

LIFE NOTES

March 19, 2023

Series: By the Book

“How Did We Get the Bible?” (Part 2)

HOW THE NEW TESTAMENT WAS FORMED

1. The documents of the NT were _____ letters/documents written by some of the Apostles of Jesus, or close associates of an Apostle of Jesus, in order to pass on the teachings of Jesus.

Galatians 1:11-12

2. They were written to be _____ and read among all the Christian churches of that time.

Colossians 4:16

3. Because of persecution, the rise of false teachers, and the growth of the church geographically, it became important to _____ what documents were authoritative.

2 Peter 2:1-3

4. Eventually, the Synod of Hippo in A.D. 393 listed the 27 books of the NT. It did not choose them or confer upon them authority. They _____ the books considered to be authoritative by the church up to that point in history.

THE CRITERIA

1. The document must have a connection with _____; those who were eyewitnesses of Jesus and were taught by Jesus.

2 Peter 1:16-17

2. The contents of the document had to be _____ with Jesus' teaching.

2 Corinthians 11:4

3. A document needed to have widespread _____ and continuous _____ and use by all churches at that time.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

WHY WERE THE LATER Gnostic GOSPELS NOT INCLUDED?

1. Most scholars agree the names of the apostles were attributed to these documents to give them respectability and to _____ that they were Christian.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

2. These documents _____ written by eyewitnesses of Jesus. Most were written 100-400 years after Jesus.

Luke 1:1-2

3. The Gnostic Gospels are very _____ in nature and differ greatly with the NT Gospels.

1 Timothy 6:20-21 “²¹ Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing idea of what is falsely called **knowledge** (gnosis), ²¹ which some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith ...” (NIV)

THE EARLY CHURCH'S RESPONSE TO Gnosticism

1. Compiled a list of accepted sacred Christian writings—_____.
2. Developed a creed to codify the basic Christian belief—The Apostles' _____.
3. Began calling itself “_____” which meant “according to the whole,” meaning, “according to the whole testimony of the apostles,” to identify itself as an orthodox Christian community.

BOTTOM LINE

It is important to note that Jewish people and later the Christian Church, did not create the authoritative version of the Bible; it did not determine which books would be called Scripture, the inspired Word of God. Instead, the church recognized, or discovered, which books had been inspired from their inception.

2 Peter 1:19-21 “¹⁹ We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns, and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origins in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” (NIV)