

Read Romans 1:1, James 1:1, 1 Peter 1:1, and Jude 1. What do you notice? Now read 1 John 1:1. What is different? In what way is 1 John (and 2 & 3 John) similar to the Gospel of John?

The four canonical gospel do not state the name of the author. What might be a reason the writers did not identify themselves? In the Gospel of John, the writer does use a term to describe himself. (Read John 21:18-24) Why might he have chosen to describe himself in this way?

Prayer Requests





May 2, 2021

Scripture References

Luke 1:1-4 • Luke 8:1-3 • Mark 15:40-41
Isaiah 53:5-6 • Acts 10:43 • Romans 4:7

- 1) The Bible is a _____ to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and, before that, to God's interactions with _____ through the Hebrew people.
- 2) The Bible is not one book, it is a _____ of books, gathered together over centuries.
- 3) All branches of Christianity affirm the same _____ New Testament books.

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- 4) _____ (unofficial) criteria were used in determining the accepted books: _____ Origin, _____ and Use, and _____ Theology.
- 5) Through a gradual process of consensus, under the guidance of God, believers _____ which books were Inspired and authoritative.
- 6) The four gospel accounts are officially _____. We call them Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John because early Christian writers identified those men as the sources of those gospels.
- 7) The majority of the _____ books date from much later than the first century and have obvious problems that were recognized by the early church.
- 8) New Testament Apocrypha: Never part of New Testament _____; never accepted by Church _____; contain Inconsistent (and bizarre) _____.
- 9) We can have _____ that the Bible we read has the right books in it, is trustworthy, and comes with the authority of those who _____ 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.



Was there anything in this sermon that surprised you?

Any ideas you had not heard before? What was your reaction?

What effect did the early church have on the books that we accept as the New Testament canon?

The sermon stated that all of the New Testament books have "Apostolic Authority," meaning they were written by an apostle or someone closely connected to an apostle. Why is this important? How does it protect against error?

The sermon stated that almost the entire New Testament is quoted in the writings of early Christians. What can we learn from this? Why should it give us confidence?

Continued on reverse.