

GRANDVILLE BIBLE CHURCH

The Weekly Bible Study | Dr. Mark Congrove | mcongrove@mac.com

Where we've been

It's good to be with you again. Last time we met we talked through some basics surrounding the history of our English translations, the two basic approaches to translation, individual translation distinctiveness, and the basic criteria involved in producing a useful translation. We also spent some time examining the differences that result from varied translations and provided some insight into paraphrases.

Today we'll learn

Today we will take a brief excursion into the subject of the biblical canon, specifically the path toward the New Testament Canon and its relationship to the Old Testament Canon. This part of the Bible's history is yet another testimony to God's sovereign interest in revelation to his human creatures.

Your Homework

You receive no "coal" in your stocking from me. Have a Christ-filled Christmas

A Quick Primer on the Canon

Our understanding of the biblical Canon enhances our appreciation for the Brilliance of God's Revelation and his sovereign ability to bring it together in one place, seamlessly, and consistently over great periods of time; transforming the oral revelation from countless authors, over countless centuries, into the bound document we use daily. This is a supernatural work that we should not take for granted.

What qualifies a book for a place in the biblical canon of the Old or New Testament is not merely that the information is ancient, helpful, and valued by God's people, but that it exhibits God's authority for what it has to say.

While the finalizing of the canon takes place during the earliest years of the Church, it was evident early in Israel's history that certain writings were recognized as having divine authority and providing a "written rule for faith and practice" for all of God's people (See: Ex.24:7; 2 Kings 22-23; Neh.8:9, 14-17; 10:28-39; 13:11-3).

There is evidence (Josephus) to suggest that by the beginning of the Christian Era the identity of all the canonical books was well known and generally accepted (R.T Beckwith, The Origin of the Bible).

As we shall see, God in his wondrous grace, has superintended the authors of both testaments and provided the processes by which the writings were assembled into the finished product—the canon that we now call the Holy Bible. It is a testimony of God's attention to detail that Jesus would say, "The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you (John 14:26; 16:13). NASB. God has done it. MJC