SOME THINGS WE CAN LEARN FROM THE GREEK

Tommy – How many years have you been studying Greek?

Tommy - Tell us something about the value of studying the original Greek.

Introduction:

1. Knowing the Greek language is NOT essential to understanding the Bible.

2. For example, there are an abundance of English translations by means of

which we can learn God’s will.

3. On the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, each person in that great audience that

assembled heard the word of God taught in his own language (Acts 2:7-11).

4. Nevertheless, there are some things we can learn by studying the New

Testament in its original language (Greek).

5. Many excellent reference aids are available to help us in that effort. This

outline only suggests a few areas in which we can “learn from the Greek.”

Tommy – I’ve emphasized on this program that baptism should be by immersion, but Dictionary.com defines “baptism” as “to immerse in water or sprinkle or pour water on in the Christian rite of baptism.” Your comments on that definition?

I. The meaning of “baptism.”

1. Consulting a modern dictionary might lead a person to think that baptism can

be accomplished by either sprinkling, pouring, or immersion. The English

word “baptize” is used to include all of those practices in the religious world

today.

2. However, the original Greek word from which “baptize” (in its various forms)

Is transliterated did not mean “sprinkling” or “pouring” (there are different

Greek words for those actions). The word used for “baptize” means

“immersion.”

3. This is attested by our English translations in several NT passages.

Tommy – I’ve taught on this program many times that baptism should be “for” (in order to obtain) the “remission of sins” (Acts 2:38), but sometimes the word “for” can mean “because of” as in the sentence “A football team gets six points “for” a touchdown.” What is the Greek word here, and does it work the same way as our word “for”?

II. The meaning is *eis* in Acts 2:38.

1. Some who reject NT teaching that baptism in water is a condition of remission

of sins attempt to “explain away” the meaning of what Peter said in Acts 2:38.

2. They often argue that the word “for” in the phrase “for the remission of sins”

looks backward. They sometimes contend that people are baptized “because

their sins have already been forgiven.”

3. Although our English word “for” can have the idea of looking backward, the

Greek word *eis* that is used in Acts 2:38 does NOT mean that! In fact, the

basic meaning of that word is “into” or “unto” (cf. Matthew 26:28).

4. The English translations of Acts 2:38 bear this out.

Tommy – I was having a study the other day and one of the ladies there kept confusing the church with the church building. Does the Greek help clarify that for us?

III. The meaning of “church.”

1. Many false ideas exist about what the “church” is.

2. The Greek word often translated “church” means “called out,” showing the

deliverance out of the worldand into a saved relationship with the Lord (cf.

Colossians 1:13) undergone by those in the Lord’s church (cf. Acts 2:47).