

The Eternal Kingdom

Lesson #32

10/23/19

(Welcome everyone to class and discuss the topic at hand).

Have you ever wondered how we got the Bible? Before we get started in our book "The Eternal Kingdom", I want to recommend another book to you which is entitled "How We Got the Bible" by Neil R. Lightfoot (read the content page). Do yourself a favor and add this book to your library.

The Development of the Canon

- What the word “Canon” mean?
- **can·on**
- (kăn'ən)*n.***1.** An ecclesiastical law or code of laws established by a church council.
- **2.** A secular law, rule, or code of law.
- **3. a.** An established principle: the canons of polite society.
- **b.** A basis for judgment; a standard or criterion.
- **4.** The books of the Bible officially accepted as Holy Scripture.

(Read definition for canon).

Of course the one we are interested in is #4 (read it).

The 10K question is, how do we determine which books are accepted as the “Holy Scriptures” and which one do not? (Let’s begin reading pages 99-100).

The Source of Inspired Writings

- In the first two paragraphs, we established the fact that the apostles spoke by divine inspiration (Jn.14:26; 16:13; Gal.1:12). Why was it critical for this point to be established?
- Paul's message to the saints in Corinth in (1Cor.14:37) was impactful for what reason?
- What was the measure used to "test teachers" according to (1Jn.4:1)?
- What is the meaning of "the church did not give the world the Bible"?
- What is the difference between "canonical" and "apocryphal"?

Method of Distribution

- What does the method of distribution concerning “uninspired letters” tell us about how inspired letters were distributed e.g. what characters are listed to help us with this?
- We see passages in the Bible where the written word was to be revered and read to the church (1Ths.5:27; Col.4:15-16; Gal.6:10-11; 2Tim.4:9-13).

Early References to New Testament Letters

- In Clement's letters, he quotes from what he called "The Holy Witness". What was his meaning of this expression?
- Eusebius shares valuable information when quoting Papias (elder from Phrygia)
 - John Mark's relationship with Peter as interpreter and scribe.
 - Matthew wrote in Hebrew.
 - Matthew was written after Mark and John.
 - John had copies of Matthew, Mark, and Luke.
- Which book was often times disputed and why?

Tests Applied to Questioned Books

- What tests (questions) were given to determine if a book was genuinely authentic?
- What gave aid to answering the questions or tests i.e. how could the questions be answered?
- About what year were all 27 books recognized as authentic?

Apocrypha Books

- Which second century character was mentioned as establishing his own canon of scripture? Who did he accept and reject as authentic?
- According to Eusebius, what appeared different to him when basing his decision of the genuineness of a book?
- How did the apocryphal books do damage to the church?