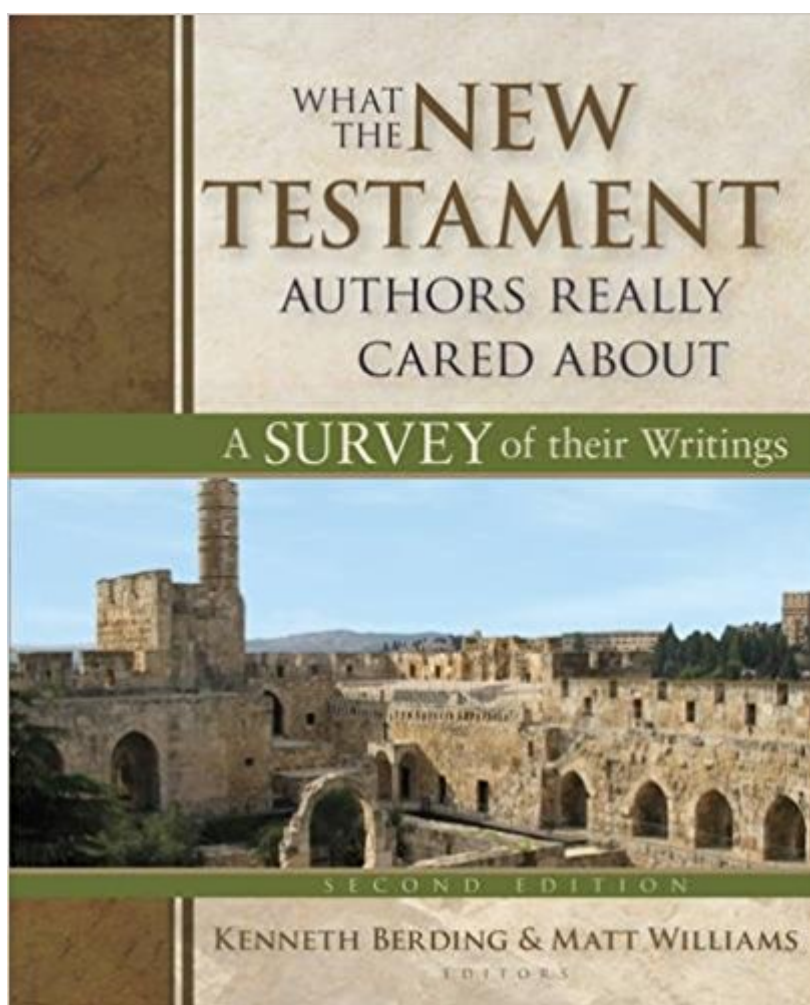


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# What The New Testament Authors Really Cared About: A Survey Of Their Writings



## Synopsis

Second edition of the accessible, full-color New Testament survey focusing on the message of each book. Now in hardcover, this second edition of *What the New Testament Authors Really Cared About* has a new cover and layout to correspond with the look of the popular companion volume, *What the Old Testament Authors Really Cared About*. This textbook is more accessible than many New Testament survey texts, with full color and photographs and to-the-point coverage of each New Testament book. Introductory issues (Who? When? Where? Why?) are condensed to a one-page snapshot of all the most pertinent information. In addition, more than one hundred applications are highlighted in sidebars to clarify how the New Testament authors might apply their writings to Christians living in the twenty-first century.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Kenneth Berding (PhD, Westminster Theological Seminary) is professor of New Testament at Talbot School of Theology in La Mirada, California. His other publications include *What Are Spiritual Gifts?* Matt Williams (PhD, Trinity International University) is professor of biblical and theological studies at Talbot School of Theology in La Mirada, California. His other publications include *Two Gospels from One*.

Nice read. Stays very close to traditional Christian values. I would have like to have seen more on other controversial views.

Offers additional insights into New Testament. Expanded edition.

I really like this Survey to the New Testament, with a focus on the different themes by author

Simple but clear summary of the key teaching of each book of the New Testament.

