

# **Evidence of Our Faith**

## **The Bible: Inspired by God**

**Text: 1 Corinthians 2**

### **What is the Canon?**

**“Canon” (Samaritan, “reed) was “a measuring stick,” “rule,” “standard.”**

**Canon of Bible is the list of inspired books which belong to Scripture.**

### **Basic Evidence:**

**Totally consistent**

**Written over a period of more than 1500 years**

**Written by more than forty different writers**

**No errors or inconsistencies; prophetic accuracy**

### **Misconceptions:**

**Canon developed slowly by religious leaders over long period of time.**

**Canon decided by Council of Trent in 1546.**

### **Old Testament:**

**Jews held inspired leaders and their writings sacred from time written.**

**Copies preserved very early (see Dead Sea Scrolls; fragments to 250 BC)**

### **New Testament:**

**Churches accepted epistles and gospels because came from apostles**

**(1 Thes. 2:13; 1 Cor. 14:37; 2 Pet. 3:15-16)**

**They were kept and read in churches (1 Thes. 5:27; Col. 4:1)**

**They were copied and circulated (Col. 4:16; 2 Thes. 2:15; 3:14-17; Rev. 1:4)**

**Books known uninspired were not copied and distributed.**

**List essentially established by 130 A.D.**

**“Church fathers” copied much of epistles and gospels in their letters.**

## **Evidence for the Old Testament (How do we know we have the right books?)**

**Evidence from authorship**

**Evidence from integration**

**Evidence from connecting links**

**Evidence from factual interrelationship**

**Evidence from corroboration**

**Evidence from acceptance**

## **Why we reject the Apocryphal books?**

**They do not meet the above tests**

**They appeared after God silenced prophecy (see Mal. 4:5-6)**

**They were not accepted by the Jews**

**They were not accepted by the Septuagent translators**

**Most of the writings were anonymous and did not claim inspiration**

**None were quoted in the New Testament**

**They all contain material which contradicts other Bible facts or teaching**

## **Evidence for the New Testament**

**Evidence from Apostolic connection**

**Evidence from internal claims of inspiration**

**Evidence from consistency in content**

**Evidence from acceptance**

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