

Lesson 11

Adjectives of the Vowel Declensions

στενή ἢ πύλη καὶ τεθλιμμένη ἢ ὁδὸς ἢ ἀπάγουσα εἰς τὴν ζωὴν.
Narrow is the gate and straightened the way leading unto life. Matthew 7:14

71. Adjectives of the -α and -ο Declensions. Adjectives are words which limit or describe nouns or pronouns; e.g., the good man; the man is good.

In Greek the adjectives agree with substantives which they modify in gender, number, and case; thus they are inflected in these respects. Adjectives are cited by lexicons in the nominative case for the three genders. Hence ἀγαθός, ἡ, ὄν (good) indicates that the full forms of the adjectives in the nominative are ἀγαθός, ἀγαθή, ἀγαθόν.

It will be seen that the adjectives of three terminations whose stems end in a vowel are declined like nouns of their declension: Masculines (ἀγαθός) and neuters (ἀγαθόν) like the Second Declension; feminines (ἀγαθή) like the First Declension. The feminine has α if the stem vowel is preceded by ε, ι, ρ (μικρός, ἄ, ὄν, small); otherwise η.

Some adjectives, especially compounds and polysyllables (ἀδύνατος, ον, unable) have only two forms, the masculine and feminine being alike. Remember that the ending -ος in nouns may be either masculine (ἄνθρωπος, man) or feminine (δοκός, beam). Only by consulting the vocabulary or lexicon can the termination of the adjective be ascertained.

72. The Declension of ἀγαθός, ἡ, ὄν.

	<u>Singular</u>			<u>Plural</u>		
	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Nom.	ἀγαθός	ἀγαθή	ἀγαθόν	ἀγαθοί	ἀγαθαί	ἀγαθά
Gen.	ἀγαθοῦ	ἀγαθῆς	ἀγαθοῦ	ἀγαθῶν	ἀγαθῶν	ἀγαθῶν
Abl.	ἀγαθοῦ	ἀγαθῆς	ἀγαθοῦ	ἀγαθῶν	ἀγαθῶν	ἀγαθῶν
Dat.	ἀγαθῶ	ἀγαθῆ	ἀγαθῶ	ἀγαθοῖς	ἀγαθαῖς	ἀγαθοῖς
Ins.	ἀγαθῶ	ἀγαθῆ	ἀγαθῶ	ἀγαθοῖς	ἀγαθαῖς	ἀγαθοῖς
Loc.	ἀγαθῶ	ἀγαθῆ	ἀγαθῶ	ἀγαθοῖς	ἀγαθαῖς	ἀγαθοῖς
Acc.	ἀγαθόν	ἀγαθήν	ἀγαθόν	ἀγαθοί	ἀγαθαί	ἀγαθά
Voc.	ἀγαθέ	ἀγαθή	ἀγαθόν	ἀγαθοί	ἀγαθαί	ἀγαθά

N.B. (Note carefully): The Accent in the nominative case must be learned from the lexicon. The accent of feminine adjectives is not like feminine nouns of the First Declension, but like the masculine. Thus the ablative of πρῶτος (first) is πρώτων not *πρωτῶν.

73. Position of Adjectives. The adjectives may be either simple attribute, as
 ὁ ἀγαθὸς ἄνθρωπος,
 ὁ ἄνθρωπος ὁ ἀγαθός, the good man,

Or it may have a predicate use, as

ἀγαθὸς ὁ ἄνθρωπος
 ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἀγαθός, the man is good

Here it is necessary to note the position of the words. In the attributive position the adjective always follows the article; in the predicate position the noun follows the article but the adjective does not. If there is no article, the context must decide which use the adjective has.

In the phrase ἀγαθὸς ὁ ἄνθρωπος, the man is good, the Greek verb ἐστίν (is) is unnecessary (though permissible). The predicate position has the force of the copulative verb to be.

Study carefully the following examples.

τὰ ἔργα πονηρά ἐστίν. The works are evil.

ἰδοὺ ἵππος λευκός. Behold, a white horse. Revelation 6:2

ἕως ποτε, ὁ Δεσπότης ὁ ἅγιος καὶ ἀληθινός; Until when, O holy and true master? Rev. 6:2

ὁ νόμος ἅγιος, The law is holy. Romans 7:12

ὁ λόγος ὁ τοῦ σταυροῦ. The word of the cross

74. ὅλος. The adjective ὅλος is an exception in its position. In the New Testament it never has the attribute position; e.g.,

ἀγαπήσεις κύριον τὸν θεὸν σου ἐν ὅλη τη καρδίᾳ σου.

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart. Matthew 22:37

Notice that though the adjective is attributive in meaning it is predicate in position.

75. The Adjective as a Noun. The adjective is often used with the article in the sense of a noun; e.g.,

πρεσβύτερος, <u>older</u> ;	ὁ πρεσβύτερος, <u>the elder</u>
πολλοί, <u>many</u> ;	οἱ πολλοί, <u>the many, the common people</u>
ἀγαθός, <u>good</u> ;	οἱ ἀγαθοί <u>the good men</u>

Sometimes even whole sentences are turned into substantives by the article; Luke 1:62; 22:4; Romans 8:26.