This survey is arranged in a different manner than most New Testament surveys. Instead of going book by book in the canonical order, the editors have chosen to keep the writings together by author. The first chapter begins with an overview to acquaint the reader with the historical and societal context of the New Testament authors. As the reader moves into the individual books, they are treated to an overview of who, when, where, and why as an introduction to each book. Each chapter then brings out some key verses to highlight the message of the book. The reader is then given a blurb highlighting the author's main themes. These themes are then unpacked with charts, sidebars, maps, and pictures bringing the world of the scriptures to life. After a summary, the reader is given key words and concepts to review as well as a bibliography for further study. I found this survey to be very comprehensive in its approach. I appreciated the editors approach of keeping the writings grouped by author as it enhanced my understanding of each author's main ideas. This book is packed with beautiful pictures, maps, and charts that enhance the book rather than distract the reader. The chapters are designed to give you an understanding of the structure and themes in each book without overwhelming you with detail. I utilized this book along with my New Testament reading and found it to be a help in keeping me focused on the main ideas. This book helps the reader understand how each part fits in the grand narrative of scripture. As you move through this book, you will see how books written by different human authors, in many different contexts present a unified story of God's work in His world. I heartily recommend this book to every student and teacher of scripture. Disclaimer: I received this book from the publisher in exchange for my unbiased opinion.

What the New Testament Authors Really Cared About: a Survey of Their Writings, edited by Kenneth Berding & Matt Williams could well be used as a textbook in high school, college, or seminary to introduce the books of the New Testament and to give an overview about the most important aspects of the book from the point of view of the author. The book is very readable, but not dumbed down. The editors have arranged their textbook by author of the New Testament, and

each overview begins with answers to who, when, where, and why for each book. Then they look at the major themes presented, supplemented with a good number of charts. Maps, and on location pictures. Through the text, there are side bubbles where the editors tell the reader how each author would want us to respond to various texts. Each chapter ends with a brief summary, key words and concepts for review, and a list of further resources. The book is sturdy and very useful. It could also be used by ministers to give them an overview/background to the book they are preaching from. The editors work hard not to espouse a particular denomination, and they present variant views and questions about certain texts, such as the ending of Mark (70). I was pleased to see that, with the exception of Revelation, the editors dated the books prior to 70 AD (though I would also argue that Revelation was written earlier). I was disappointed in the editors' discussion about the rapture for two reasons: some scholars argue there is no such thing to be found in the Bible, and I agree with them (256). That aside, this is a very useful first book on the New Testament canon (there is also an Old Testament companion volume). #WhatTheNewTestamentAuthorsReallyCaredAbout [This review appears on my blog and .com. I received this book free in exchange for an honest review.]

Back in 2014 I reviewed *What the Old Testament Authors Really Cared About: A Survey of Jesus and the Bible*, recommending it as an excellent resource for Bible study leaders. Just recently I've had the opportunity to read the companion volume, *What the New Testament Authors Really Cared About: A Survey of Their Writings*. I highly recommend it for pastors and small group leaders who want accessible information quickly. The book's 15 scholars take a thematic approach, with the book being organized around the nine New Testament authors and their books rather than the canonical order. This organization adds depth and texture to the book. Just a different way of approaching the material. The book is designed for undergraduate students, which makes it very approachable for most small group leaders. Each chapter begins with a short summary page, as well as a textbox with key concepts. It's hard to miss the point. Chapters are about 10 pages, but nicely punctuated with beautiful photos as well as a lot of sidebars and callouts offering application for today. It also includes excellent maps and a substantial index. Key names and concepts are in bold in the text, facilitating quick skimming. As is true of most Kregel Academic books, the paper and layout are exquisite. My only complaint is that the book is weak on footnotes and references, with only three citations per chapter. I would like to see a few more references, especially when I need to go deeper. But that's probably just the academic in me. Seriously, this is a great reference.

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