

March 30, 2022

New Testament – Epistles

Overview of New Testament Letters

Pauline Epistles

General Epistles

Paul	?	James	Peter	John	Jude
Romans 1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians 1 Timothy 2 Timothy Titus Philemon	Hebrews	James	1 Peter 2 Peter	1 John 2 John 3 John	Jude

The Form of New Testament Letters

1. *Introduction* – includes name of author, name of recipients, a greeting, and a prayer
2. *Body* – depending of the type of letter is may include instruction, persuasion, rebuke, exhortation, etc.
3. *Conclusion* – May include travel plans (Titus 3:12; Philemon 22), commendation of coworkers (Romans 16:1-2), prayer (2 Thess. 3:16; Hebrews 13:20-21), prayer requests (1 Thess. 5:25; Hebrews 13:18-19), greetings (Romans 16:3-16, 21-23; Hebrews 13:24; 2 John 13), final instruction and exhortations (Colossians 4:16-17; 1 Timothy 6:20-21a), holy kiss (1 Thess. 5:26; 1 Peter 5:14), autograph (Colossians 4:18; 2 Thess. 3:17), benediction (1 Corinthians 16:23-24; Ephesians 6:23-24), and a doxology (2 Peter 3:18; Jude 24-25).

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How to Interpret New Testament Letters – Duvall and Hays, *From Grasping God's Word*

1. Grasp the text in their town. What did the text mean to the biblical audience?
2. Measure the width of the river to cross. What are the differences between the biblical audience and us?
3. Cross the principlizing bridge. What are the theological principles in this text?
4. Consult the biblical map. How does our theological principle fit with the rest of the Bible?
5. Grasp the text in our town. How should individual Christians today live out the theological principles?

Making the Interpretive Journey: Hebrews 12:1-2

Step 1: What did the text mean to the biblical audience?

What do you first do?

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Summarize the meaning for the biblical audience:

Step 2: What are the differences between the biblical audience and us? What is similar?

Step 3: What are the theological principles in this text?

Step 4: How does our theological principle fit with the rest of the Bible?

Step 5: How should individual Christians today live out the theological principles?

What are some specific applications of Hebrews 12:1-2?

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Reflection For the Week:

Take Galatians 5:16-18 through all five steps of the Interpretive Journey.

Preparation For Next Week:

Watch –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGbNw855ksw> &
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-17KxpjL0Q>

Resources For Going Further:

Duvall, J. Scott and J. Daniel Hays. *Grasping God's Word: A Hands-On Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.

Kostenberger, Andreas J. and Richard D. Patterson. *Invitation To Biblical Interpretation: Exploring the Hermeneutical Triad of History, Literature, and Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2011.

Vanhoozer, Kevin J. *Is There Meaning in This Text?: The Bible, The Reader, and the Morality or Literary Knowledge*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1998.