

5. And another note:

There is a lot of work in this course...I have plotted it for five hours outside work per week but some will not be able to do it in that time...others may finish earlier. But the rub is this: This is immediately preparatory to what, in the will of God, many of you will (or should) be doing for much of the rest of your lives. You will find these to be excellent passages for ministry and that should add something to your performance level.

If you find you are getting hopelessly bogged down...check with the instructor.

C. A few notes thought to be helpful in several directions.

1. In translating a passage:

--Read it first in your native language...a couple of times so that you know what to expect. (Use a more literal translation)

--Note proper names and where they occur.

--Having read the passage in your own language, now read it aloud in Hebrew. Strive for the best pronunciation you can muster but read it aloud.

--Coming to the passage, avoid reading word by word. Seek to read at least by clauses. You may need to review the accent marks that are the major conjunctive/disjunctive signs.

--Read as much as you can before you look anything up! Have handy a copy of the Lexicon, and, if BDB, the Index. Do not hesitate to use works like McDaniel.

--If a construction seems unusual to you, mark it for further study and bring it up in class.

--And, as we have said many times, if you cannot find the word quickly (in the Lexicon, etc.) pass it by and ask about it or look at it later.

2. In the work of Exegesis:

--Study carefully the context and background of the passage. A commentary will help you here or a book such as THE OLD TESTAMENT SPEAKS. Know what you are reading about and how it fits into the biblical scheme.

--Do the work of translation. Notice the syntactical relationships and ask yourself what the verse means and how it may be applied.

--When you have finished this work, read at least two commentaries on the passage..grammatical commentaries, etc.

--And constantly seek to keep the passage in a good theological connection while pointing out what it means.