

## Questions

1. What is an obvious misunderstanding if you don't read a letter in its entirety?
2. What is it mean by "every written document should be read 'historically?'"
3. Biblical scholar often refer NT letters as occasional writings, what does this mean?
4. What is number one objection on historical interpretation
5. What is one question that helps the reader to read between the lines which provides a good criterion for assessing the validity as well the value that a theory may have for exegesis?

## Answers

1. Reading a letter in segments in a piecemeal fashion might result in confusion, stated in differently, things could be taken out of context.
2. It means that we ought to take into account that it was written by a particular individual in a particular time in history and that it was motivated by some particular occasion.
3. Occasional doesn't mean casual or trivial, but that it was written to meet specific historical needs that came up occasionally per se.
4. Some argue that this approach injects too much subjectivity into the process, since different scholars will come up with different reconstructions.  
However, "if a scholar proposes a reconstruction that arises out of the text itself, and if that reconstruction in turn helps to make sense of difficult statements in the text, we need not reject it on the grounds that it is just a theory."
5. "Could the interpretation of a particular passage be supported even if we did not have the theory?"

## Terms

**Contextual interpretation** – basic principle of interpreting the scripture to consider the context, including the literary, cultural, and historical, to avoid taking the meaning out of context and falsely applying the meaning and purpose that might not be relevant or isn't applicable today.

**Internal evidence** – the information that we can get out of the Scripture or the books of the Bible themselves

## **Summary:**

When one reads Epistles, it is very important that one take into an account that it is written in the form of a letter; therefore, the intended message or what the writer wanted to convey to the recipients is best when letter is examined as a whole. Letter has historical significance and formal nature suggest that it has elements different from typical personal correspondence. Thus, structure and outline examinations of Epistles provide helpful information to the reader on interpreting and deciding the purpose of the contents in it. And of course, one needs to always think that Epistles and its contents are part of the narrative of the Bible as whole, thus, it is important to think Christologically to make the proper connections between books.