

Lk 11:34

P75

NA²⁷ Luke 11:34 Ὁ λύχνος τοῦ σώματός ἐστιν ὁ ὀφθαλμός σου.
ὅταν ὁ ὀφθαλμός σου ἀπλοῦς ᾖ,
καὶ ὅλον τὸ σῶμά σου φωτεινόν ἐστίν·
ἐπὰν δὲ τ πονηρὸς ᾖ,
καὶ τὸ σῶμά σου σκοτεινόν.

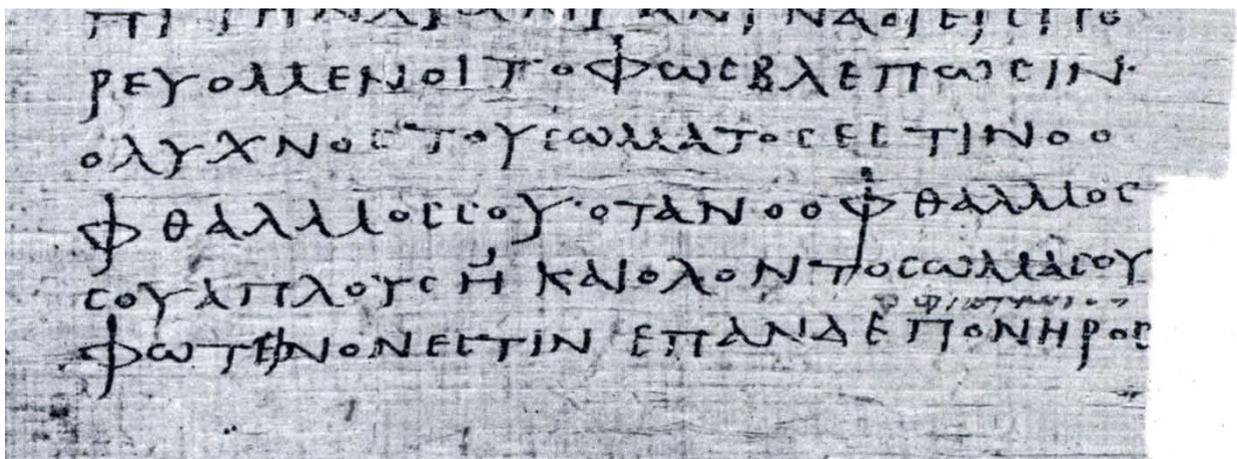
τ ὁ ὀφθαλμός σου P75^{C?}, X, pc⁶, a, vg^{ms}, Sy-S, Sy-C, sa, bo^{pt}, arm, geo^{pt}
pc = 213, 343, 713^C, 716, 1229, 2487 (from IGNTP)

P75:

This reading is remarkable, because it is possibly supported by P75 already.
The words are added in small script above the line, but the letters are impossible to make out with certainty.

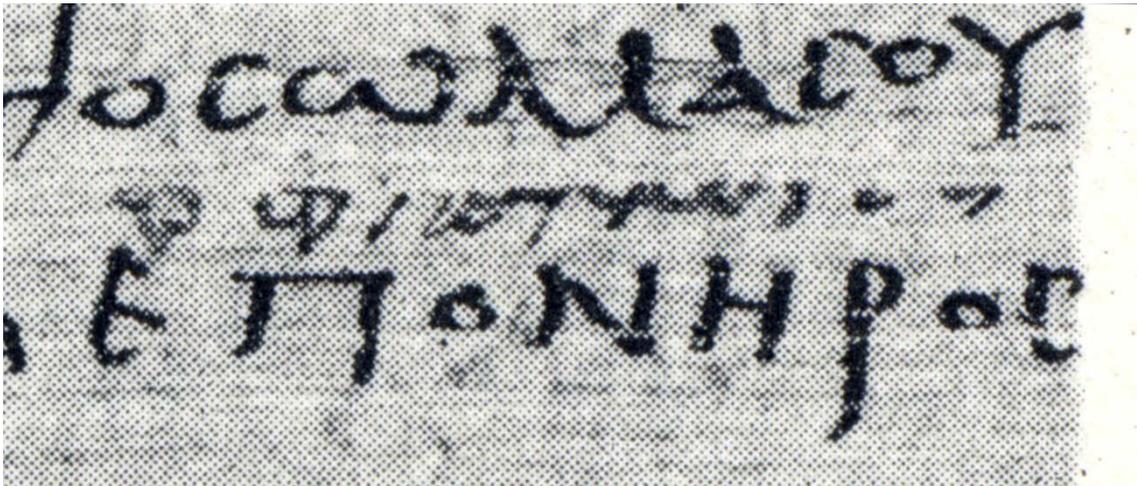
Comfort ("The text of the earliest NT Greek MSS") writes: "There are ten small letters, possibly Coptic, above δὲ πονηρὸς."

