

## Lesson 46

## Comparison of Adjectives

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τὸ δοκίμιον ὑμῶν τῆς πίστεως πολυτιμότερον χρυσίου  
The trying of your faith is more precious than gold. I Peter 1:7

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365. Review of Adjectives. It is well to review the forms of adjectives learned so far. There are several variations.

1. Adjectives of three terminations in First and Second Declensions with short feminines.

ἀγαθός, ἀγαθή, ἀγαθόν (good)

2. Adjectives of three terminations in First and Second Declensions with short feminines (Stem vowel follows ε, ι, ρ)

πονηρός, πονηρά, πονηρόν (evil)

3. Adjectives of two terminations (Second Declension)  
Compounds and polysyllables with masculine and feminine alike

ἄδικος, ἄδικον, (unjust)

4. Adjectives of two terminations (Third Declension) with stems in –ες  
Sibilants (p. 116): ἀληθής, ἀληθές (true)

5. Adjectives of two terminations (Third Declension) with stems in ν, ρ, λ, μ  
Liquids (p. 100): ἄφρων, ὄν (Gen. ἄφρονος) (foolish)

366. Comparison of Adjectives. The sentence David was wise, but Solomon was wiser than he by far would be expressed in Greek: Δαυεὶδ ἦν σοφός, ἄλλα Σολομῶν σοφωτέρος αὐτοῦ πολλῶ.

The adjective σοφός, wise, in this sentence is the positive degree; σοφώτερος, wiser is the comparative degree. (There is also a superlative, wisest). That with which Solomon is compared (αὐτοῦ, than he) is the standard of the comparison, and πολλῶ (by far) is the degree of difference. The giving of the different degrees of an adjective is the comparison of adjectives.

Comparison may be regular (As English tall, taller, tallest; beautiful, more beautiful, most beautiful) or irregular (good, better, best)

367. Regular Comparison. The comparative and superlative degrees of adjectives are regularly formed by adding the suffixes –τερος and –τατος to the stem vowel (the ς is dropped). If the penult has a short vowel, the stem vowel is lengthened to ω.

αὐτός ἐστιν ἰσχυρότερος μου. He himself is mightier than I.  
σοφώτερος αὐτοῦ wiser than he

The accent is recessive in the comparative and superlative degrees.

Note Carefully: Sibilant stems (ης, ες) add the same suffixes.

ἄληθής, ἀληθέστερος, ἀληθέστατος.

Stems in ων, ον (after the analogy of ἀληθής) have ες added to the stems.

368. The Standard of Comparison. That with which something is compared is expressed several ways.

1. By the ablative of Comparison.

περισσότερον προφήτου, more than a prophet. Matt. 11:9

2. By the use of the particle ἢ (than), with the standard of comparison put in the same case as the thing compared.

ἀνεκτότερον ἔσται γῆ Σοδόμων ἢ τῆ πόλει ἐκεῖν

It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for that city.

3. By the use of the prepositions παρά (here = more than, beyond) and ὑπέρ (more, more than).

ἄμαρτολοι παρά πάντας τοὺς Γαλιλαίους ἐγένοντο;

Were they sinners above all the Galileans? Luke 13:2

τομώτερος ὑπὲρ πᾶσαν μάχαιραν δίστομον,

sharper than any two-edged sword. Hebrews 4:12

369. Dative of Degree of Difference. With expressions of comparison the dative cause is used to express the degree of difference.

