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NT 715 Textual Criticism of the New Testament

M. Robert Mulholland

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NT 715 – Textual Criticism of the New Testament
Spring, 2000 -- Dr. Mulholland

PERSPECTIVE: Nothing requires a deeper level of spiritual maturity than the study of God's Word. Nothing enhances our spiritual maturity more consistently than the study of God's Word. This symbiotic reality is the primary dynamic of all biblical study. All teaching and learning, in the Christian and biblical perspective, must be directly related to a personal and growing relationship with Jesus as Lord. It is my prayerful intention to seek to be all the Lord purposes for me to be in leading this class; and it is my prayerful hope that you will seek to allow the Lord to so guide your study and participation that His full purpose for you might be fulfilled in this course.

PURPOSE: We will seek to actualize God's purposes for us in this course through the development of a sound methodology of textual criticism and its application to selected variants in the New Testament.

PARTICULARS: It is prayerfully expected that your faithful stewardship and discipline in this course will be used by God to enable you to acquire the following knowledge, skills, and abilities:

Understanding of the causes and nature of textual variants in the transmission of the New Testament text.

Cognizance of the history of the discipline of textual criticism.

Acquisition of the necessary knowledge and tools for sound textual criticism.

The ability to establish:

the family of a textual variant

the strength of the external evidence for a variant

the strength of the internal evidence for a variant

on the basis of the extrinsic evidence

on the basis of the intrinsic evidence

The ability to determine the most likely original reading of a text.

Development of a sound text critical methodology

PROCEDURES: The following will provide some of the scholarly spiritual disciplines of loving obedience and stewardship through which I trust the Lord will enable us to actualize His purposes for the course:

1. Texts: *Novum Testamentum Graece*, Nestle-Aland, 27th Edition.

The Text of the New Testament, Metzger (M)

The Text of the New Testament, Aland and Aland (A)

Collateral Texts: Metzger, *A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament*

2. Preparation:

- a. It is hoped that you will enter into a covenant of prayer for the class and the course.
- b. It is urged that each period of individual study be started with prayer, interlaced with prayer and praise and dedicated to God in prayer at its close.
- c. It is expected that you will be a faithful steward of time in two areas:
 - i. Consistent participation in class sessions.
 - ii. Commit at least two hours to the Lord for prayer and study in preparation for each class hour.
- d. It is expected that you will come to class fully prepared through disciplined prayer and study that you may be all God wants you to be in the class session.
- e. It is presumed that you will exhibit graduate level competence in comprehension of reading, integration learning, and presentation of understanding.

3. Class Procedures:

This will be a seminar type course. This presumes that everyone will come to the seminar prepared through reading and working with variants to work collaboratively in analyzing various textual variants in the New Testament.

4. Written Assignments:

These will be in the form of assigned exercises to be developed as noted in the TENTATIVE SCHEDULE, and will be due on the date listed. These are to be **not more than** two, **typed** double-spaced pages in length. (Legibly handwritten assignments will be allowed when frequent use of the Greek words or phrases is required)

5. Final Exercise:

There will be a final take home exercise in which you will be given an opportunity to reflect your grasp, integration, and utilization of the tools and methods of textual criticism.

6. The quality of written assignments and the final exercise should reflect work done "as unto the Lord" for they will reflect the cumulative results of the depth and faithfulness of your stewardship of time and study.

PERFORMANCE: Your comprehension and integration of the particulars of the course will be evaluated on the basis of the written assignments and the final exercise. If, at any time, you feel that my evaluation of your work has not been accurate, please come and discuss it with me. A faithful, consistent, obedient stewardship of time and work, in which you seek to be faithful to the Lord's purposes for you in the course, will result in the successful completion of the course. In order to maintain integrity with those who are faithful to the learning covenant of seminar attendance and submission of work, the following actions will govern unexcused absences and late submission of work:

Over 10% unexcused absences: 1 grade-level reduction (A to A-)
Over 20% unexcused absences: 2 grade-level reduction (A to B+)
Etc.
Late submission of work: 1 grade-level reduction/week

Three unexcused tardies will be equivalent to one unexcused absence.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: The following list is neither inclusive nor exhaustive. It presents a few of the basic resources for textual criticism.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL

Bibliographical Resources for Ministry, David Bauer, ed.

Also see the bibliographical listings in:

The Text of the New Testament in Contemporary Research, eds. Ehrman and Holmes.

Studies in the Theory and Method of New Testament Textual Criticism, Epp and Fee.

DICTIONARIES (Articles on Textual Criticism)

Dictionary of Paul and His Letters, eds. Hawthorne, Martin, Reid, 927-932 (Holmes)

Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels, eds. Green, McKnight, Marshall, 827-831 (Fee)

The Interpreter's Dictionary of The Bible (vol. 4), ed. Buttrick, 594-614 (Parvis)

The Interpreter's Dictionary of The Bible (Supp. Vol.) ed. Crim, 891-895 (Epp)

The Anchor Bible Dictionary (vol. 6), 412-35 (Epp)

GREEK RESOURCES

Bauer, *A Greek English Lexicon of the New Testament*

Moulton & Geden, *Concordance to the Greek Testament*

TEXTUAL CRITICISM

The Text of the New Testament in Contemporary Research, eds. Ehrman and Holmes.