Aland (collation of P75 Lk in NTS 10, 1963/64, p. 10) writes: "Zusatz von P^{C2} über der Zeile (+ ὁ ὀφθαλμός σου = Sy-S,C, sa, bo^{pt} ?) nicht zu entziffern."
(engl. = "addition by C2 above the line, undecipherable")



The words are at the bottom right above the last line.

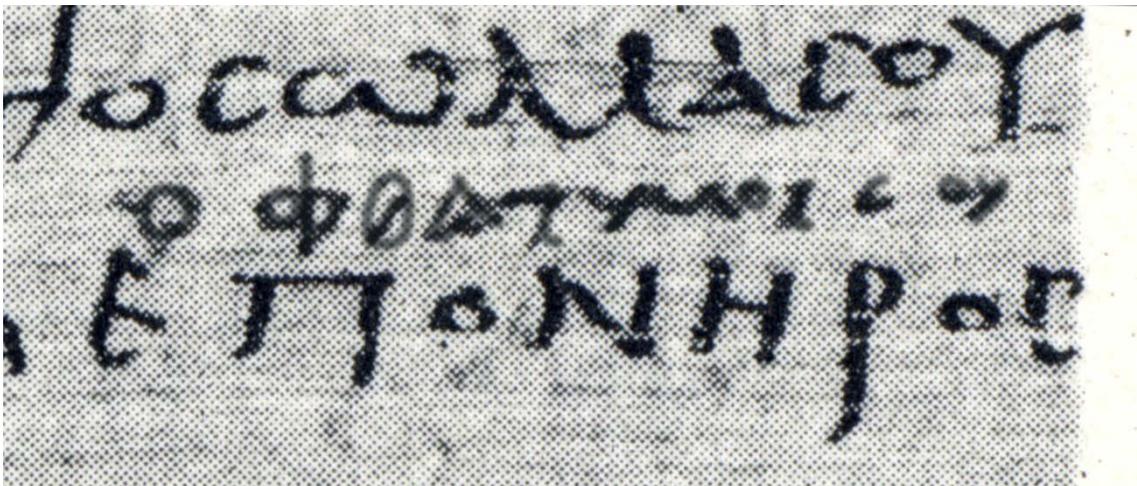
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The words are impossible to decipher, but there are some hints that point to ὀφθαλμός σου.

First it appears that there are three words. The first could be a O. Then there comes something that looks like a F. The last letter could be a U.

Reconstruction:



Of course, this is not really satisfying. Especially the Q is not fitting.

Perhaps it is something else? But what? Is it Greek at all?

Daniel Delattre suggested ὁ φλόγμος, "the enlightening".

Dave Hindley suggested that this is perhaps only the upper or lower half of a line of text that was somehow transferred onto the papyrus.

Perhaps the slash after the φ is an abbreviation? This is quite common, like κ/ for καί. Or perhaps it is a tilted ρ?

This problem was posted on the textualcriticism list and on the papy list. About 200 knowledgeable persons looked at the images, but no solution was offered. This seems to indicate that the question is probably unanswerable.

I asked Timothy Janz, who is responsible for P75 in the Vatican library to look at this. He writes: "I'm afraid I can't read these letters any more than the other experts who have tried. I'm also sorry that I can't provide you with any images for the time being."