

LESSON #4: THE NEW TESTAMENT CANON
A STUDY IN BIBLIOLOGY

No ONE LIKE HIM

*"FOR I AM GOD, AND THERE IS NO OTHER;
I AM GOD, AND THERE IS NO ONE LIKE ME" - ISA 46:9*

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KEY TERM: Canon – The list of all the books that belong in the Bible.

KEY CONCEPT: The NT was recognized as a _____ during the 1st & 2nd centuries.

1. An _____ composed or consulted.

(Was the author an apostle or did he consult an apostle?)

To be included in the Canon ...



They must be God's Words ...



God's Words were recorded by His authorized Apostles.

KEY TERM: Apostle – An official representative charged with a commission.

2. Other Apostles _____ Inspiration.

Peter puts Paul's writings on the same level as the OT Scriptures (2 Pet 3:15-16).

Paul puts another NT writing on the same level as the OT Scriptures (1 Tim 5:17-18).

3. _____ among Churches

“And on the day called Sunday, all who live in cities or in the country gather together to one place, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as time permits.”

– Justin Martyr, *First Apology* 67

“It does not matter who is the author of the Epistle to the Hebrews, for in any case it is the work of a church-writer and is constantly read in the Churches.”

– Jerome, *Epistles* 129

4. A Common _____.

There was a commonality in beliefs among Christian churches.

5. _____ (versus novelty).

(Is this a new writing or is it has been handed down with some history?)

“But Hermas wrote the Shepherd very recently, in our times, in the city of Rome, while bishop Pius, his brother, was occupying the [episcopal] chair of the church of the city of Rome. And therefore it ought indeed to be read; but it cannot be read publicly to the people in church either among the Prophets, whose number is complete, or among the Apostles, for it is after [their] time.”

– *Muratorian Fragment*, 73-80

Early Church Fathers Recognized NT Writings

95 AD	Clement of Rome	8 NT books
108 AD	Polycarp (John's disciple)	15 NT books
115 AD	Ignatius of Antioch	7 NT books
185 AD	Irenaeus	21 NT books
170-235 AD	Hippolytus	22 NT books
170 AD	Muratorian Canon	All NT, except 3 books.
367 AD	Athanasius	Exact list of NT we use today!

What's the point?

1. Apologetics

- Knowledge of the recognition of Scripture and how we got the Bible we have today is a powerful refutation to attacks.

2. Church History

- The story of Christianity is more than just a history lesson, it is an exploration into the amazing providence and sovereignty of God.

3. Handbook for Life

- Because the Bible is the Word of God, it has absolute authority over our lives. We need to be absolutely sure we have accurate revelation from God.

4. Assurance & Confidence

- The Christian must be emboldened by the Book he/she claims is from God. One may have confidence that the Bible, as it has now been preserved for centuries, is the infallible, inspired, and authorized Word of God for salvation and living.