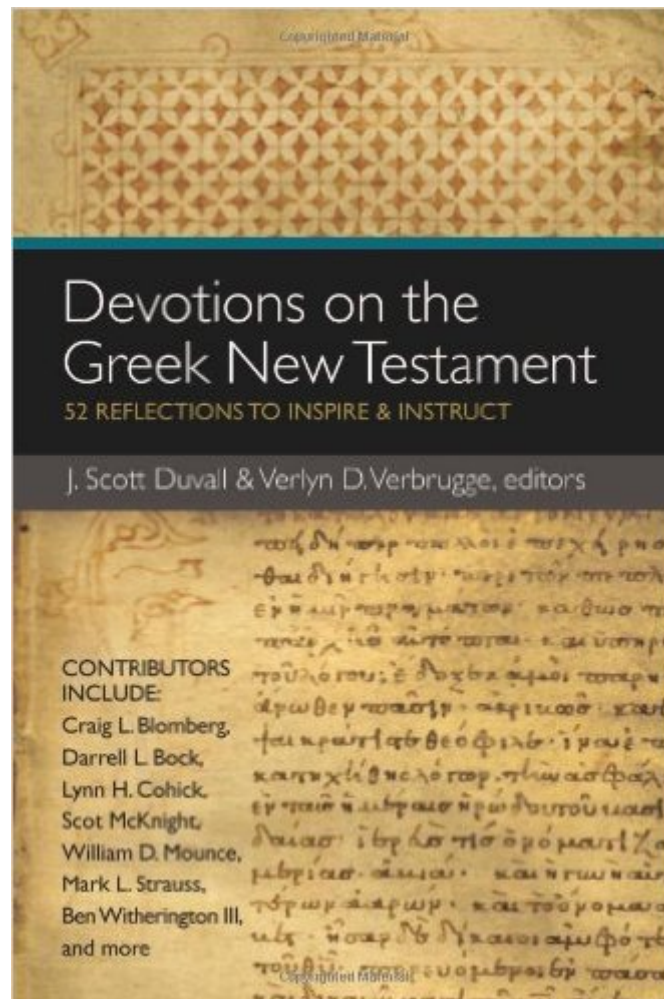


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# Devotions On The Greek New Testament: 52 Reflections To Inspire And Instruct



## Synopsis

Zondervan is known for its excellent resources in biblical languages, and many of our resources encourage professors, students, and pastors to continue to use their Hebrew and Greek Bibles beyond their seminary years. *Devotions on the Greek New Testament* continues on this path of excellence by introducing these devotionsâbased on a careful reading and study of the Greek New Testamentâwritten by some of the top Greek scholars of today. Contributors include Scot McKnight, Daniel B. Wallace, Craig L. Blomberg, Mark Strauss, and William D. Mounce, among others. *Devotions on the Greek New Testament* can be used as weekly devotional or as a supplemental resource throughout a semester or sequence of courses. The main point each devotion offers comes from a careful reading of the passage in the Greek New Testament, not from the English Bible. These authors use a variety of exegetical approaches in their devotions: grammatical, lexical, rhetorical, sociohistorical, linguistic, etc. Each devotion closes with a practical application.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I absolutely love this book. This is a can't miss. I often hear the refrain that learning Greek isn't necessary (that's a post for another day), that knowing it puffs up, or that it's not practical, I mean we have pretty good translations, right? *Devotions on the Greek New Testament* answers all of these questions showing just how practical and beneficial Greek is. Each chapter tackles one short passage from the New Testament unpacking the relevant exegetical points. However, the technical

plumbing is left unseen. So it's a prime book for those who don't know Greek but want to benefit from those who have an expertise in the language and at making it 100% applicable. I cannot recommend this book highly enough. With 52 lessons you can do one a week to jump start your weekly devotions. If you feel like your study of Greek may be pointless, Devotions on the Greek New Testament will fuel your study. Also, somebody should really take this concept and run with it. If I had the expertise I would start another blog using this idea of making Greek completely practical. Without further ado. Buy this book now.

As I make my way through this devotional (I received a pre-release electronic copy in exchange for an honest review), I find myself thinking, "I need a devotional like this." I simply love this devotional. Part of why I like it so much has to do with my desire to keep my Greek language skills. Keeping my Greek skills has not been easy. At this point, my ability to use Greek is mixed at best. I am not a close to being a Greek scholar, but I am able to keep up with most commentaries that use Greek. I am not able to read the Greek New Testament without a lot of help and I struggle with Greek grammar. I certainly can't read Greek well enough to gain insight into the Scripture. This devotional cultivates my desire to dive into the Greek New Testament and, concurrently, deepens my understanding of the text and my life of faith! This devotional uses Greek in order to enhance one's devotional understanding of the text rather than just gain more technical information. To reach such a goal the authors explain the, sometimes technical, grammatical details and issues, but they do so in order point out what English translations sometimes miss. The result is seeing passages with new eyes and also discovering how one can use Greek to recast familiar passages. I highly recommend this devotional to those who are familiar with Greek and are interested in using Greek to give insight into Scripture and also strengthen their faith. This would be an excellent resource not only for pastors, but for students of the Greek New Testament as well. Each of the fifty-two readings gives insight both into the text and how one might approach the Greek New Testament devotionally. Various New Testament Greek scholars contributed to this work, so it is not the work of one or two authors. The only suggestion I would make is to have a closing prayer for each of the devotions, pulling the theme of the day's (or week's) reading into the prayer. I would also like to see more resources like this because it illustrates how Greek can be made practical and can deepen one's faith and understanding.

