

Message: "Do We Have the Right Books?"

**Big idea:** The God who gave us his Word (revealed and inspired) is the God who providentially guided its collection and preservation.

**I. Review - The Bible is extraordinary**

- A. The Bible is a LIBRARY of books – 66 to be exact – revealed and inspired by God**
- B. The Bible was written by 40 different human authors over a period of some 1500+ years in 3 different LANGUAGES on 3 different CONTINENTS**
- C. The Bible tells one CONSISTENT story – God’s rescue of humanity by sending his Son Jesus to die for our sins**

**II. It’s all about the canon or how the Bible came to be**

**A. What EXACTLY are we talking about?**

**1. A statement of CLARITY first...**

- **Wrong WORDS...it’s not about CHOOSING, it’s about RECOGNIZING**
- **Wrong IDEAS...it wasn’t the CHURCH who gave us the canon, it was the CANON who gave us the church**
  - **This is a major point of difference between the RC Church and the PROTESTANT Church**

**2. The matter of the CANON second...**

- **The MEANING of canon**
- **The NEED for the canon**

## **B. The Old Testament canon**

### **1. The books that were readily RECOGNIZED**

### **2. The books that were QUESTIONED**

### **3. What about the APOCRYPHA?**

- They were never part of the HEBREW Scriptures
- They make no CLAIM to being inspired, in fact they contain ERRORS
- They are never QUOTED in the New Testament
- Even the RCC made a DISTINCTION between the Apocrypha and the Old Testament prior to the Reformation
- Jesus IMPLIES the close of the Old Testament Scriptures

## **C. The New Testament canon**

### **1. The books that were readily RECOGNIZED**

### **2. The books that were QUESTIONED**

### **3. The books that were REJECTED or LOST?**

**III. What we take away... Sola Scriptura – the Scriptures alone are all we need for faith and practice. God’s Word is sufficient**