Many substantives (e.g., ἡμέρα, day; ὁδός, way; χεῖρ, hand) are omitted when their article and adjective make them clear, the noun in ellipsis being indicated by the gender of the article and adjectives. τῆ τρίτῃ on the third (day); ἐκ δεξιῶν τοῦ θεοῦ, from the right (hand) of God; τὴν ξηράν, the dry (land).

76. The Article with Adverbs and Prepositions. Adverbs and prepositional phrases in the attributive position are often used like adjectives. Note the following examples.

τοῦ νῦν καιροῦ of the present season
 ἄρχι τοῦ νῦν until now
 τὰ διὰ τοῦ νομοῦ the things through the law
 οἱ ἐν τῇ Ἀσίᾳ the ones in Asia
 ἡ ἐκκλησία ἡ ἐν Ἱεροσόλυμοις the church in Jerusalem

77. Vocabulary.

ἄλλος, η, ο	<u>other</u> , <u>another</u> (of the same kind)	καλός, η, ὄν	<u>beautiful</u> , <u>good</u>
ἀγαθός, ή, ὄν	<u>good</u>	καιρός, οὔ, ὄ	<u>season</u> , <u>opportunity</u> , <u>the fit time</u>
ἀγαπητός, ή, ὄν,	<u>beloved</u>	μικρός, ά, ὄν,	<u>small</u> , <u>little</u>
ἄδικος, ον,	<u>unjust</u> , <u>unrighteous</u>	μόνος, η, ον,	<u>only</u> , <u>alone</u>
δίκαιος, α, ον,	<u>righteous</u>	μισθός, οὔ, ὄ	<u>reward</u> , <u>recompense</u>
δεξιός, ά, ὄν,	<u>right</u>	ὅλος, η, ον,	<u>whole</u> (always in predicate position)
ἐγγύς, α, ον,	<u>near</u>	οὐκέτι,	<u>no longer</u>
ἔσχατος, η, ον,	<u>last</u>	πιστός, ή, ὄν,	<u>faithful</u> , <u>believing</u>
ἴδιος, α, ον,	<u>one's own</u>	πονηρός, ά, ὄν	<u>evil</u>
κόπος, ου, ὄ,	<u>labor</u> , <u>toil</u> , <u>trouble</u>	πρῶτος, η, ον,	<u>first</u> ; as an adverb also in Acc. sing.
κακός, ή, ὄν,	<u>bad</u> , <u>evil</u>	τρίτος, η, ον,	<u>third</u>

78. Exercises.

I. Text A.

Ἰωάννης ταῖς ἑπτὰ (seven) ἐκκλησίαις ταῖς ἐν Ἀσίᾳ· εἰρήνη ταῖς ἐκκλησίαις ἀπὸ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, ὁ μάρτυς (witness) ὁ πιστός. ἔστιν (*He is*) τὸ Ἄλφα καὶ τὸ Ὡ. ὁ καιρὸς ἐγγύς (near).

ὁ Ἰησοῦς κρατεῖ τοὺς ἑπτὰ ἀστέρας (stars) ἐν δεξιᾷ. γράφει τῷ ἀγγέλῳ τῆς ἐκκλησίας τῆς ἐν Ἐφέσῳ· ὁ πρῶτος καὶ ὁ ἔσχατος παρακαλεῖ τὴν ἐκκλησίαν τὴν Ἐφέσῳ μετανοεῖν καὶ ποιεῖν τὰ πρῶτα ἔργα ὅτι οὐκέτι ἔχει τὴν ἀγάπην τὴν πρώτην.

Καὶ τῷ ἀγγέλῳ τῆς ἐν θυατείροις ἐκκλησίας ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ θεοῦ γράφει τὰ ἔργα τὰ ἔσχατα πλείονα (more) τῶν πρώτων¹.

καὶ τῷ ἀγγέλῳ τῆς ἐν Φιλαδελφείᾳ ἐκκλησίας λέγει ὁ Ἅγιος ὁ Ἀληθινὸς ἔχεις μικρὰν δύναμιν (power).

¹The ablative here expresses comparison “than”.

II. Text B.

1. ἀγαπητός, ὁ ἀγαπητὸς υἱός, ὁ διδάσκαλος ὁ ἀγαπητός, ὁ φίλος ἀγαθός.
2. ἡ πιστὴ καρδία, ἡ καρδία ἄδικος, ἡ κακὰ ὁδός, ἡ ποναρὰ ἡμέρα, ἡ ἴδια γῆ
3. ὁ πιστὸς φίλος δίκαιος, πιστοὶ οἱ δίκαιοι φίλοι.
4. ἔρημος ἡ ὁδός, ὁ καιρὸς ἐγγύς, ἐν τῷ καλῷ ἱερῷ.
5. οἱ πρῶτοι ἔσχατοι· οἱ ἔσχατοι πρῶτοι.
6. μόνοι οἱ ἐν Χριστῷ σώζονται.
7. Ἀνδρέας εὐρίσκει πρῶτον τὸν ἀδελφὸν τὸν ἴδιον Σίμωνα.
8. ὁ πιστὸς τὸν ἴδιον μισθὸν λαμβάνει κατὰ ἴδιον κόπον.

III. Translate.

1. The other walks in her own evil way.
2. The just hate the unjust master.
3. The child is small, but it follows the good commandment.
4. The last reward is for those in the Lord.
5. The way is evil and deserted, but the reward is not small.

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