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Markle and Plummers' "Greek for life: Strategies for learning, retaining, and reviving new testament Greek" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Markle, B. L., & Plummer, R. L. (2017). *Greek for life: Strategies for learning, retaining, and reviving new testament Greek*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic. 152 pp. \$19.99. ISBN 9780801093203

The scenario is common – a diligent student has mastered Greek while in seminary only to quickly lose his skill in the language after graduating. Professors Benjamin L. Merkle and Robert L. Plummer want to see this scene change. To that end, they have co-labored to produce *Greek for Life: Strategies for Learning, Retaining, and Reviving New Testament Greek*. The authors fill the book with insight and advice that will surely be of help to the student undertaking Greek for the first time or the seasoned exegete honing skills.

Merkle and Plummer begin by reminding the reader of the reason that Greek is worth studying. They also address hindrances that can distract the student of Greek. Emphasizing the importance of reviewing things already learned, the authors also discuss effective memorization methods. Showing how Greek study does not have to be a lengthy process at sporadic time intervals, the professors offer ideas in how to use Greek daily in order to keep the ideas fresh. Recognizing that some breaks in study will inevitably come, especially during the traditional summer and winter breaks, the writers also offer strategies to retain what the student has learned even when they do take a break. The final chapter in the book may well be the first chapter many readers should examine before reading the rest of the book; it is designed to help the student who has mostly lost the use of Greek be able to bring that knowledge back. This chapter will prove to be worth the cost of the book for those who once knew Greek but have not kept it up. Along with all of the helpful things previously mentioned, the authors also enhance the book by offering brief devotionals at the end of each chapter to demonstrate the rich truths that can only be found through the study of Greek.

Merkle and Plummer's *Greek for Life: Strategies for Learning, Retaining, and Reviving New Testament Greek* is most certainly worthy of being added to your library – whether it be personal, church, public, or academic. Add it now.

Reviewer

Charles Huckaby, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary