



9:00 Live Sunday School at FBJ

Which Bible is real and is It enough? The Canon and Sufficiency of Scripture

I. The Old Testament Canon

A. Words to live by?

Trust God and he will help you; make straight your ways and hope in him.
You who fear the LORD, wait for his mercy, turn not away lest you fall.
You who fear the LORD, trust him, and your reward will not be lost.
You who fear the LORD, hope for good things, for lasting joy and mercy.

Wisdom of Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) 2:6-9

- Who is “we”? Who gets to decide what is Scripture and what is not? Is it GAAP?

B. Old Testament Completion

1. Clues that the Old Testament was complete 400 years before the time of Jesus’ ministry

a. Luke 24:44-47 - “the Law and the Prophets and the Psalms”

(1) Three sections of the Jewish Bible (Tanakh): a. Torah, b. Nevi’im and c. Kethuvim

b. Athanasius’ List: a. The Canon, b. May read in church, c. Apocryphal

2. Why Protestants Don’t Believe in the Apocrypha

- a. Jews don’t accept it – not at Council of Jamnia AD 90
- b. All written in “time between the testaments”
- c. No copies written in Hebrew (until 1950s)
- d. Rejected by Athanasius and other interpreter Jerome
- e. Not officially accepted by Roman Catholic Church until Council of Trent in 1545 AD
- f. Contrary to the rest of Scripture
- g. Never cited in New Testament as “it is written”

II. New Testament Canon

A. Authority of the Apostles

1. 1st Corinthians 7:10-11 and 25 – Paul differentiates “not the Lord but me”
2. 2nd Peter 3:16 – Peter recognizes Paul’s apostolic authority

B. Council of Carthage – AD 397 – Everyone agrees on the New Testament

C. The New Testament “Test”

1. Is there GAAP? Is the letter/book generally accepted?
2. Do they speak of Jesus?
3. How many witnesses are there to the facts?
4. Were they touched by an apostle?

III. The Sufficiency of Scripture

A. Two things to ponder:

1. If God wanted us to have more books in the Bible He would have given them to us.
2. Just because Paul wrote a letter to church doesn’t mean it was Scripture.

B. 1st Corinthians 5:9-10 – Zero Corinthians?

C. Colossians 4:15-16 – The Epistle to the Laodiceans?

IV. My “Take Away”

God gave us exactly which books of the Bible He wanted us to have.

I can trust Him.

Questions? Comments? Thoughts?

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