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Questions

1. What needs to be included to show the form of an Epistle?
2. To understand key arguments in the Epistles you must do what?
3. Why must we be careful not to bring our theological heritage, church traditions, cultural norms, or existential concerns to passages of scripture?
4. How do the apostle's answers to these non-contemporary problems speak to twenty-first century Christians?
5. What causes our theological problems with the Epistles?

Answers

1. There are six things that must be included: name of the writer, name of the recipient, greeting, prayer wish or thanksgiving, body, and final greeting and farewell.
2. You must think in paragraphs.
3. We must not do this because it brings all kinds of selectivity or "getting around" certain passages.
4. You must apply the proper hermeneutics such as exegesis with particular care and to realize that the "principle does not now become timeless to be applied at a random or whim to any and every kind of situation.
5. From asking our guests of texts that by their occasional nature are answering their questions only.

Terms

1. Occasional Documents: The Epistles all have this in common and they are letters that are written due to an arising out of and intended for a specific occasion.
2. Hermeneutics: The study of methods and principles for interpreting the Bible.
3. Extended Application: To apply the application of one passage of scripture to a foreign context.

Summary

Chapter three primarily explains how to exegete the Epistles especially contextually and gives background information about them. While chapter four dives into hermeneutics of the Epistles and gives rules for how to interpret scripture without inaccurately applying a principle to the twenty first century. The goal of both chapters is to help bring consistency and precision to interpreting the Epistles.