SUMMER READING: THE BIBLE WASN'T WRITTEN TO YOU

Posted on July 29, 2014 by Eddie

'Thatâ€™s right, the Bible wasnâ€™t written to you. It was written to the people of Israel, and Philemon, and Theophilus and the church at Corinth. But that ainâ€™t you. So youâ€™re reading someone elseâ€™s mail. Or listening in on one half of a phone conversation. If you want to apply it to your life, first youâ€™ve got to approach the text carefully, even humbly and ask, â€œWhat was the original author saying to the original readers and why?â€ '
Category: Observations

If you have a Kindle and you are looking for a nice easy, but very thought provoking read about the Bible, you could do far worse than get hold of David (Lingamish) Ker's book The Bible Wasn't Written To You. It's fairly short, it's very funny in parts and it will certainly make you think about the way in which you read the Bible.

The Kindle book started life as a blog post; here is a quote:

> *The Bible isnâ€™t a fortune cookie that you can crack open and get out a pithy little message thatâ€™s going to help you through the day. Instead it is a collection of books, poems, histories, tragedies and more and if you want to â€œapply it to your lifeâ€ youâ€™ve first got to consider how that particular message was meant to apply to someone elseâ€™s life. Thatâ€™s right, the Bible wasnâ€™t written to you. It was written to the people of Israel, and Philemon, and Theophilus and the church at Corinth. But that ainâ€™t you. So youâ€™re reading someone elseâ€™s mail. Or listening in on one half of a phone conversation. If you want to apply it to your life, first youâ€™ve got to approach the text carefully, even humbly and ask, â€œWhat was the original author saying to the original readers and why?â€ Thatâ€™s not an easy question. You wonâ€™t be able to answer it in just five minutes of Bible reading a day. You wonâ€™t be able to answer that question by jumping from one section of the Bible to the next as you go through your Bible reading plan. Imagine reading the Sunday paper like you read your Bible. Monday you read one paragraph of the front page, then you read one paragraph of the sports section, now jump over to the opinion page and read a paragraph there. Thatâ€™s all for today. On Tuesday you can continue reading the lead story and find out how the game ended and read some more of the op-ed piece. Is that the way you read the paper? Why not? Because chopping up the Sunday paper like that destroys the message.*