

What historical factors influenced the selection of books included in the Bible? Is it possible that more books could be added?

Should the process of canonization be viewed as a purely human endeavor or as divinely inspired? Why or why not?

Small Group Prayer Requests



April 21, 2024 • Bible and Banned Books

Scripture References

Luke 8:1-3 • Isaiah 53:5-6 • Acts 10:43 • Romans 4:7

- 1) The Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches accept seven additional Old Testament books called the Apocrypha, which means “_____.”
- 2) “Canon” is a word used to describe the _____ of books in the Bible - they comprise the Canon of Scripture.
- 3) Another factor in the rejection of the Apocrypha is that Jesus and the disciples never _____ those books.

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Video and notes available at www.gbcsl.com

- 4) The Jewish historian Josephus (1st century), The Catholic scholar Jerome (5th century), and Martin Luther (16th century) excluded the Apocrypha from their lists of _____ books.
- 5) All three branches of the Christian Church accept the same _____ New Testament books.
- 6) The _____ writings we have in our New Testament are the letters of the Apostle Paul, dated to the early 50s, about 20 years after Christ.
- 7) There were three general criteria used to recognize inspired New Testament books: 1) Closely associated with an _____. 2) Consistent in _____. 3) _____ and used by all the churches.
- 8) The majority of the _____ books date from much later than the first century and have obvious problems that were recognized by the early church.
- 9) We can have _____ that the Bible we read has the right books in it, and comes with the authority of those who walked with Jesus.



Small Group Discussion Questions

Please try to think these over and jot down some ideas prior to discussing them at the meeting, it will improve the discussion.

Have you ever wondered about the Bible, if it has the right books, or if it is dependable? If so, have you looked into it in the past? Share your thoughts with the group.

Were there any points in the sermon that really caught your attention? Share that with the group, including why you found it interesting.

How do modern scholarly methods, such as textual criticism and archaeology, inform our understanding of the biblical canon? (To gain some good insights, watch this documentary: The Manuscript Evidence for the Bible)

