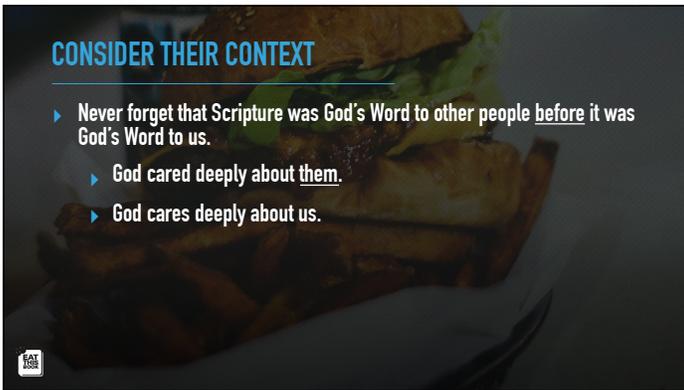
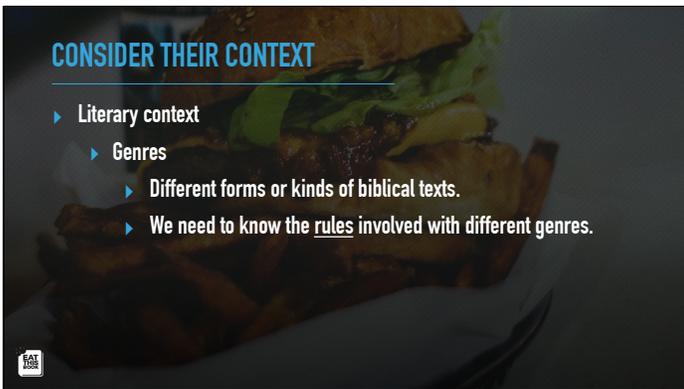


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2



3



4

NEW TESTAMENT GENRES

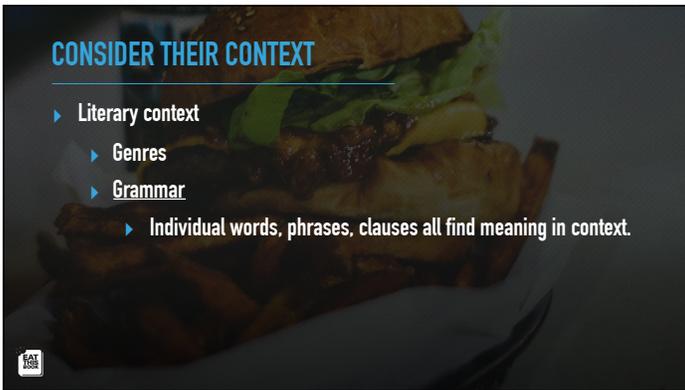
- ▶ Letters
- ▶ Gospels
 - ▶ Parables
- ▶ Acts
- ▶ Revelation



5

CONSIDER THEIR CONTEXT

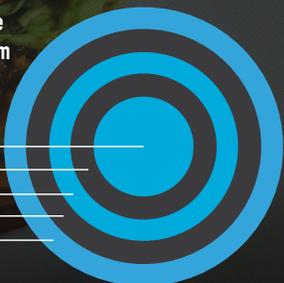
- ▶ Literary context
 - ▶ Genres
 - ▶ Grammar
 - ▶ Individual words, phrases, clauses all find meaning in context.



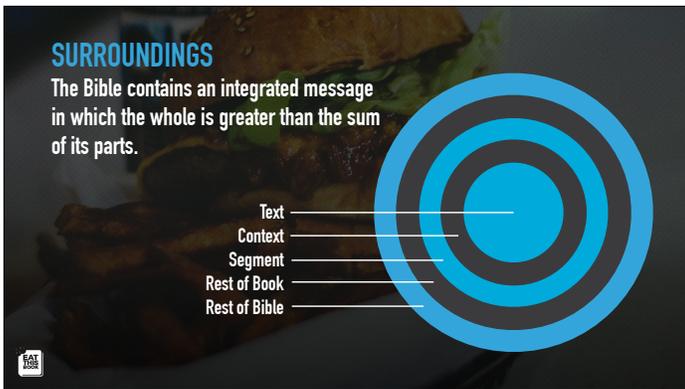
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SURROUNDINGS

The Bible contains an integrated message in which the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.



