

RBL 02/2003



**Van Voorst, Robert E.**

***Building Your New Testament Greek Vocabulary***

Third edition

Resources for Biblical Studies 43

Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2001.

Pp. xii + 119. Paper. \$14.95. ISBN 1589830024.

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Robert E. Van Voorst's third edition of *Building Your New Testament Greek Vocabulary* is an invaluable tool for all students and readers of the Greek New Testament, regardless of one's level of knowledge and proficiency. The 119-page work provides a complete listing of Greek New Testament words and their cognates by family and a separate listing of New Testament Greek words alone down to a frequency of five. In addition, the third edition includes a summary treatment of the Greek verb system as well as lists of prepositions, nouns, adjective, adverbs, and conjunctions.

The third edition is divided into ten parts. Part 1 presents a brief guide to the use of the book and includes eight helpful suggestions for learning Greek New Testament vocabulary. In part 2 of the work, Van Voorst provides an eight-page treatment of Greek word building in which he lists the suffixes (nominal, adjectival, adverbial, and verbal) and prefixes (prepositional, adverbial) according to grammatical category (e.g., nominal suffixes), identifies their meaning and significance, and presents an example of each from the New Testament. Beginning and intermediate Greek New Testament students will find this information extremely beneficial, and the experienced Greek New Testament reader will quickly perceive the value of having at one's ready disposal Van Voorst's concise presentation of this information. Students will want to review periodically the suffix and

prefix lists to enhance their ability to recognize parts of speech (especially adjectives and adverbs) and to break down word meanings.

The unique part of Van Voorst's work is found in part 3, in which he lists New Testament Greek words by frequency and cognate, from families with one or more words occurring four hundred or more times down to families with one or more words occurring five to nine times. This is an excellent aid for increasing one's vocabulary and developing the ability to read the Greek New Testament with as little interruption as possible. For example, while the verb φθείρω occurs only nine times in the Greek New Testament, its cognates occur forty-two times. Seeing and analyzing these words as a group enhances one's ability to recall the basic meaning of an entire group of words that by themselves occur more than nine times. Students will do well periodically to compare the cognates in part 3 with the lists of suffixes and prefixes found in part 2.

Part 4 of the third edition of Van Voorst's work lists Greek New Testament words by group according to frequency of occurrence. The unique aspect of part 4, as with part 3, is that Van Voorst includes in his listings those words occurring only five to nine times. This makes the book invaluable not only to the beginning student but also to intermediate and advanced students as well as to experienced scholars and readers. Having a handy list of rare words makes the reading experience much more enjoyable and helps to eliminate or lessen the frustrations that naturally occur in translating texts.

In the remainder of the book—parts 5 through 10—Van Voorst includes helpful summaries of verb systems and the use of αὐτός, as well as lists of proper nouns, adjectives, adverbs, numbers, and prepositions. Although this information can be found in any Greek grammar, having this information in the same work as the word lists in parts 3 and 4 makes the overall book that much more helpful and convenient, especially to the beginning or intermediate student. Experienced readers will also appreciate these final parts as a quick means of refreshing or verifying their understanding or memory of parts of speech.

In the final section of the book, Van Voorst provides an index of the words listed in parts 3 and 4. The student can thus go directly to the index to locate a word in question. Since most of us are not sure in which frequency group a word may be found, the index will prove to be the student's best friend.

In summary, Van Voorst's third edition is an invaluable tool for any student or scholar of the Greek New Testament, especially those who desire to read the texts with as little interruption as possible. The work, with its frequency and cognate lists and grammatical

aids, can go a long way in reducing the frustrations of translating the texts and in making the reading of the Greek New Testament not only easier but also more enjoyable.