

## The Bible (Part 1)

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105*

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

*For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Hebrews 4:12*

*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. James 1:22*

*How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. Psalm 119:9*

*(Deuteronomy 8:3, Psalm 18:30, Psalm 119:114, 160, Proverbs 30:5, Isaiah 40:8, Isaiah 55:11, Ezekiel 12:28, Matthew 7:24, Matthew 24:35, James 1:21, 1 Peter 1:23)*

The Five Solas:

*Sola Scriptura* (“Scripture alone”): The Bible alone is our highest authority.

*Sola Fide* (“faith alone”): We are saved through faith alone in Jesus Christ.

*Sola Gratia* (“grace alone”): We are saved by the grace of God alone.

*Solus Christus* (“Christ alone”): Jesus Christ alone is our Lord, Savior, and King.

*Soli Deo Gloria* (“to the glory of God alone”): We live for the glory of God alone.

We believe the Bible is our highest authority.

So why have we placed such confidence and hope in this particular book, or maybe more accurately, in these 66 books and letters that together form the Bible?

The 66 books of the Bible comprise what we refer to as “the canon of sacred scripture.” The word canon means “measuring rod, standard or norm.”

## Old Testament

The earliest collection of God’s very words were the 10 Commandments. (Exodus 31:18, 32:16)

The writings grew as Moses wrote instructions to be placed beside the Ark of the Covenant. (Exodus 17:14, 24:4, 34:27; Deuteronomy 31:24-26)

Joshua would be called upon as well. (Joshua 24:26)

Later others would contribute to this work including; Priests, Kings and Prophets of God.

These writings concluded approximately 435 BC.

What is the evidence for these 39 books being included as the Old Testament Canon?

1. Jesus
2. These are the books that were accepted by the Jewish people.

What about the Apocrypha?

These books were originally included in the Latin Vulgate translation in early 400 AD by Jerome, but were not to be considered canon.

It was not until the Council of Trent in 1546 that the Roman Catholic Church officially accepted the apocrypha as a part of Old Testament Canon.

The apocrypha are not considered as part of the protestant canon of scripture for 3 reasons:

1. They were not regarded as God's Word by the Jewish people.
2. They were not considered scripture by Jesus or the New Testament writers.
3. They contain teaching that is inconsistent with scripture.

## **New Testament**

What is the evidence for these 27 books being included as the New Testament Canon?

1. The faithfulness of God (Deuteronomy 32:46-47; Isaiah 55:11; Matthew 4:4)
2. Written by:
  - a. The Apostles (John 14:26, 16:13-14; 1 Corinthians 2:13, 14:37; 2 Corinthians; 2 Peter 3:2)
  - b. Endorsed by an Apostle

Paul (Luke, Acts)

Peter (Mark)

James (Jude)

3. Considered authoritative by the early church
4. History:

Over 1,600 years following the original canon created at the Council of Carthage in 397 AD there are no legitimate candidates for addition to scripture and there are no compelling arguments to remove any book from the current canon.

**God's Word ... His revelation to us is complete!**