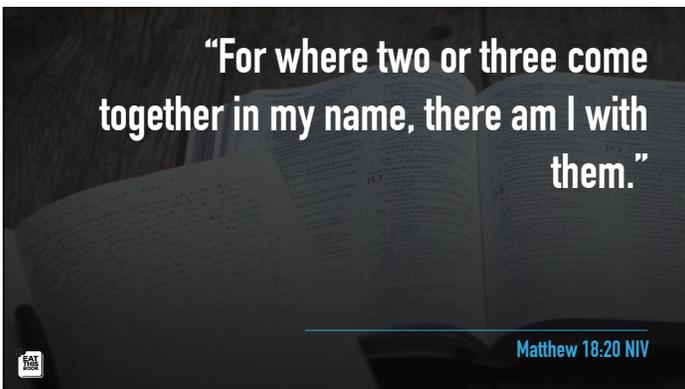
- Text
- Context
- Segment
- Rest of Book
- Rest of Bible



7

“For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”

Matthew 18:20 NIV



8

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.”

Revelation 3:20-21 NIV



9

CONSIDER THEIR CONTEXT

- ▶ Literary context
- ▶ Historical-Cultural context
 - ▶ Get to know the author.



10

“This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.”

John 21:24 NIV



11

CONSIDER THEIR CONTEXT

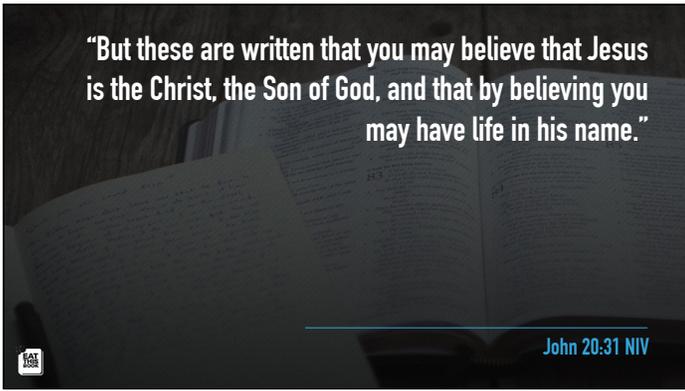
- ▶ Literary context
- ▶ Historical-Cultural context
 - ▶ Get to know the author.
 - ▶ Get to know the audience.



12

“But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

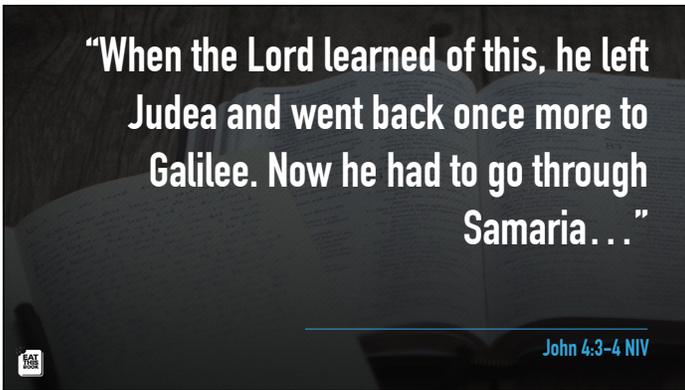
John 20:31 NIV



13

“When the Lord learned of this, he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. Now he had to go through Samaria . . .”

