

Lesson 44

Imperative Mood

ὀργίζεσθε καὶ μὴ ἁμαρτάνετε
Be ye angry and sin not. Ephesians 4:26

350. The Imperative Mood.¹ The imperative is the mood of command, request, entreaty, and one type of prohibitions. In English we say (you) go, don't (you) go. We often use the imperative for prayers and requests, as well as commands.

The Greek imperative utilizes the present tense (linear action) and the aorist (point action) in all voices. The tenses are formed by the addition of the endings of the proper tense stem (minus the augment in the case of the aorist).

The most singular thing (to an English student) about the Greek imperative is that the conjugation has a third person.

ἐλθέτω, Let him go. ἐλθέτωσαν, Let them go.

351. Endings of the Imperative Mood. The imperative mood has its own set of endings. They must be learned. The variable vowel ε/ο is the sign of the present tense; σα - is the sign of the 1st aorist.

	<u>Active</u>	
<u>Singular</u>		<u>Plural</u>
2. ε- (no ending; old ending θι- or ζ are sometimes found)		ε-τε
3. ε-τω		ε-των/σαν (σαν is nearly always used in Koine)
	<u>Middle and Passive</u>	
2. ε-σο ου		ε-σθε
3. ε-σθω		ε-σθωσαν

352. Present Imperative of λύω.

	<u>Active</u>	
2. λῦε (<u>you</u>) <u>loose</u>		λύετε (<u>you</u>) <u>loose</u>
3. λυέτω <u>let him loose</u>		λυέτωσαν <u>let them loose</u>
	<u>Middle and Passive</u>	
2. λύου <u>You loose for yourself</u> (be loosed)		λύεσθε
3. λυέσθε <u>Let him loose for himself</u> (be loosed)		λυέστωσαν

Practice the imperative of ἄγω, I lead; διδάσκω, I teach

¹ The student should review what has been studied about mood. (Section, 3, 301).

Note Carefully: Contracts react like indicative τηρεέτω, τηρείτω, let him keep.

The Imperative of the verb to be is as follows.

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 2. ἴσθε | ἔστε |
| 3. ἔστω | ἔστωσαν |

353. First Aorist Active Imperative of λύω.

Active

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 2. λύσον ¹ (you) <u>loose</u> | λύσατε <u>You loose</u> |
| 3. λυσάτω <u>let him loose</u> | λυσάτωσαν <u>let them loose</u> |

Middle

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2. λύσαι <u>loosing for yourself</u> | λύσασθε <u>loose for yourself</u> |
| 3. λυσάσθω <u>let him loose for himself</u> | λυσάσθωσαν <u>let them loose for themselves</u> |

Passive²

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 2. λύθητι ³ (you) <u>be loosed</u> | λύθητε <u>you be loosed</u> |
| 3. λυθήτω <u>let him be loosed</u> | λυθήτωσαν <u>let them be loosed</u> |

Contracts lengthen before tense singular λάλησον, speak for yourself

354. Second Aorist Active Imperative. Second aorist verbs use the same endings as present but add them to the second aorist stem. (less augment).

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| βάλλω, <u>I throw</u> | ἔβαλον <u>I threw</u> | βαλέτω <u>let him throw</u> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|

Active

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 2. βάλε | βάλετε |
| 3. βαλέτω | βαλέτωσαν |

Middle

- | | |
|---------|------------|
| βάλου | βάλεσθε |
| βαλέσθω | βαλέσθωσαν |

Note Carefully. The passive imperative is, of course, made off the aorist passive stem (6th principal part) and not off the second aorist stem.

355. Meaning of Imperative. The basic idea of the imperative is that of command.

- μετανοήσατε καὶ ἕκαστος ὑμῶν βαπτισθήτω
 (Ye) Repent and each of you be baptized. Acts 2:38

Request, entreaties (prayers) are often made in this mood.

- πάτερ δόξασόν σου τὸν υἱόν.
Father glorify thy son.

¹ The 2nd singular endings are irregular.

² Notice the characteristic sign of the First Aorist Passive –θη.

³ for θητι but two aspirates cannot stand in successive syllables (Grassmann's law).

Prohibitions (negative commands) are of two kinds,

μή with the aorist subjunctive means “don’t begin.”

μή νομίσητε ὅτι ἦλθον βαλεῖν εἰρήνην ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν. Mark 10:34.

Don’t begin to think that I have come to cast peace upon the earth.

μή with the present imperative means “quit.”

