

Lesson 8

The Middle Voice – Present Indicative Middle

οἱ καλῶς διακονήσαντες βαθμὸν ἑαυτοῖς καλὸν περιποιοῦνται
 The ones serving well as deacons gain for themselves a good standing. I Timothy 3:13

52. The Middle Voice. Besides the active and passive voices, which have been studied, Greek has another voice which is called the middle voice. This voice represents the subject as acting for himself or in his own interest.

λούεται τὴν κεφαλὴν. He washes his head; lit. He washes for himself the head.

English represents the active functions of the Greek verb but has no middle. In English we use a reflexive expression; e.g., for himself.

53. The Present Indicative Middle of λύω. (The middle and passive verb endings are identical except in the aorist tense. The context determines whether the verb is to be translated middle or passive.):

1. λύομαι	<u>I loose for myself</u>	λύομεθα,	<u>We loose for ourselves</u>
2. λύῃ	<u>You loose for yourself</u>	λύεσθε	<u>You “all” loose for yourselves</u>
3. λύεται ¹	<u>He looses for himself</u> , etc.	λύονται	<u>They loose for themselves</u>

Infinitive λύεσθαι, to loose for oneself

54. Present Indicative of Contract Verbs (εω).

1. ποιῶμαι ¹ ,	<u>I make for myself</u>	ποιούμεθα,	<u>We make for ourselves</u>
2. ποιῇ	etc.	ποιεῖσθε,	ect.
3. ποιεῖται ¹		ποιοῦνται ¹	

Infinitive: ποιεῖσθαι, to loose for oneself

55. Review of Endings. The endings for the primary tenses (present, future, and perfect) have been given. They are with connecting vowel:

Active		Middle and Passive	
-ω	-ομεν	-ομαι	-ομεθα
-εις	-ετε	-εσται (η)	-εσθε
-ει	-ουσι	-εται	-ονται

These endings constitute one-half of the regular verb endings. They will be met over and over. Mastery now will greatly aid the student later.

¹Final αι is short for accent.

56. Direct and Indirect Middle. The middle idea may refer either directly (λούομαι, I wash myself) or indirectly (φυλάσσειται τὰς πονηρίας, He watches the evils for himself; i.e., in his own behalf). The direct middles are very rare and usually are of actions referring to personal relations: wash out the hair, anoint, etc. Most middles are to be translated for himself. A few are intensive, to be translated He himself.

57. Prepositional Compounds with Verbs. Prepositions (See p. 10) were originally adverbs, and in early Greek they sometimes retained this use. This force of the preposition, however, is practically limited to prepositions as prefixes of verbs. The prepositions in such compounds are sometimes repeated before a following substantive. Compare such English verbs as downgrade, upgrade, uplifting.

στέλλω I send. αποστέλλω I send off (on a mission).
εἰσβαίνει τὴν κωμὴν He enters the village.

Such prefixes often merely add the idea of the preposition to the verb.

βάλλω I cast ἐκβάλλω I cast out

At other times the preposition only intensifies the meaning of the verb and adds the thought of completeness or thoroughness to the verb.

σώζω I save. διασώζω I save, keep safe.
ἐσθίω I eat. κατεσθίω¹ I consume (eat up).

Other such compounds completely change the meaning for each element and have resultant meanings not perceptible in either simple term.

νοέω I think μετανοέω I repent (change my mind).

Often more than one preposition may be added, ἐξάποστελλω²

These compound verbs are considered separate words from the simple verbs and are listed separately in the lexicon.

As will be observed, many other parts of speech are compounds of other roots with prepositions.

58. Vocabulary.

ἀγοράζω,	<u>I buy</u>	παραλαμβάνω,	<u>I take, receive</u>
απολύω,	<u>I release</u> , Mid. <u>withdraw</u>	παύω,	<u>I stop</u> , Mid. <u>cease</u>
ἀποθνήσκω,	<u>I die</u>	ἐκλέγω,	<u>I choose</u>
καταβαίνω,	<u>I go down</u>	πονηρία, ας, ή,	<u>evil</u>
μέλλω,	<u>I am about</u> (to do something), used with the infinitive	νίπτω,	<u>I wash</u>
περιβάλλω	<u>I cast around</u> , Mid. <u>clothe myself</u> . Object in Acc	σωτηρία, ας, ή,	<u>safety, salvation</u>
φυλάσσω	<u>I guard</u> , Mid. <u>keep myself from</u>	ὑποκριτής, οὔ ό,	<u>hypocrite</u>

Note Carefully: Recall the words containing prepositional suffixes already learned; e.g., περιπατέω, διακονέω

¹If the first letter of the verb is a vowel, the preposition (except περί and πρό) loses a final vowel.

²When the verb stem begins with a vowel or rough breathing, a final consonant on the preposition will usually be aspirated, κ > ξ; τ > θ.

59. Exercises.

Ἰησοῦς καὶ οἱ μαθηταὶ καταβαίνουνσιν εἰς Καφαρναοῦμ. ἀπολύονται πρὸς τὴν θάλασσαν τῆς Γαλιλαίας. Ἰησοῦς ἐκλέγει τοὺς μαθητάς. παύεται λαλεῖν πλὴν (except) ἐν παραβολαῖς. παραλαμβάνει δόξαν ὅτι διδάσκει ἐν τῇ συναγωγῇ. περιπατεῖ ἐν ταῖς κωμαῖς καὶ ἐκβάλλει δαιμόνια (demons) καὶ θεραπεύει. Ἰησοῦς λέγει τοῖς μαθηταῖς ὅτι μέλλει ἀποθνήσκειν. οὐκ νοοῦσιν ὅτι ἐγείρει πάλιν ἐν τρίτῃ ἡμέρᾳ ὥστε τὴν ἐκκλησίαν παραλαμβάνειν σωτηρίαν.

I. Text A.

1. βάλλετε, ἐκβάλλετε, περιβάλλετε, βάλλεσθε, ἐκβάλλειν, περιβάλλεσθε.
2. Ἰησοῦς ἐκλέγεται τοὺς μαθητάς καὶ ἀποστέλλονται.
3. Ἡρωδιάδα λέγει αἰτεῖσθαι τὴν κεφαλὴν Ἰωάννου τοῦ βαπτιστοῦ.
4. παυόμεθα ἀπὸ ἁμαρτίας καὶ οὐκ ἀποθνήσκομεν.
5. φυλάσσεσθε ἀπὸ τῆς πονηρίας καὶ περιπατεῖτε ἐν τῇ ἡμέρᾳ.
6. οἱ ὑποκριταὶ νίπτονται τὰς κεφαλὰς.
7. ὑποστρέφουσι καὶ ἀπολύονται εἰς τὰς οἰκίας.
8. ἡ ἐκκλησία μέλλει περιβάλλεσθαι ἐν ἐξουσίᾳ.
(The verb may also take the accusative of that with which one clothes himself.)
9. ὁ βαπτιστὴς παρακαλεῖ τοὺς πολίτας περιπατεῖν ἐν σοφίᾳ.
10. ὁ στρατιώτης ἀγοράζεται μάχαιραν.

III. Translate.

1. We choose life for ourselves.
2. He keeps himself from the synagogue.
3. The disciple is about to cease from evil.
4. The prophet clothes himself in sin.
5. The soldier washes his (the) head.
6. We ask truth for ourselves and receive for ourselves joy and peace.
7. The Baptist beseeches the synagogue to receive the truth for themselves.
8. They withdraw from the house and go down into the village.