

CLASS 6: THE CANON OF SCRIPTURE

6.1 RESOURCES

- ~ *From God to Us: How We Got Our Bible* (Normal L. Geisler & William E. Nix)
- ~ *The Journey from Texts to Translations: The Origin and Development of the Bible* (Paul D. Wegner)
- ~ *Light in a Dark Place: The Doctrine of Scripture* (John S. Feinberg)

6.2 DEFINITIONS

- A. The _____: The inspired “book” of the Christian faith.
- B. The _____ of Scripture: The authoritative list of books belonging in the Bible.

6.3 INDICATIONS OF CANONICITY

- Two key truths:

- A) Each inspired book of Scripture was immediately canonical the moment they were _____

- B) The early church did not _____ which book was part of the Bible; they _____ and affirmed their inherent inspiration.

Tests of Canonicity

- 1) _____ by God.
- 2) _____ by a spokesperson of God.
- Usually, these people were _____ (OT) or _____ (NT).
- 3) Collected and preserved by the _____ of God.¹
- 4) _____ with other known inspired books.

6.4 OLD TESTAMENT CANON

- 1) A great number of times the Torah itself attests to Moses’s prophetic role and his activity of faithfully _____ God’s Word.

Exodus 24:3-4a –

¹ These three steps were taken from Normal Geisler & William Nix’s *From God to Us: How We Got Our Bible*.

Exodus 34:27 –
Deuteronomy 31:9 –

2) From the very beginning, there was a process of faithful _____ of God's Law.

Deuteronomy 27:2-3 –
Deuteronomy 31:19, 22 –

3) The _____ continued the tradition of Moses, communicating God's Word to God's people.

Joshua 6:26 with 1 Kings 16:34 –
Daniel 9:2 with Jeremiah 25:11-12 –
Ezra 3:1-4 –
Ezra 7:1-6, 10 –

4) Many other _____ demonstrate the OT canon was viewed as authoritative Scripture.

- A) The Dead Sea Scrolls
- B) Other non-canonical books and writers
- C) The New Testament

6.5 NEW TESTAMENT CANON

A) Many NT writers claim their _____ works come from God.

1 Thessalonians 4:15 –
2 Peter 3:2 –
2 Thessalonians 3:14 –

B) Many NT writers immediately recognized _____ NT books as canonical.

2 Peter 3:15-16 –
1 Timothy 5:18 with Deuteronomy 25:4 and Luke 10:7 –

C) The widespread copying and _____ of NT books attests to their authority.

Colossians 4:16 –

D) The canon of Scripture is _____.

Revelation 22:18-19 –

6.6 DEBATED BOOKS

A) There was some debate in the _____ centuries AD about several of the NT books.

B) Once the _____ was known about these books, the Church recognized them as canonical.