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5-3-1 Chapter 11 on Kaiser & Silva

Questions

1. The New Testament letter must be read in _____.
2. We should also read the letter in one _____ and not in _____.
3. What is one way to find out the reason for a certain NT letter to be written?
4. What is the one of the three ways to read NT letters?
5. What does recent rhetorical studies suggest about the letter to Philippians?

Answers

1. The New Testament letter must be read in context.
2. We should also read the letter in one sitting and not in piecemeal fashion.
3. One way to find out is to read between the lines.
4. One of the three ways is theological interpretation. The other two are historical context and literary structure.
5. Philippians is a single whole letter and it is not many letters combined.

Terms

1. Occasional writings: Writings or letters written to meet a specific historical need.
2. Chiasm: A style of writing in which the clauses are in ABB'A' pattern.
3. Exordium: Introduction to facts.

Summary

This chapter is about how to read a letter and it illustrates many important points of how we should read the New Testament letters. We should read it in one sitting because if we read in piecemeal and in different days we may not remember and misunderstand what we read. We should also read it in with an understanding of its historical context so we don't misinterpret passages like "we should not marry." We should also remember that it is historical and it is God's word.