

Another “Gospel” Series

3.7.23

Can we trust the Bible?

Sources:

“Biblical Doctrine” Macarthur & Mayhue

“Systematic Theology” Letham

gotquestions.org/content_Bible_canon.

Another Gospel by Alisa Childers

crossexamined.org/12-reasons-to-trust-the-new-testament

The Anvil

*Last eve I paused before a blacksmith's door
and heard the anvil ring the vesper chime.
And looking in, I saw old hammers on the floor,
Worn by the beating years of time.*

“How many anvils have you had,” said I,
“To wear and batter all these hammers so?”
“Just one,” said he, then with a twinkle in his eyes,
“The anvil wears the hammers out you know.”

And so I thought, the anvil of God's word,
For ages skeptic blows have beat upon.
Yet though the noise of falling blows was heard
The anvil is unharmed—the hammers gone!

Progressives believe...

Unreliable cause they contain errors

Need updated. Culture has changed

Rob bell

Regarding hell, Bell explained that he believes in hell because he sees it around him every day through the human suffering in the world. He further said that he sees no reason that hell will not be extended into eternity.

I. General Information regarding scripture

A. Bible 101

The word "Bible" comes from the word papyrus or byblos reed used for making scrolls and books.

The bible is a collection of books. 39 in old and 27 in new.

"Testaments" mean covenants/agreements.

40 writers who wrote the original manuscripts in Hebrew and Greek which took over 1500 years to write

B. Scripture claims authority because it is inspired

II Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

Inspired-God gave human writers precise words to write.

Inerrant-without error

Infallible-true and reliable

II. How did we get our Bible?

A. Preservation

The process (the doctrine of) by which God preserved all his writings for his people from generation to generation and through varied translations.

God said his word would be preserved in heaven

Psalm 119:89 Your eternal word, O LORD, stands firm in heaven., **160** The very essence of your words is truth; all your just regulations will stand forever

B. The process of preservation

1. Canonicity

a. The canon

“Canon” is a word that comes from Greek and Hebrew words that literally means a measuring rod. So canonicity describes the standard that books had to meet to be recognized as scripture.” Geisler & Nix

b. How do we know what 66 books belong in the Bible?

Early church councils said these 3 things had to happen

--Written by a prophet, apostle or someone associated with one.

--The scripture could not contradict or disagree with previous scripture

--The church had to convey a general consensus that the writing was an inspired book.

Many books did not make the cut such as the Apocrypha. 14 books in Catholic bible.

c. 3 historical periods in New Testament canon

--Circulation period

Believers began to read Apostles letter along side the OT

I Thessalonians 5:27 command you in the name of the Lord to read this letter to all the brothers and sisters.

--Collection period

Churches in addition to reading individual letters were collecting copies of all the letters.

--Recognition period

Early church councils agreed on content of the Bible

D. Is the canon closed? Absolutely yes!

Revelation 22:18-19 And I solemnly declare to everyone who hears the words of prophecy written in this book: If anyone adds anything to what is written here, God will add to that person the plagues described in this book. ¹⁹ And if anyone removes any of the words from this book of prophecy, God will remove that person's share in the tree of life and in the holy city that are described in this book.

2. Textual criticism

a. Textual criticism is defined as careful examination of the existing ancient copies of scriptures.

b. Textual criticism is a must for translations.

Close:

“A little bit of knowledge will make you an atheist, but a lot of knowledge will make you a Christian.” Alisa Childers