

Can You Read GRΣΣK?

In our last issue we learned that the Bible we use these days is translated into English from other languages, namely the New Testament having been translated from Greek. We also learned that because the meanings of the original Bible words have been changing over the centuries, every diligent Bible student should know at least a little bit of Greek so that they will be able to “dig up” the meaning of the New Testament words the way God had them in His mind. We saw how the Greek letters look and even got our hand to write them. This time let us learn how to read Greek!

First, “translate” the verses on the next page using the Greek letters under the short lines (for example ω) and write the English letters (for example n) above the short lines. The code is provided in the first table below and it shows what the Greek letters are in our alphabet.

α = a	ζ = z	λ = l	π = p	φ = ph
β = b	η = e (long)	μ = m	ρ = r	χ = kh
γ = g	θ = th	ν = n	σ, ς* = s	ψ = ps
δ = d	ι = i	ξ = x	τ = t	ω = o (long)
ε = e (short)	κ = k	ο = o (short)	υ = u	

*At the end of a word, the form ς is used, elsewhere the form σ.

Now, when you have all the English letters written in the right places, try to find the whole words in the second table below and write the English translation in the long lines above the short lines. One long line is one word or one group of words (for example “have I loved”). Some of the Greek words in the second table can be used more than once.

agapao = hath loved/have I loved (pick the right one)	tereo = keep/kept (pick the right one)	meno = continue/abide (pick the right one)	entole = commandments
	emos = my	pater = Father	en = in
autos = his	kai = and	ego = I	kago = so
me = me	kathos = as	mou = my	ean = if
agape = love (noun)	umas = you		

Have you succeeded? Do your verses make sense? If yes, find them in your Bible. You might have to ask your parents to lend you a concordance and maybe show you how to look the verses up.

If you find the verses, **CONGRATULATIONS!** You can tell now that you know how the Greek alphabet looks in English and even how to read the letters!

the

κ α ϑ ο ς π α τ η ρ α γ α π α ω μ η

_____:

κ α γ ω α γ α π α ω υ μ α ς

_____ ye _____.

μ ε υ ω ε υ ε μ ο ς α γ α π η

_____ ye _____,

ε α υ τ η ρ ε ω μ ο υ ε υ τ ο λ η

ye shall _____;

μ ε υ ω ε υ μ ο υ α γ α π η

even _____ have _____

κ α ϑ ω ς ε γ ω τ η ρ ε ω μ ο υ

_____’s _____,

π α τ η ρ ε υ τ ο λ η κ α ι μ ε υ ω

_____.

ε υ α υ τ ο ς α γ α π η