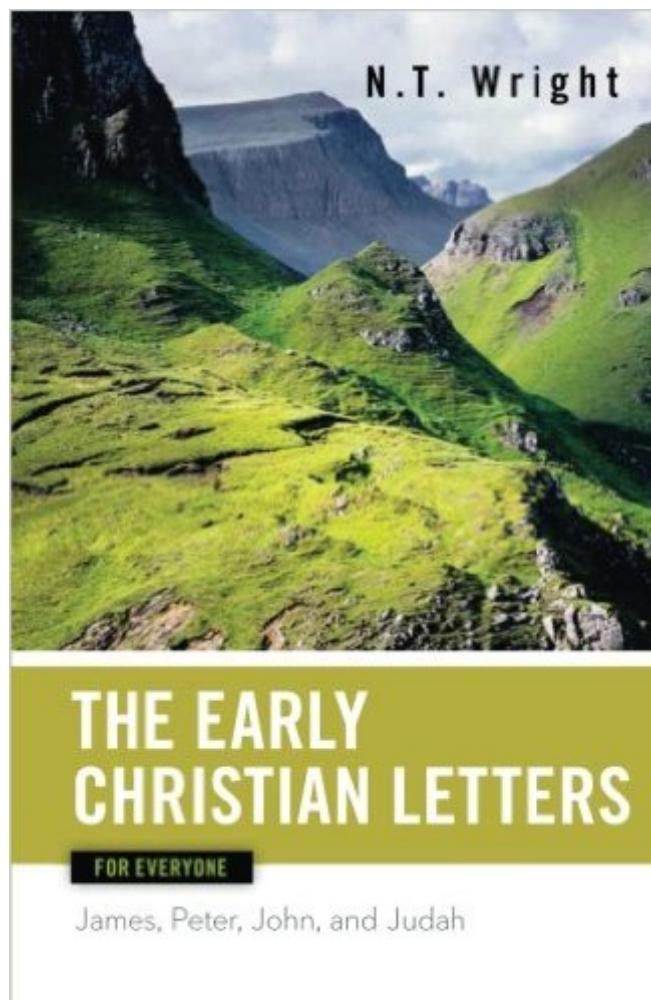


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Early Christian Letters For Everyone (The New Testament For Everyone)



Synopsis

N. T. Wright has undertaken a tremendous task: to provide guides to all the books of the New Testament, and to include in them his own translation of the entire text. Each short passage is followed by a highly readable discussion, with background information, useful explanations and suggestions, and thoughts as to how the text can be relevant to our lives today. A glossary is included at the back of the book. The series is suitable for group study, personal study, or daily devotions.

Book Information

Series: The New Testament for Everyone

Paperback: 238 pages

Publisher: Westminster John Knox Press (October 4, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0664227988

ISBN-13: 978-0664227982

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.5 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (21 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #30,950 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 inÂ Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Criticism & Interpretation > New Testament #34 inÂ Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Commentaries > New Testament #48 inÂ Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > New Testament > Jesus, the Gospels & Acts

Customer Reviews

The Early Christian Letters for Everyone is a small commentary volume about several of the general epistles; namely James, I John, II John, III John, I Peter, II Peter, and Jude. I found this commentary very helpful. I was pleasantly surprised that even though this was a small volume covering several books of the Bible at once, Wright several lengthy entries when necessary to thoroughly interpret the passage. I enjoyed all of the commentary, but I especially enjoyed studying through I John and Jude. Wright's commentary on I John is especially helpful because he clears up a number of misconceptions that can arise from the book. For instance, Wright guides his readers through a proper understanding of the terms "world" and "flesh" so that they will not misconstrue them in a way reinforces the material world as bad and the non-material as good (p. 147). He also clearly

explains why John ended his epistle with the phrase, "Little children, keep yourselves from idols" (pp. 167-169). What I enjoyed about Jude (or Judah) is something different. From the first entry to the end of this small epistle, Wright draws me into the story of this small book. He helps me to feel and understand with my heart why Jude was writing with such energy and urgency. He communicates this message in a way that when I can teach it, I can help my congregation think and feel their way through this passage as well, and get to the core of what he is trying to say. I would recommend this book to teachers and students of Scripture alike. I would especially recommend it as a supplement to a Bible study one is doing as a group or individually. Whether you are theologically educated, or just a neophyte to reading God's Word, there is something "for everyone" to learn.

N.T. Wright hardly ever fails to bring fresh insights to the text. If you are looking for a technical, detailed commentary, however, this is not it. But still I have found things in this series that you don't find in the technical commentaries.

N.T. Wright's "entry-level" commentary for James, 1/2 Peter, 1/2/3 John, and Judah (Jude). As with the other books in the "for everyone" series, each section of Scripture is translated by Wright with a view to a modern British audience, provides some sort of story or illustration, and then makes sense of what the author is saying in his context. Wright does an excellent job of transcending all of the scholarly disputes regarding the authors of these letters; he explains them in terms of their original context in the first century and what they would mean to the people to whom they were written. Applications still remain robust and are quite more "conservative" than many would generally believe. An excellent commentary on these letters and most worthy of consideration.**--galley received as part of early review program

One doesn't have to agree with Wright always to appreciate his writing. This series of commentaries is also like devotional books. The topic is well covered, the scholarship is evident, but the message is conveyed always in an applicable way. Highly recommended!

As presently written the information about this book is unclear, so here is my attempt at a clarification. Based on the cover of the similarly titled book published in the UK, this is Wright's commentary on the "General Epistles" of James, Peter, John, and Jude/Judah. [...]

Since he's such a prolific writer, this work, like all others, is somewhat repetitious -- which is good. You don't need to buy other books right away. We are using this as springboard for discussion in adult Sunday Class; quite enjoyable.

As is indicated by many here, NT Wright's style for this book is very accessible and very applicable for today and our current cultural circumstance. His observations are relevant and rightly stated. The part I like best is his short summaries or stories in the beginning of each section to set the tone for the reader. If I had a nit to pick, it would be that perhaps his analogies and anecdotes dominate the text in some passages, but in the end they are illuminating. I can live with that.

This is a marvelous commentary and you'll never regret this purchase. If you are seeking deep scholarship, it's not here but you can tell it's present behind the scenes as Wright weaves the tapestries of each book before you. No effort is made to impress the reader with high sounding words - it's all about experiencing the story behind each letter. Wright is captivated by stories and this volume (and I trust the others of this series) are so inextricably story-based. In conclusion - nothing fancy; just a way of living within the book itself. My highest possible recommendation.

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