

“All Scripture is **inspired by God** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17



**How exactly did the
Bible come together?**



The Canonization of the Bible



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- Canonization refers to “the process of recognizing that standard.” **What belongs in the Bible?**
- The Old Testament canon was a settled issue in the time of Jesus.
- The New Testament canon is where the battle is being waged with critics.



Can We Trust the Canon?

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Colossians 4:16

1 Thessalonians 5:27

Galatians 1:1-2



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1 Timothy 5:17-18



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How was it all sorted out?

- **The New Testament books were written in the first century.**
- **They were then copied and shared among the churches.**
- **They were recognized by brethren as Scripture.**
- **Many debates took place among the brethren about what was and wasn't Scripture.**



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- **As early as the mid-second century, lists were being put together by Christians recognizing which materials were to be considered as Scripture.**



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How was it all sorted out?

- **These debates were a good thing!**
- **As early as the mid-second century, lists were being put together by Christians recognizing which materials were to be considered as Scripture.**
- **It didn't take long before all the lists started looking the same!**



Can We Trust the Canon?

Three Important Questions



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- **Who wrote the book?**



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- **Who wrote the book?**
- **Who was accepting the book?**



Can We Trust the Canon?

Three Important Questions

- **Who wrote the book?**
- **Who was accepting the book?**
- **What does the book teach?**



Can We Trust the Canon?

Take Home Points



Can We Trust the Canon?

Take Home Points

- **The critics are wrong!**



Can We Trust the Canon?

Take Home Points

- **The critics are wrong!**

**The canon was not
determined by men!**



Can We Trust the Canon?

Take Home Points

- **The critics are wrong!**
- **The early brethren took Scripture seriously!**



Can We Trust the Canon?

Take Home Points

- **The critics are wrong!**
- **The early brethren took Scripture seriously!**
- **We can trust our Bibles!**



PREPARED TO GIVE AN ANSWER

- Why are you a member of the church of Christ?
- To whom is the local church important?
- What is the church's responsibility?
- Can we trust the canon?
- How does God give instructions?
- What do we do when God is silent about an issue?
- When does a person reach the age of accountability?
- What happens when we die?

