

Why Should I Know GRΣΣK?

In our last issues we learned some Greek basics and 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. By knowing it, we will be able to “dig up” the meaning of the New Testament words the way God had them in His mind. We know now how the Greek letters look, we can write them down and even read them. This time we will learn by practical example why it is good for us to know these. In addition, you will be given names of the individual letters so that when you meet them in the future (for example, in your math lessons), they will not be strangers to you.

First, “translate” the verses on the next page using the Greek words under the lines and write the English meaning of these words above the lines. The code is provided in the first table below. Some of the Greek words in the second table can be used more than once.

οτι=that	σιμον=Simon	φιλεω=lovest/love	γινωσκω=knowest
ιοαννας=Jonas	πολυζ=many	τουτου=these	πλειων=more than
μη=me	κυριος=Lord	πας=all things	αγαπαω=lovest
συ=thou	υαι=yea	ειδω=knowest	σε=thee

When you have all the English words written in the right places, check if your verses make sense. If they do, find them in your Bible using the concordance, if needed.

Now, if you have succeeded, look at the Greek text again and find out how many different Greek words are used in these verses for “lovest” or “love?” Which ones are they? Have you found them?

The most difficult part of the puzzle is coming right now: Find these Greek words for “love” in the Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament (you may have to ask your parents to help you) and write their meanings down in the following lines:

Think about it! Why would Greek use different words for love, each of them having a different meaning? And why would these be used in the verses that you have just “translated” from Greek? We would be happy to give you an answer in our next issue so that you might see whether your answer was right. However, don’t give up too easily!

P.S. If you want to know the the names of the individual Greek letters, you can find them on page 3.

So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter,

_____, son of _____, _____ thou _____
σιμον ιωαννας αγαπαω μη πλειων

τουτον?

He saith unto him,

_____, _____; _____ ειδω _____ I _____
ναι κυριος συ οτι φιλεω

σε

He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time,

_____, son of _____, _____ thou _____?
σιμον ιωαννας αγαπαω μη

He saith unto him,

_____, _____; _____ ειδω _____ I _____
ναι κυριος συ οτι φιλεω

σε

He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time,

_____, son of _____, _____ thou _____?
σιμον ιωαννας φιλεω μη

Peter was grieved because he said unto him, the third time,

_____ thou _____?
φιλεω μη

And he said unto him,

_____, _____ ειδω _____; _____
κυριος συ οτι πας συ

_____ I _____
γινωσκω οτι φιλεω σε

Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

GRΣΣK Alphabet

Letter	Pronunciation	Name	Letter	Pronunciation	Name
α	a	Alpha	ν	n	Nu
β	b	Beta	ξ	x	Xi
γ	g	Gamma	ο	o (short)	Omicron
δ	d	Delta	π	p	Pi
ε	e (short)	Epsilon	ρ	r	Rho
ζ	z	Zeta	σ, ζ*	s	Sigma
η	e (long)	Eta	τ	t	Tau
θ	th	Theta	υ	u	Upsilon
ι	i	Iota	φ	ph	Phi
κ	k	Kappa	χ	kh	Chi
λ	l	Lambda	ψ	ps	Psi
μ	m	Mu	ω	o (long)	Omega

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