Studies in the Theory and Method of New Testament Textual Criticism, Epp and Fee.

Studies in Methodology in Textual Criticism of the New Testament, Colwell

New Testament Textual Criticism: Its Significance for Exegesis, Epp and Fee

The New Testament in the Original Greek, Westcott and Hort

MANUSCRIPTS

The Principal Uncial Manuscripts of the New Testament, Hatch (BS1938.H3)

Facsimile of the Codex Alexandrinus, (BS1964.A5 1879)

The Codex Alexandrinus, (BS64.A5 1909)

Facsimiles of the Athos Fragments of Codex H of the Pauline Epistles, (BS2671.L34 1905)

Greek Papyri in the British Museum: Facsimiles, (Microfiche 81-26 □a to □a 81-35)

New Testament Greek Manuscripts: Variant Readings Arranged in horizontal lines against Codex Vaticanus, (BS 1965 1965)

Codex Bezae, (BS2548.P37 1992) (BS1964.B4 1899)

Greek Palimpsest Fragments of the Gospel of St. Luke, (Z115.Z3)

Codex Vaticanus, (Microfilm.V455)

MANUSCRIPTS (Cont)

Codex Siniaticus, (BS64.S3v.2)

Facsimiles and Descriptions of Miniscule Manuscripts of the New Testament, (BS1938.H38)

The Washington Manuscript of the Four Gospels, (BS2551.F7 S3)

The Greek Manuscripts of the New Testament at Mount Sinai, (BWS1939. S5 H3)

The Principal Uncial Manuscripts of the New Testament, (BS1938.H3)

A Re-examination of Codex Ephraemi Rescriptus, R. W. Lyon, (BS1964.E6 1944)

For papyri, cf. B. L. Fisher Library listings (140) under 'Manuscripts, Greek (Papyri)

The Chester Beatty Biblical Papyri, (BS39.K4)

WEB SITES

<http://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/Internet/topsites.htm#Texts> This is one of the best general sites for New Testament research. It contains a wealth of hyperlinks to a wide diversity of areas related to biblical studies.

<http://www.bham.ac.uk/theology/goodacre/links.htm> This is an excellent site for New Testament research with a wealth of hyperlinks to diverse sites. Scroll down the index column on the left for links in a variety of areas of NT Study.

<http://www.bham.ac.uk/theology/goodacre/textcrit.htm> This site is a primary starting point for NT textual criticism.

<http://www.stolaf.edu/people/kchanson/papyri.html> A site for getting into NT papyri, codices, text types, bibliography, and links.

<http://www.stolaf.edu/people/kchanson/johnpap.html> A view of p52, purportedly the oldest NT fragment.

<http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/papyrus/> The web site for the Duke University Papyrus Archive with access to text and images of 1373 papyri from ancient Egypt.

<http://rosetta.atla-cetr.org/TC/TC.html> This is the site for TC: A Journal of Biblical Textual Criticism with access to abstracts of articles.

These only scratch the surface of what is available, but through hyperlinks should get you into most of what is available on the Web. Please inform the class of good sites you discover.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
2-8	Introduction and planning	
2-10	Books and Writing in the 1 st Century	(M) Part I
2-11	Types of Manuscripts	(M) Part II-I; (A) Part III
2-15	Early Version of the New Testament	(M) Part II-II; (A) Part IV
2-17	No Class	
2-18	No Class	
2-22	Causes of Variants	(M) Part VII
2-24	The Textual Apparatus	(A) Part V-3
2-25	The Textual Apparatus	Intro to Nestle-Aland Greek NT
2-29	Text Types	(A) Part II
3-2	The History of Textual Criticism	(M) Parts III-IV; (A) Part I
3-3	The History of Textual Criticism	(M) Parts V-VI
3-7	No Class	
3-9	No Class	
3-10	No Class	
3-14	No Class	
3-16	The Practice of Textual Criticism	(M) Part VIII; (A) Part VII-1 and 2
3-17	Charting Variants	
3-21	“Troubled Waters” Jn 5:3b-4 (2-9)	Chart the variants
3-23	do	Do external analysis
3-24	do	Do internal analysis
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3-28	“The Perambulating Adulteress” Jn 7:53-8:11	Chart the variants
3-30	do	Do external analysis
3-31	do	Do internal analysis
4-11	“The Unfinished Gospel” Mk 16:9-20	Chart the variants
4-13	do	Do external analysis
4-14	do	Do internal analysis
4-18	“The Three Who . . .?” 1 Jn 5L7-8	Chart variants and do external analysis
4-20	do	Do internal analysis
4-25	“The Bouncing Blessing” Rom 16:25-27	Chart variants and do external analysis
4-27	do	Develop stemma of variants
4-28	do	Do internal analysis
5-2	TBA	
5-4	TBA	
5-5	TBA	
5-9	TBA	
5-11	TBA	
5-12	Review and Wrap Up	