πολλῶ πλείους (irregular for πολύς, much), many more. John 4:41. Cf. Phil. 1:24

370. Vocabulary.

αἵρεσις, εως, ἡ, a choosing; a sect

ἀκριβής, ες, strict

δυνατός, ἡ, ὄν, able, mighty

ἐκλέγομαι, I choose

καινός, ἡ ὄν, new (in quality)

καταισχύνω, I make (put) ashamed

κλησις, εως, ἡ calling

κλητός, ὄν, called, selected

νέος, α, ον, new, young

μωρός, ἄ, ὄν foolish

τὸ μωρόν, foolishness

ὅστις, ὅτι, who (originally from ὅς and τις)

περισσός, ἡ ὄν, abundant, great

σκάνδαλον, ου, το, offense

σοφία, ας, ἡ, wisdom

σοφός, ἡ, ὄν. wise

τε, and, both

371. Exercises.I. Text A.

ἡμεῖς δὲ κηρύσσομεν Χριστὸν ἐσταυρώμενον, Ἰουδαίους μὲν σκάνδαλον, ἔθνεσιν δὲ μωρίαν (foolishness), αὐτοῖς δὲ τοῖς κλητοῖς, Ἰουδαίοις τε καὶ Ἑλλησιν, Χριστὸν θεοῦ δύναμιν καὶ θεοῦ σοφίαν, ὅτι τὸ μωρὸν τοῦ θεοῦ σοφώτερον τῶν ἀνθρώπων ἐστίν, καὶ τὸ ἀσθενὲς τοῦ θεοῦ ἰσχυρότερος τοῦ θεοῦ σοφώτερον τῶν ἀνθρώπων ἐστίν, καὶ τὸ ἀσθενὲς τοῦ θεοῦ ἰσχυρότερος τῶν ἀνθρώπων. Βλέπετε γὰρ τῆν κλησιν ὑμῶν, ἀδελφοί, ὅτι οὐ πολλοὶ σοφοὶ κατὰ σάρκα, οὐ πολλοὶ δυνατοί, οὐ πολλοὶ εὐγενεῖς (noble, well-bred) ἀλλὰ τὰ μωρὰ τοῦ κόσμου ἐξελέξατο ὁ θεὸς ἵνα κατασχύνῃ τοὺς σοφούς. καὶ τὰ ἀσθενῆ τοῦ κόσμου ἐξελέξατο ὁ θεὸς ἵνα κατασχύνῃ τὰ ἰσχυρά. (I Cor. 1: 23 – 27)

II. Text B.

1. οἱ υἱοὶ τοῦ αἰῶνος τούτου φρονιμώτεροι ὑπὲρ τοὺς υἱοὺς τοῦ φωτὸς εἰς τὴν γενεὰν τὴν ἑαυτῶν εἰσιν.
2. ἔζησα φαρισαῖος κατὰ τὴν ἀκριβεστάτην αἵρεσιν τῆς ἡμετέρας θρησκείας (θρησκεία, ας, ἡ, religion)
3. τὸ μωρὸν τοῦ θεοῦ σοφώτερον τῶν ἀνθρώπων.
4. οὕτως χαρὰ ἐν τῷ οὐρανῷ ἐστὶ ἐπὶ ἐνὶ ἀμαρτωλῷ μετανοῦντι ἢ ἐπὶ ἐνενήκοντα ἐννέα δικαίοις οἵτινες οὐ χρειὰν ἔχουσιν μετανοίας.
5. ὁμοίως νεώτεροι ὑποτάγητε περσβυτέροις.
6. τὸ ἀγαπᾶν αὐτὸν ... περισσοτέρον ἐστὶν πάντων τῶν ὀλοκαυτωμάτων. (ὀλοκαύτωμα, burnt offering)
7. Ἀθηναῖοι εἰς οὐδὲν ἕτερον ἠύκαιρουν (εὐκαιρέω, I have leisure). ἢ λέγειν τι ἢ ἀκούειν τι καινότερουν.
8. μὴ ἰσχυρότεροι αὐτοῦ ἐσμέν;

III. Translate.

1. The weakness of the Lord is stronger than the foolishness of the mighty.
2. Are not the righteous wiser than the sons of darkness.
3. The younger shall in no wise rule the elder.
4. To obey is better than sacrifice.
5. Heaven rejoices more over (ἐπί) the one repenting than over the ones not needing to repent.