

Greek Grammar

1 John 5:6-13

The Predicate Adjective Corresponding to an Adverb

Predicate nouns and adjectives in the accusative case can serve as adverbs.

“In classical Greek a predicate adjective appears in certain expressions added to the predicate... The adjective [*monos*] and the adverb [*monon*], which have already grown close in classical, are occasionally confused ... 1 Jn 5: 6.” Blass, Debrunner, Funk, *Greek Grammar*, #243

Thus, 1 John 5:6, “Jesus Christ; not by the water only [*monon*] but by the water and the blood.”

In the 5th century, one Greek manuscript, and another in the 11th century, alter the *monon* accusative form of *monos*, to its dative form, *monôî*, which matches the preceding dative “by the water”. The meaning remains the same.