

Questions

1. What are 6 common parts for the form of letters found in ancient time like those in the New Testament Epistles?
2. What is one item that all of the Epistle have in common that is the crucial item to note in reading and interpreting them?
3. When doing exegesis of the Epistles what is it mean to consider the literary context
4. What is "the basic rule?"
5. How can one answer and address non-contemporary problems speaks to twenty-first-century Christians?

Answers

1. Name of the write, names of the recipient, greeting, prayer wish or thanksgiving, body, and final greeting and farewell.
2. It is occasional documents – arising out of an intended for a specific occasion
3. Literary contexts means how is the argument or purpose or message developed paragraph by paragraph how they are interconnected and related to the whole.
4. A text cannot mean what it never could have meant to its author or readers.
5. First, do exegesis with care so we know what the God's word for them really was. Second, commands do not automatically become timeless to be applied at any and every kind of situation. The case must be that it is comparable situations in which the text can be applied.

Terms

Task Theology – Theology being written for or brought or brought to bear on the task at hand.

Historical context – informed reconstruction of the situation to which the author is speaking

Hermeneutics – what does these texts mean to us? Learning to hear the meaning in the contexts of our day

Summary

It is important when we look at texts like Epistles that are under special category of occasional writing, first we need to look at the historical contexts the letter is addressing. In other words, we examined the purpose and the commands and instructions from how texts themselves by carefully looking at how the arguments are constructed to how God's word meant to the people or the original audience. The hermeneutics help us to determine how the message or commands might be apply to us. However, we have to be very careful if the particulars can be applied to us today, only when it is truly comparable situations text can be applied similarly.