

CANONICITY

I. How Do We Know We Have the Right Books in the Bible?

- A. How do we know anything?
 - Experience - using own resources
 - Authority - dependence on others

- B. How do we know God has revealed Himself in the Bible?
 - (Christian evidences)
 - Evidence from General Revelation
 - External, Internal
 - Evidence from Special Revelation
 - Preknowledge, Prophecy, Jesus
 - Evidence from Redemption
 - Changed lives, Changed societies

- C. What does God tell us about Himself?
 - Intention to communicate with man (Gen 12; Ex 3; John 1)
 - Power to carry out His intentions (Ex 4:11; Ps 19:7ff)

- D. What does God tell us about the Old Testament?
 - Given by revelation and/or inspiration thru prophet
 - (Ex 4:10-12; Deut 18:18; Ps 119:97-100)
 - Tests for recognition of prophet (Deut 13:1ff; 18:20ff)
 - Warnings about tampering (Deut 4:1-2; Prov 30:5-6)
 - Christ's acceptance of (O.T.) Scripture
 - (Matt 4:4,7,10; 5:17-19; 7:23; 12:38-42; 26:64; Lk 24:25; see Wenham)

- E. What does God tell us about the New Testament?
 - Christ's appointment of apostles (Mk 3:14ff; Jn 14:25-26; 16:12-13)
 - Implications of O.T. example

II. How Did these Books Come to Be Our Standard of Faith & Obedience?

- A. Process of O.T. Recognition
 - Pentateuch canonical when written (Deut 31:24-26; see Kline)
 - Prophets recognized at or soon after ministry (1 Kings 22:25,28; Jer 28:9,15-17; Ezk 2:5)
 - Don't know details for all books
 - Consensus reached before time of Christ (see Newman)

B. Process of N.T. Recognition

N.T. itself recognizes N.T. Scripture (2 P 3:15-16; 1 Tim 5:18; Jude 17-18)

Apostolic Fathers recognize N.T. Scripture (1 Clem 47 re/ 1 Cor; Poly 12 re/ Eph 4:26; Barn 4 re/ Mt 22:14)

Consensus reached in 4th cen (w/in century of end of persecution)

Bibliography

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