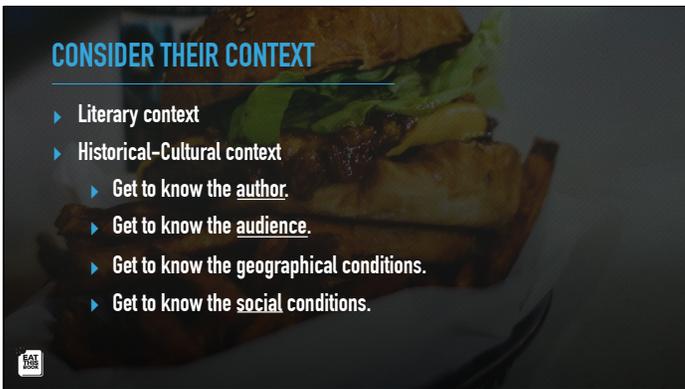
John 4:3-4 NIV



14

CONSIDER THEIR CONTEXT

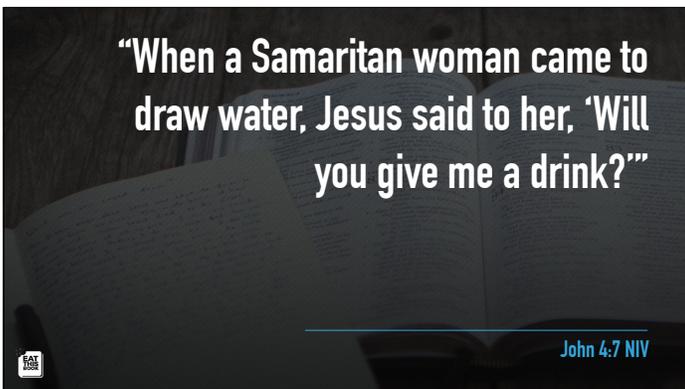
- ▶ Literary context
- ▶ Historical-Cultural context
 - ▶ Get to know the author.
 - ▶ Get to know the audience.
 - ▶ Get to know the geographical conditions.
 - ▶ Get to know the social conditions.



15

“When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, ‘Will you give me a drink?’”

John 4:7 NIV



16

“The Samaritan woman said to him, ‘You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?’ (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)”

John 4:9 NIV

17

CONSIDER THEIR CONTEXT

- ▶ Literary context
- ▶ Historical-Cultural context
 - ▶ Get to know the religious conditions.
 - ▶ Get to know the economic conditions.

18

“‘Sir,’ the woman said, ‘you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?’”

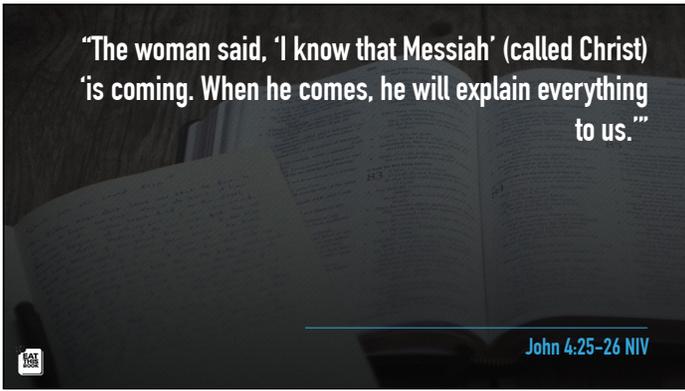
John 4:11-12 NIV

19

CONSIDER THEIR CONTEXT

- ▶ Literary context
- ▶ Historical-Cultural context
 - ▶ Get to know the religious conditions.
 - ▶ Get to know the economic conditions.
 - ▶ Get to know the political conditions.

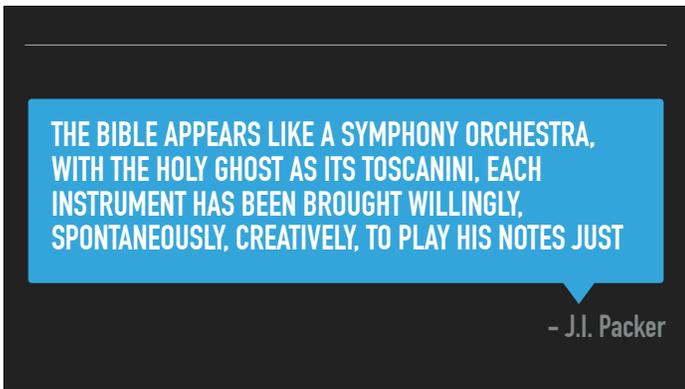
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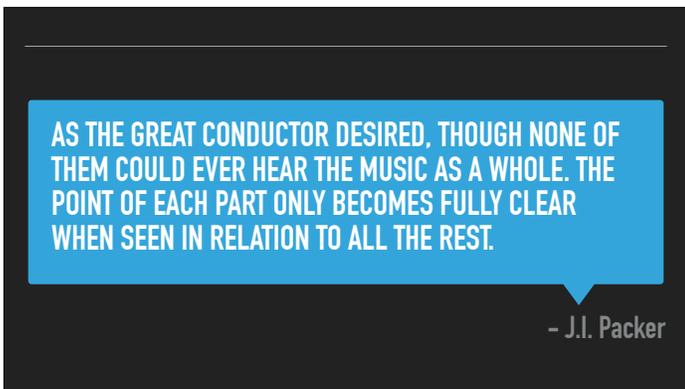
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22