μή φοβεῖσθε ἀπὸ τῶν ἀποκτεννόντων τὸ σῶμα, Quit fearing the ones able to kill the body

The Imperative expresses many shades of meaning according to the context.

Direct Command: ἀνάβατε ὧδε, come up here

Hortatory: ὁ δίκαιος δικαιοσύνην ποιησάτω ἑτι, Let the righteous do righteous still.

Entreaty: εἰ τι δύνη, βοήθησον ἡμῖν. If you are able (to do) something,

Permission: καθεύδετε καὶ ἀναπαύεσθε, Sleep and take your rest.

Condition: τοῦτο ποιεῖ καὶ ζήση. This do and thou shalt live.

356. Vocabulary:

εἰσφέρω, I bring in.

κατέχω, I hold fast

ὁμοίως, (adv) likewise

οὖν, therefore

ὀφειλέτης, ου, ὁ, debtor

πειρασμός, ου, ὁ, temptation

πῶς; how?

προφητεία, ας, ἡ, prophecy

ῥήμα, ματος, τό, a thing spoken, word, matter

ῥύομαι, (σομαι, ... ἐρρύσθην). I draw, snatch from
ρῦσαι, (Aor. Imp.)

σήμερον, (adv) today, at this time

χρηστός, ἡ, ὄν, useful, good, kind

357. Exercises

I. Text A.

Πάτερ ἡμῶν ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς·

ἀγιασθήτω τὸ ὄνομά σου·

ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου·

γενηθήτω τὸ θέλημά σου,

ὡς ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ γῆς·

τὸν ἄρτον ἡμῶν τὸν ἐπιούσιον¹ δός² ἡμῖν σήμερον:

καὶ ἄφες³ ἡμῖν τὰ ὀφειλήματα⁴ ἡμῶν,

ὡς καὶ ἡμεῖς ἀφήκαμεν³ τοῖς ὀφειλέταις ἡμῶν·

καὶ μὴ εἰσενέγκης⁵ ἡμᾶς εἰς πειρασμόν,

ἀλλὰ ῥῦσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ πονηροῦ.

Matthew 6:6-13

¹ “Daily” ² Aor. Imp. of δίδωμι. Notice stem δο and ς ending.

³ ἀφήμι, I send away, forgive ⁴ ὀφειλήμα, ματος, τό, what is due, a debt;

fig., a failure, a fault, sin. ⁵ εἰσφέρω, I bring into

ἐν παντὶ εὐχαριστεῖτε·
 τοῦτο γὰρ θέλημα θεοῦ ἐν χριστῷ εἰς ὑμᾶς.
 τὸ πνεῦμα μὴ σβέννυτε¹
 προφητείας μὴ ἐξουθενεῖτε
 πάντα δὲ δοκιμάζετε, τὸ καλὸν κατέχετε.
 ἀπὸ παντὸς εἴδους² πονηροῦ ἀπέχεσθε.

I Thessalonians 5: 18 – 22.

¹ σβέννυμι, I quench, put out.

² εἶδος, οὐς, τὸ, form, appearance

II. Text B.

1. πορεύου καὶ σὺ ποίει ὁμοίως.
2. κύριε, δίδασξον ἡμᾶς προσεύχεσθαι.
3. ἀνάστηθι (Aor. Imp. [old ending] of ἀνίστημι) καὶ εἴσελθε τὴν πόλιν.
4. πορεύεσθε καὶ λαλεῖτε ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ τῷ λαῷ πάντα τὰ ῥήματα τῆς ζωῆς ταύτης.
5. μὴ κρίνετε, ἵνα μὴ κριθῆτε.
6. μὴ ἀπέλθητε εἰς ὁδὸν ἐθνῶν.
7. γίνεσθε δὲ εἰς ἀλλήλους χρηστοί.
8. βλέπετε οὖν πῶς περιπατεῖτε.
9. φεύγετε τὴν πορνείαν· φεύγετε ἀπὸ τῆς εἰδωλολατρίας (idolatry).
10. εἰ νεκροὶ οὐκ ἐγείρονται, φάγωμεν καὶ πίωμεν, αὐριον γὰρ ἀποθνήσκομεν. μὴ πλανᾶσθε.

III. Translate

1. Go and teach all these words to the people.
2. Let the disciples not go into the way of the nations.
3. If the Christ had not risen up, the gospel would not have been preached. Let no one be deceived.
4. Let the one doing fornication flee to the Lord. All ye flee idolatry.

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