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Biblical Exegesis

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5-3-1 Assignment (Chapter 3-4)

5 Questions:

- 1) What name did Adolf Deissmann call the Epistles of the Bible?
- 2) What six forms consistent in some letters today, can also be identified in the Epistles of the Bible?
- 3) What one item does all the Epistles have in common?
- 4) What is the process of exegesis?
- 5) What is the basic rule of hermeneutics?

5 Answers:

- 1) Real Letter.
- 2) Name of the writer; name of the recipient; greeting; prayer wish or thanksgiving; body; final greeting or farewell.
- 3) They are all referred to as "Occasional Documents".
- 4) Read several times; list everything you can find that tells you about the recipients and their problem; make a list of key words or repeated phrases that would indicate the subject matter of the answer.
- 5) Understanding that a text cannot mean what it never could have meant to its author or readers.

Terms:

1. "Real Letters": Letters written not for the public & posterity, but were intended only for the person or persons to whom they were addressed.
2. Doxology: A liturgical formula of praise to God.
3. Eschatology: Our understanding of final events.

Summary:

In chapters three and four of the book, *"How to Read the Bible for All it's worth"* by Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart, the authors guides their readers in how to think contextually when reading the Epistles. They want their readers to recognize that the nature of the Epistle, the historical context and the literary context are all important aspects of correctly exegeting the Epistles. They then brought to light hermeneutical questions. The common hermeneutics as well as the problems that people can encounter when studying the scriptures.