23



24

BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR BIBLE INTERPRETATION

- ▶ Remember that **CONTEXT RULES**.
- ▶ Always seek the **full** counsel of the Word of God.
- ▶ Remember that Scripture will never contradict Scripture.
 - ▶ Compare Scripture with Scripture . . . use **cross-references**.
 - ▶ The best interpreter of Scripture is **Scripture**.
- ▶ Avoid basing your doctrine on an **obscure** passage of Scripture.

25

“He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.”

2 Peter 3:16 NIV

26

BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR BIBLE INTERPRETATION

- ▶ Interpret Scripture **plainly**.
 - ▶ Use the **literal** sense unless there is some good reason not to.
 - ▶ Use the **figurative** sense when the passage tells you to do so.
 - ▶ Use the **figurative** sense if the expression is an obvious figure of speech
 - ▶ Use the **figurative** sense if a literal interpretation goes **contrary** to the context of the passage, book, or purpose of the author.
 - ▶ Use the **figurative** sense if a literal meaning is impossible, absurd, or **immoral**.

27

BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR BIBLE INTERPRETATION

- ▶ Conclude the process of interpretation by describing the author's intended meaning in the passage.
 - ▶ The major question: “What's the **point**?”
 - ▶ In one or two sentences, write out what the author is saying to the original readers and why he is saying it.
 - ▶ Be responsible - remember, a text cannot mean what it never meant.
 - ▶ Be concise - keep it simple.
 - ▶ Be **specific**.

28

BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR BIBLE INTERPRETATION

- ▶ Conclude the process of interpretation by describing the author's intended meaning in the passage.
- ▶ Check your conclusions by leaning on the church.

29

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8 NIV

30

BRING IT BACK HOME: HOW DOES IT RELATE?

31

THE GOAL

Identify the timeless truth.
This is the theological principle that applies to all people at all times.

32

THE GUIDELINES

The timeless truth is biblical.
The timeless truth is compatible with the rest of Scripture.
The timeless truth is eternal.
The timeless truth is cross-cultural.
The timeless truth is applicable both here and there.

EAT THIS BOOK

33

**APPLY IT IN YOUR HOME:
WHAT DO I DO?**

EAT THIS BOOK

34

THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION

Interpretation focuses on <u>meaning</u> .	Application focuses on <u>action</u> .
Interpretation involves a <u>singular</u> meaning.	Application involves <u>multiple</u> actions.
Interpretation is the same for all Christians.	Application is <u>different</u> for specific life situations.
Interpretation involves getting <u>into</u> the Word.	Application involves the Word getting <u>into</u> us.
Interpretation asks, "What does this mean?"	Application asks, "How does this meaning apply to <u>my</u> life?"

EAT THIS BOOK

35

THREE STEPS TO RESPONSIBLE, BIBLICAL APPLICATION

1. Meditate on the timeless truth.
2. Relate the timeless truth to today.

EAT THIS BOOK

36

RELATE THE TIMELESS TRUTH TO TODAY

- ▶ See the timeless truth in its original situation.
 - ▶ Look for key elements in the original situation.
- ▶ Identify a contemporary situation that parallels the original situation.
 - ▶ Look for key elements that parallel the original situation.

37

**“I can do all things through Christ
who strengthens me.”**

Philippians 4:13 NIV

38

“I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

Philippians 4:10-13 NIV

39

“I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”

Philippians 4:10-13 NIV

40

RELATE THE TIMELESS TRUTH TO TODAY

- ▶ See the timeless truth in its original situation.
 - ▶ Look for key elements in the original situation.
- ▶ Identify a contemporary situation that parallels the original situation.
 - ▶ Look for key elements that parallel the original situation.
- ▶ Relate the timeless truth specifically to that contemporary situation.

