with Andreas J. Köstenberger, of *Going Deeper with New Testament Greek: An Intermediate Study of the Grammar, Syntax, and Exegesis of the New Testament*.

There are few books that I have not been able to put down, most of which have been narratives. Greek for Life (which is not a narrative) is one such book. It does exactly what I hoped it would do: encourage me to continue in Greek for life. It also provided me with a wealth of knowledge on how to use various resources. This book is essentially like having a three-hour conversation with Dr. Plummer where he pours out his passion for Greek and tells you exactly how to succeed. If you care about Greek you must read this book!

The authors have created a "coach in a box" for the student of NT Greek. The book is not designed to teach Greek, but to, as the sub-title says, provide "Strategies for Learning, Retaining, and Reviving New Testament Greek". The book is not written as a study book of Greek vocabulary or grammar. Rather it discusses a set of 8 general principles that can be used to enhance and retain the Greek a student has learned. The chapter titles sum up those principles. 1. Keep the End in Sight 2. Go to the Ant, You Sluggard 3. Review, Review, Review 4. Use Your

Memory Effectively5. Use Greek Daily6. Use Resources Wisely7. Don't Waste Your Breaks8. How to Get It BackAs one reads, the reader feels like he or she is working with a coach. The hints and principles are practical and will assist the student as he moves through his or her study of the Greek and prepares for life long Bible Study using the Greek text. I could wish that I had such a book or coach during my three-semester sequence of Greek.I also wish I might have had a similar coach as I studied Pascal, Data Structures, and Database Development, later in my career. Thus, two comments seem appropriate. First, the same principles apply to the study of any topic - from History to Mathematics to Chemistry to Physics. Second, given the first comment, a publisher might take the time to share this material with other authors to create parallel books in other disciplines. The examples given throughout the book are derived from a multi-semester course in New Testament Greek, but could easily be adapted for use with other disciplines.This book needs to be assigned reading for every Greek student the summer before they begin their study of NT Greek. The book should sit on the coffee table in every Greek professor's office - easily accessible for a referral to students as needed.In summary, this book will not teach you Greek, but it will prepare you to learn Greek.\_\_\_\_\_ This review is based on a free electronic copy provided by the publisher for the purpose of creating this review. The opinions are mine alone.

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