

HOW WE GOT THE BIBLE

Dear Friend:

While preaching last week's sermon I mentioned the fact that a few of the books in the New Testament almost "didn't make the cut". For one reason or another the early church of the first 400 years A.D. was hesitant to accept Hebrews, James, 2 & 3 Peter, Jude, and Revelation. The author of Hebrews could not be identified, thus, making it the only New Testament book without a known author. James' emphasis on deeds was seen by some as contradictory to Paul. Revelation was so different from any other Biblical book it was doubted the day it started getting circulated among the churches. By 150 A.D. all 27 of our New Testament "books" were circulating among the churches. Several "books" were additionally circulated but they never raised to the standard needed to be included as a book in the Bible. Books to be included in the New Testament were discussed at Church Councils (meeting of Bishops and scholars) beginning in the 200's A.D. and continued in earnest until 397 A.D. In 397 A.D. at the Council of Carthage the church fathers adopted the 27 books of the New Testament we know today.

The Old Testament was signed, sealed, and delivered by 150 B..C. and the New Testament in 397 A.D. We can rest assured that the Bible we own is the Bible as God intended it to be. Qualifications to pass as an acceptable book for the Bible were (and continue to be) the most stringent ever. Have you heard of the "Lost Books of the Bible". If you have, ignore it. No books of the Bible have ever been lost. "Lost books" are books that never met the qualifications to be called as "inspired by God and without error". A couple of the lost books include: The Gospel of Thomas (a forgery written in the 3rd or 4th century A.D.) and the Gospel of Barnabas (written by an imposter). Two of the lies in Barnabas include: Jesus only appeared to be crucified and Jesus claimed that he was not the Son of God.\

The next time you read your Bible, thank God for His Word to us. It is inspired, inerrant, (without error) and every word of His Word is to be trusted.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

Prayer: Sue Sloan (liver transplant), Brett Smith (lung and balance problems), Maci (7 yr-old girl with cancer)

Events: Management Team Meeting - Monday June 12th 7:00 p.m.. Women's Ministry – Thursday, June 15th 6:00pm