41

THREE STEPS TO RESPONSIBLE, BIBLICAL APPLICATION

1. Meditate on the timeless truth.
2. Relate the timeless truth to today.
3. Practice the timeless truth.

42

PRACTICE THE TIMELESS TRUTH – FIVE QUESTIONS

1. Who should I be?
2. How should I think?
3. What should I do?
4. Where should I go?
5. Who will I teach?

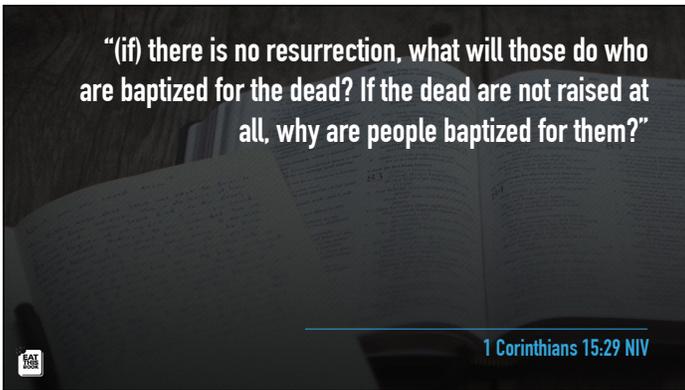
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JOURNEYING THROUGH DIFFERENT GENRES

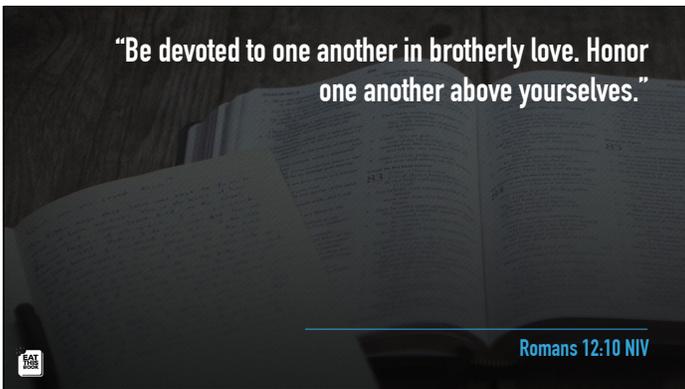
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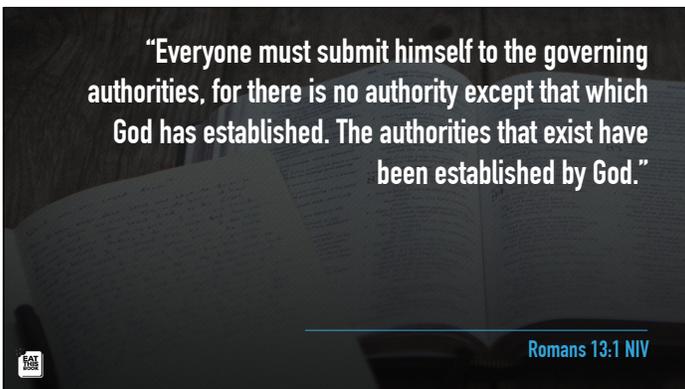
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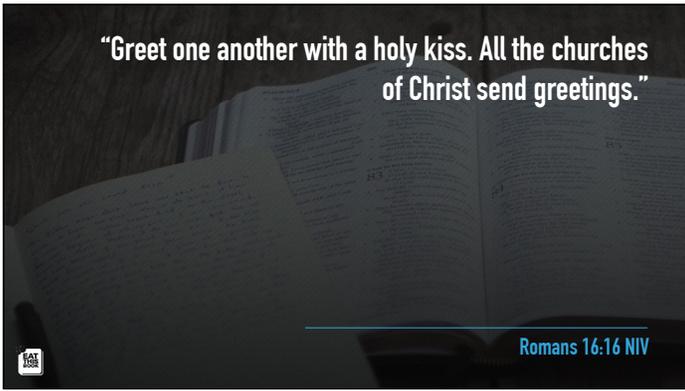
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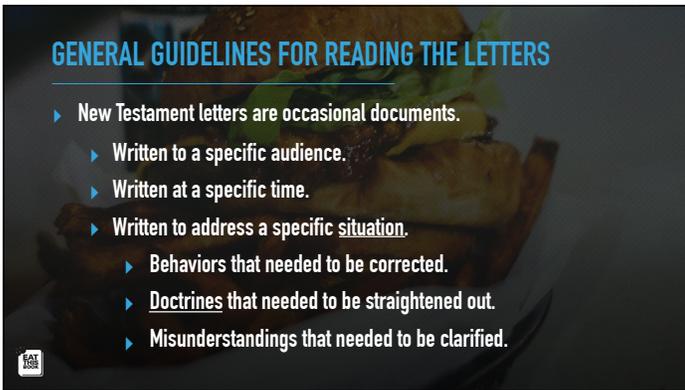
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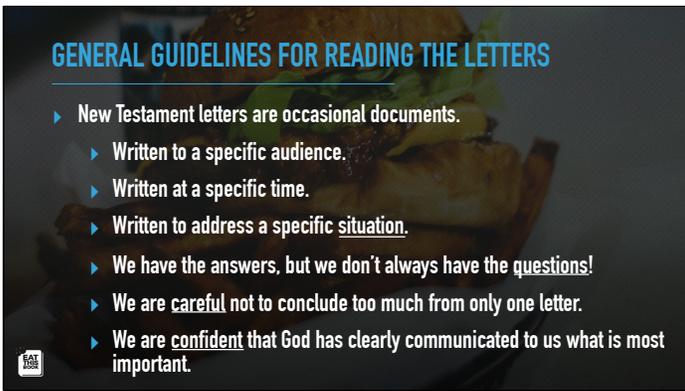
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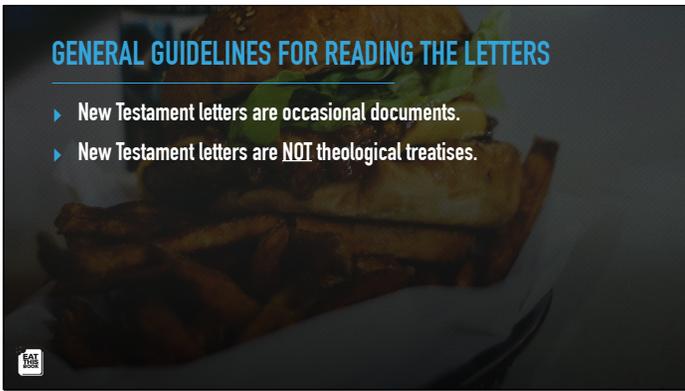
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50



