

CHRISTIANITY



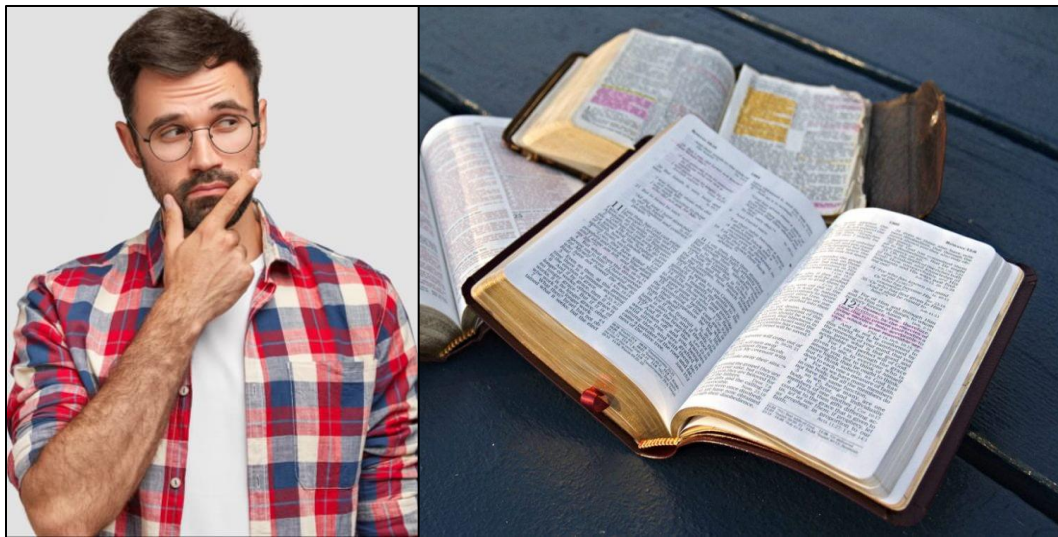
Understanding What Christians Believe

Mike Taylor

<https://www.taylornotes.info/abt>



PART 2: DO I HAVE THE RIGHT BIBLE?



The Canon of Scripture: The word "canon" means to _____

A. THE OLD TESTAMENT CANON

1. Authorship: The reputation of each book's human author.
2. Consistency: Doctrines and statements within a given manuscript that don't conflict with the clear teachings of established biblical writings.
3. Accuracy: Accurate historical recordings.
4. Prophetic utterances.
5. OT quotes by Jesus and apostles (e.g. Matthew, others).
6. Acceptance by the early church.

B. THE NEW TESTAMENT CANON

1. The test of divine inspiration. Did the writing claim to be inspired using phrases such as "Thus says the Lord..." or "The Lord spoke to..."
2. The test for authorship. Was the book written, edited, or endorsed by an accredited agent of God such as a prophet, the Lord Jesus Christ, or one of his apostles or someone who was close to an Apostle (e.g. Luke, Mark, Jude, James). If not, did the writer have the gift of prophecy (David, Daniel), or a close relation to a prophet that would raise his book to the level of their writings.
3. The test for consistency. Was there soundness and consistency with other canonized writings? Did the book agree doctrinally with the teachings of known canonical books?
4. The test for testimony. Was the book universally recognized by the Jews and/or by the early Christian church as being God's Word? Does the Holy Spirit bear witness to the regenerated reader that the book is His Word?
5. The test for fulfillment. Is there any evidence in history, or in the known canonical books, of the fulfillment to this book's promises or predictions?

C. REJECTED EARLY WRITINGS

1. _____

These are spurious writings whose authors are unknown. They include fifteen books written about 30-150 B.C. and contain a number of false teachings such as: the command to use magic (Tobit 6:5-7), the forgiveness of sins by almsgiving (Tobit 4:11; 12:9), and offering money for sins of the dead (2 Maccabees 12:43-45). These books include 1,2 Esdras, the Book of Tobit, the Book of Judith, the Book of Baruch, the Story of Bell and the Dragon, 1, 2 Maccabees, and others.

2. _____

These are 52 books which were written anywhere from 200 BC to AD 300. These include: 1, 2 Enoch, the Book of Abraham, the Book of Moses, the Testament of Solomon, and others

3. _____

The 16 Gnostic gospels, or so-called "Secret Gospels, are writings by early "Christian" Gnostics AD 100-300. These include the Gospel of Thomas, the Gospel of Philip, the Gospel of Mary, the Gospel of Judas, and others.

D. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT BIBLE IF...

...it has ___ books in the Old Testament and ___ books in the New Testament.

For an expanded version of these notes please go to:

<https://www.taylornotes.info/bible-studies>

