

THE 66 BOOKS

A BIBLE BELIEVING STUDY OF THE CANON OF SCRIPTURE

"For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven."

~ Psalm 119:89

1. The Canon of Scripture

- a. Canon ~ *def.* a rule or standard; also, an authoritative compilation of inspired books
- b. There is a 66 book Bible, a 73 book Bible (Catholics), and more...
- c. It is taught by Catholics, that they gave the world the Bible canon by council
- d. Thus it is thought, it was written by men, collected by men, canonized by men
- e. When you ask them where is God's word in a book, they don't know for certain.
- f. How did we get the Bible? Which books are they? How do we know?

2. The Bible: Inspired Scripture

- a. The canon is writings from God: no more, no less Rev 22:18, Deu 4:2
- b. "*All scripture is inspired by God...*" - 2 Tim 3:16, whether we know it or not.
- c. God's word is forever settled in heaven - Psa 119:89
- d. It will last forever - Psa 12:6-7, Matt 24:35, 1 Pet 1:24-25, Rom 11:29
- e. God gives his word for a purpose - John 5:39, Rom 3:20, 15:4, 16:25, 2 Tim 3:15
- f. His purpose will get done, we need "all scripture" - Isaiah 55:11
- g. The Bible is already established, God promised to preserve it to the very words.

3. How We Know

- a. Our faith in the Bible comes from belief in God to do what he said.
- b. There is no such thing as a lost book, since it fails the preservation test
- c. History/academics/science cannot tell us God's word - 1 Thess 2:13
- d. Internal evidence: *what says the scripture?*
 - i. Self-testimony "thus saith the Lord" - Exo 4:22, Jer 30:2, Gal 1:11
 - ii. Absence of mistakes and errors → excludes Koran and Book of Mormon
 - iii. Confirmation by other scriptures - Matt 22:29, Acts 1:16, 2Pet 3:16, Jud 17
 - 1. This is why it was revealed progressively and not all at once.
 - iv. Confirmation by the Holy Spirit - 1 Cor 14:32, 1 Cor 14:37, 1 John 4:1-3
 - v. Miraculous signs and evidence - 1 Cor 14:22, Exo 4:1-5
 - vi. Descriptions of canon - Matt 19:4, Matt 23:25 (2Chron 24:20), Col 1:25
- e. External evidence:
 - i. The canon made the church, the church did not make the canon
 - ii. The 66 books were received by the early church in unanimity
 - iii. Discrepancy occurs over certain books written between Mal and Matt
 - iv. Councils and documents only record what was already accepted
 - v. Given the moment of inspiration, accepted shortly after, declared later
 - vi. "Textus Receptus" - received text, was coined after the KJB
- f. 1) God inspired books, 2) for us to use, 3) God preserved them in 66 books.
- g. Study the Bible with belief in preservation and it will change your perspective