

# SELF-FEEDER

## EARS pt1 – Explanation

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**Hebrews 4:12**

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

**2 Peter 1:17-21**

Two Dynamics that Helped the Early Church Understand the Bible:

1. They were living it.
2. They knew it was meant to be understood.

Hermeneutics: The study of how we interpret the Bible

## Three Actors

### Me, Myself, and I

We must always be aware that we bring ourselves, our understandings, our baggage, and our histories with us any time we read the Bible. If we want to read the Bible on its own terms for all its worth, we must recognize that which we are bringing to the text and learn to set that aside.

Jeremiah 29:11

Romans 8:28

### The Author

Ancient Context

Ancient Worldview

We share common humanity.

“What is the author seeking to communicate?”

## **God**

God gives us the “revelatory” context.

There is an ultimate reason for every verse in the Bible.

In the middle of these three actors sits the text.

Discussion: What is an example of something we may bring to the reading of the Bible that could be a distraction from the true meaning of the text?

## **4 Questions**

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What is the Historical Context?

When was this written?

What is going on when this was written?

What is the Book Context?

Who wrote the book?

Who was the book written to?

What is the occasion or purpose for the book?

Is there a repeated theme or subject that comes up again and again?

What is the surrounding context?

What is happening in the paragraph?

What is happening in the paragraphs around? (1 Corinthians 13)

What does the word mean?

What did the word mean in the Greek?

What COULD the word mean?

How else is the word used in Scripture?

What does the word most likely mean?

Philippians 4:13

“A text without a context is just a pretext for whatever you want it to mean.”

-Ben Witherington, III

“A text can never mean what it never meant.”

Scripture is a collection of God’s interactions with mankind.