

The Canon of Scripture

Introduction

- I. Canon Defined
 - A. Rule - Standard - Measure
 - B. A Set of Books, Fixed, Final, Closed
 - C. Authoritative List of what Books are intended by God to function as the only Infallible Rule of the Church
- II. The Challenge(s) to Canon
 - A. What is Divine Revelation and Who gets to determine it?
 - B. How do we know that the Books we have are the correct ones?
- III. Three Main Lines of Attack
 - A. Date and Authorship
 - 1. When and by Whom
 - 2. Claims of Forgery
 - 3. How do we distinguish between authentic and false
 - B. Apocryphal Material
 - 1. What about "lost" or "forgotten" books
 - 2. Gospel of Thomas; Peter; Truth, etc. . . .
 - C. Walter Bauer (1877-1960)
 - 1. 1934 - Orthodoxy and Heresy in the Earliest Christianity
 - 2. 1971 - Printed in English
 - 3. Main Thesis
 - a) A variety of "Christianities"
 - b) All claiming to be Authentic - Original - Apostolic
 - c) Eventually one group prevailed, becomes the "winner"
 - d) The books belong to the "winners" end up becoming the Canon
- IV. Many Challenges to the Church / Canon
 - A. Gnosticism
 - B. Montanism
 - C. Monarchianism
 - 1. Dynamic
 - 2. Modalistic