Beginning the study of New Testament Greek during my first year of college was a life-changing experience that brought God's word alive in so many new and exciting ways. Some seventeen

years later, I'm a bit rusty, but am for the most part still functionally literate. For me, studying Greek has always been more of an academic exercise. I've long wanted to take my Greek studies to new heights that might impact my devotions and enrich me spiritually. For whatever reason this has been rather elusive to me, keeping my Greek studies firmly planted in their long-standing academic "box." I was filled with great anticipation when I came across Devotions on the Greek New Testament in the Zondervan Academic Resources catalog earlier this year. The subtitle promises "52 Reflections to Inspire & Instruct," so I was hopeful that Devotions on the Greek New Testament would be the resource I'd been looking for to help bridge the gap between the academic and the spiritual/devotional aspect of my Greek studies. Duvall and Verbrugge did not disappoint. Devotions on the Greek New Testament is composed of fifty-two, two to two and a half page devotional readings, each focused on a particular passage from the Greek New Testament. The Greek text is at the top of the first page of each devotional reading, followed by an explanation of how understanding the day's passage in Greek matters for your life and ministry. For the purposes of this review I read through devotional entries by Ben Witherington III, Constantine R. Campbell, and Lynn H. Cohick. Here's a bit from each of those chapters to give you an idea of what you'll find in the book:

"Understanding the cultural background of the first century is often critical in learning to understand some of the idioms and imagery of the Greek New Testament. These idioms sometimes get lost in translation."-Ben Witherington III on Acts 26:14 (p. 57)"Thus in 1 Peter 1:7 we witness a Greek wordplay that draws both a contrast and a parallel between faith and gold. Genuine faith is more valuable than gold, but like gold, faith is made pure by passing through fire"-Constantine R. Campbell 1 Peter 1:7 (p. 132)"That Paul uses a verb rather than a noun becomes especially important in interpreting 2:5, which can be translated literally, "this think among yourselves which also in Christ Jesus." Generally speaking, the reader inserts the verb of the first clause ("think") into the second clause."-Lynn H. Cohick on Philippians 2:5 (p. 92)

The list of contributors for Devotions on the Greek New Testament is rather impressive. In addition to those mentioned earlier, I was glad to see contributions from Craig L. Blomberg, Darrell L. Bock, William D. Mounce, and many others, all experts in New Testament Greek exegesis. I also wanted to make mention that the chapters follow in canonical order. Here's a breakdown of the number of chapters per New Testament Book:

- \*Matthew - 4
- \*Mark - 3
- \*Luke - 3
- \*John - 5
- \*Acts - 3
- \*Romans - 3
- \*1 Corinthians - 3
- \*2 Corinthians - 1
- \*Galatians - 2
- \*Ephesians - 2
- \*Philippians - 4
- \*Colossians - 2
- \*1 Thessalonians - 1
- \*2 Thessalonians - 1
- \*1 Timothy - 1
- \*2 Timothy - 2
- \*Titus - 1
- \*Philemon - 1
- \*Hebrews - 2
- \*James - 1
- \*1 Peter - 1
- \*2 Peter - 1
- \*1 John - 1
- \*Jude - 1
- \*Revelation - 3

Devotions on the Greek New Testament is a resource I wish I'd been introduced to during my first two years of Greek study. Professors would do well to introduce

this book to their students in either the second semester of Greek 1 or the first semester of Greek 2. Once students are several chapters in to the book, it'd be a good exercise to challenge them to put what they're learning into practice and produce their own devotional reading based on a Greek New Testament passage. As for me, I'm well past my Greek 1 and 2 days, so my plan is to add Devotions on the Greek New Testament to the stack of devotional resources I'll be working through in 2013, finishing one chapter each week. I wholeheartedly recommend Devotions on the Greek New Testament for students, professors, and pastors. Not only will you learn from some of the best minds in New Testament exegesis, you'll also be encouraged to strengthen your walk with the Lord at the same time. My overall rating is 5 out of 5 stars. Disclaimer: This product was provided by Academic PS and Zondervan for review. The reviewer was under no obligation to offer a favorable review.

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