A Primer On Genre
1. **What is it, what is it for, how do you use it?**
   a. Illustrations
      i. The Hammer vs. The Level
      ii. Cathedral vs. A Country Club
         1) Knowing the Type of Thing tells you how you should be using the thing.
   b. Genre
      i. In a Nutshell
         1) "identification of a work's genre helps us understand its place within the literary history . . . and aids us in its interpretation." A.R. Cross, Genres of the New Testament
      ii. Types of Genre
         1) Newspaper vs Comics vs Fairy Tales
            a) "Once upon a time"
         2) In the Bible
            a) **Exposition**: straight argument
               i) Romans
            b) **Epistle**: a letter
               i) 1 Timothy
            c) **Narrative**: a story
               i) **Story**: Luke→Acts
            d) **Biography**: a view of a person's life
               i) Abraham story
            e) **Parable**: stories that teach a principle
               i) 2 Samuel 12:1-10
            f) **Poetry**: appeal to emotion and imagination
               i) 1 Kings 16:11 (pisseth against the wall)
               ii) Psalm 103:15
               iii) Psalm 96:12 (singing trees)
               iv) Psalm 139 (I hate them)
            g) **Wisdom**: Black and white thought puzzles from older to younger
               i) Proverbs 26:4 vs. Proverbs 26:5
            h) **Others**:
               i) **Encomium**: High praise of something/one
                  (a) 1 Corinthians 13
               ii) **Oratory**: stylized oral presentation
                  (1) Acts 7
               iii) **Pastoral**: dealing with the country (shepherds)
                  (1) Psalm 23
               iv) **Prophecy**: Telling you God's words
                  (1) Isaiah

      v) **Apocalyptic**: Highly dramatic Prophetic warning (Forth-telling)

     vi) **Proverb**: moral statement
        (1) Proverbs

   vii) **Satire**: exposes wrong with a negative example
        (1) 2 Cor 11 – 12:1

  viii) **Tragedy**: tells about a downfall
        (1) Saul

Homework: work out John 1:1-18—what type of literature is it? How?