

## FELLOWSHIP NOTES ~ August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020



### Part 5: "Is the Canon of Scripture Closed? Is God Still Giving Inspired Revelation Today?" Revelation 22:18-19

#### FOR YOUR PERSONAL GROWTH

**"How to Get the Most Out of God's Word" Zoom Class:** This Wednesday – 6:30 p.m. (Sign up on your Connection Card or email: [rjones@fellowshipnorwalk.org](mailto:rjones@fellowshipnorwalk.org))

#### Available in the Tower at the Welcome Center

*You Can Trust the Bible* booklet

*Bible Bookcase* Packet

"How to Get the Most Out of God's Word" Zoom Class Notes – Parts 1 & 2

#### Available at Right Now Media (FREE Subscription at [www.fellowshipnorwalk.org](http://www.fellowshipnorwalk.org))

*The Bible Unearthed*™ - This 12-part series explores the history, importance and impact of archaeology and how discoveries help us better understand the ancient world. The team teaches from an interactive studio filled with artifacts, models, slides and gizmos. Entertaining and educational, *Bible Unearthed*™ is a great apologetics resource for the entire family.

#### The Process of How the Bible Came to Be

1. The term used for God communicating to us is *revelation* (Hebrews 1:1; Galatians 1:12)
2. The term used for the process of the authors writing down the thoughts of God into words – which we call The Bible – is *inspiration* (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21).
3. The terms used for the accuracy of the Bible are: *Inerrant* and *Infallible*
4. The term used for the demand of the Bible to call us to faith and obedience to it and to God is authority.
5. The term used for determining which books were included in the Bible is *canon* or canonicity (a rule or standard; a measure).



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The video as well as a printable manuscript of the message and this handout are available online.

## **Why Are the Books of the Apocrypha Not in Our Bible? Because...**

1. They were written in the time between the Old and New Testaments (400 B.C. – the first century) – a time called the “The 400 Silent Years” - when there were no prophets speaking for God. They are therefore not considered “inspired” Scripture.
2. The Jews respected these books but didn’t accept them as Scripture for the reason above, thus they are not in the Jewish Old Testament.
3. The early church fathers (those who came immediately after the apostles who were God’s recognized messengers) didn’t accept them.
4. The New Testament quotes hundreds of times from the Old Testament, but nowhere quotes or alludes to any of the Apocryphal books.
5. The Apocryphal books contain no claim to be divine Scripture and they contain historical errors, contradictions, and false teaching contrary to the rest of the canon of Scripture including:
  - Prayers for the dead
  - Petitioning “saints” in heaven for their prayers (e.g. Mary)
  - Worshiping angels
  - “Alms giving” atoning for sins (salvation by good works not by faith)

## **Is the Canon of Scripture Closed? Is God Still Giving Inspired Revelation Today?**

1. When the Apostle John, the last living Apostle, recorded The Revelation in writing at the end of the first century, his death soon afterward ended the Apostolic era. No other authorized prophets or apostles with Old or New Testament credentials have since arisen, meaning God has ceased giving inspired revelation.
2. There are 4 warnings in the Bible about tampering with Scripture (Deut. 4:2; Deut. 12:32; Prov. 30:5-6), only this final one in Revelation 22 contains warnings of severe divine judgment for disobedience, strongly suggesting that Revelation was the last book of the canon and that the Bible is complete forever.
3. Church history shows that the early church, those believers closest in time to the apostles who walked with Jesus and saw him before and after His death and resurrection, believed that Revelation concluded God’s inspired writings.