

INTRODUCTION:

1) TODAY WE WILL BE EXAMINING THE HISTORICAL-CULTURAL BACKGROUND

THINGS WE WILL LOOK AT IN THIS LESSON:

- 1) THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HISTORICAL-CULTURAL BACKGROUND
- 2) THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF A WHOLE BOOK
- 3) THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF A SPECIFIC PASSAGE
- 4) PRACTICE EXAMINING THE HISTORICAL-CULTURAL BACKGROUND

PART 1 – THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HISTORICAL-CULTURAL BACKGROUND:

Q 1) WHAT DOES THE HISTORICAL-CULTURAL BACKGROUND REFER TO?

A)

Q 2) WHAT ARE FOUR REASONS WHY WE NEED TO DISCOVER THE SETTING IN WHICH SCRIPTURE WAS WRITTEN?

A)

AN IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE:

“THE CORRECT INTERPRETATION OF A PASSAGE MUST RELATE WELL TO THE HISTORICAL-CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS OF THE PASSAGE.”

PART 2 – THE HISTORICAL-CULTURAL BACKGROUND OF A WHOLE BOOK:

Q 3) WHAT TWO TYPES OF QUESTIONS MUST WE ANSWER IN ORDER TO FIND THE HISTORICAL-CULTURAL BACKGROUND OF A BOOK?

A)

Q 4) WHAT ARE THE FIVE QUESTIONS YOU NEED TO ANSWER ABOUT THE AUTHOR OF A BOOK?

A)

Q 5) WHAT ARE THE THREE QUESTIONS YOU NEED TO ANSWER ABOUT THE AUDIENCE OF A BOOK?

A)

PART 3 – THE HISTORICAL-CULTURAL BACKGROUND OF A SPECIFIC PASSAGE:

In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval. When you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, for as you eat, each of you goes ahead without waiting for anybody else. One remains hungry, another gets drunk. Don't you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you for this? Certainly not! For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment. When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world. So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for each other. If anyone is hungry, he should eat at home, so that when you meet together it may not result in judgment. And when I come I will give further directions. (1 Corinthians 11:17-34)

Q 6) WHAT ARE THE THREE QUESTIONS YOU NEED TO ANSWER IN ORDER TO FIND THE HISTORICAL-CULTURAL BACKGROUND OF A SPECIFIC PASSAGE?

A)

PART 4 – WRAPPING UP – PRACTICE EXAMINING THE HISTORICAL-CULTURAL BACKGROUND:

Examining the Historical Background of the Entire Book of Ephesians

Answer five questions about the author (of Ephesians).

Who was he? _____

When did he write the book? _____

What setting was he in? _____

What relationship did he have with those he wrote to? _____

What was his purpose? _____

Answer three questions about those who received the biblical book (of Ephesians).

Who were they? _____

What was their city or town like? _____

What was their social status? (Were they Jews? Wealthy? Slaves? Educated?)



