

Bible Study Methods

Understanding the Purpose of the Book

We have been looking at what the author said, but now we are going a step further and asking why they said it.

Now we are looking for their purpose in writing.

Purpose Statements:

- One way that the author can let you know their purpose is simply by telling it to his readers.
- Examples:
 - John 20:30-31
 - Acts 1:1-2
 - 1 John 2:1
 - 1 John 5:13
- But the vast majority of books do not give you a purpose statement, so you have to work to find the author's purpose.

Finding the author's purpose:

- Some questions to ask:
 - Who is writing to whom?
 - What is the situation of the author and of the readers?
 - Are we made aware of any problems that need to be addressed?
 - Are there any repeated themes or a single idea that holds everything together?
- Again, repeated themes are different than simply repeated words.
- What sort of themes would be important in finding the purpose of Matthew?

- Spend time working through Philippians this week. What is Paul's purpose in this book?