51



52

COMMON FORM OF NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS

- ▶ Introduction
 - ▶ Identification of the author and audience.
 - ▶ Greeting, Prayer or Thanksgiving.
- ▶ Body
- ▶ Conclusion
 - ▶ Final greeting, farewell, and other various elements.
- ▶ Differences in form are often clues to meaning.

53

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE LETTERS

54

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE LETTERS

OBSERVE THEIR HOME

- ▶ Read: Begin by reading the letter aloud through in one sitting.
- ▶ Reconstruct: As you read, reconstruct the original situation behind the letter.

55

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE LETTERS

UNDERSTAND THEIR HOME

- ▶ Think paragraphs!
- ▶ For each paragraph and series of paragraphs, write down in one or two sentences the answer to the overall question, "What's the point?"

56

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE LETTERS

BRING IT BACK HOME

- ▶ Look for the biblical and compatible: Focus on truths that are central to the message of the text and all the Bible.
- ▶ Look for the eternal and cross-cultural: Focus on truths that are consistently taught in Scripture.
- ▶ Look for the applicable: Focus on truths that are inherently true in all situations.
- ▶ Write out the timeless truth using present-tense verbs.

57

A PRACTICAL PROCESS FOR READING THE LETTERS

APPLY IT IN YOUR HOME

- ▶ Meditate on the timeless truth.
- ▶ Relate the timeless truth to today.
- ▶ Practice the timeless truth - ask the five questions.

58

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set out before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

Hebrews 12:1-3 NIV

59

**EAT
THIS
BOOK**

Devouring the Word of God

60
