

Proposition: God's Word is His revealed, written, and complete revelation.

II. Under the name of Holy Scripture, or the Word of God written, are now contained all the books of the Old and New Testament, which are these:

Of the Old Testament:

Genesis	Ecclesiastes
Exodus	The Song of
Leviticus	Songs
Numbers	Isaiah
Deuteronomy	Jeremiah
Joshua	Lamentations
Judges	Ezekiel
Ruth	Daniel
I Samuel	Hosea
II Samuel	Joel
I Kings	Amos
II Kings	Obadiah
I Chronicles	Jonah
II Chronicles	Micah
Ezra	Nahum
Nehemiah	Habakkuk
Esther	Zephaniah
Job	Haggai
Psalms	Zechariah
Proverbs	Malachi

Of the New Testament:

<i>The Gospels according to</i>	The Epistle to the Hebrews
Matthew	The Epistle of James
Mark	
Luke	<i>The Epistles of Peter</i>
John	I Peter
The Acts of the Apostles	II Peter
<i>Paul's Epistles to</i>	<i>The Epistles of John</i>
Romans	I John
I Corinthians	II John
II Corinthians	III John
Galatians	
Ephesians	The Epistle of Jude
Philippians	
Colossians	The Revelation of John
I Thessalonians	
II Thessalonians	
I Timothy	
II Timothy	
Titus	
Philemon	

All which are given by inspiration of God to be the rule of faith and life.⁷

⁷ Luke 16:29 *Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. 31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.*

Ephesians 2:20 *And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.*
 Revelation 22:18 *For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.*

2 Timothy 3:16 *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*

Luke 24:44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning Me.

III. The books commonly called Apocrypha, not being of divine inspiration, are no part of the canon of the Scripture, and therefore are of no authority in the Church of God, nor to be any otherwise approved, or made use of, than other human writings.⁸

⁸ *Luke 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself.*

44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

Romans 3:2 Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.

2 Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

The Law:

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

The Prophets:

The Major Prophets:

Joshua
Judges
Samuel (I & II)
Kings (I & II)
Isaiah
Jeremiah
Ezekiel

The Minor Prophets:

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

The Writings:

Psalms
Proverbs
Job
Song of Songs
Ruth
Lamentations
Ecclesiastes
Esther
Daniel
Ezra-Nehemiah
Chronicles (I & II)

Internal evidence (only in part) for Canonicity-- *Canonical books or canonical scriptures, are those books of the scriptures which are admitted by the canons of the church, to be of divine origin. A Canon is a law, or rule of doctrine or discipline, enacted by a council and confirmed by the Sovereign, in other words the rule or gauge of the doctrine believed & taught.*

1. The Old Testament claims to be the very Word of God. 2 Samuel 23:2, yet there is a veil the New uncovers. 2 Corinthians 3:14
2. Jesus Christ & the New Testament writers readily accepted the Old Testament as the Word of God. Acts 4:24-25; Luke 1:68-70; Matthew 5:18; John 10:35.
3. Jesus promised His Apostles the Holy Spirit in order that they would write (by inspiration) the New Testament Scriptures. John 14:26; 15:26-27.
4. The Apostles later received the fulfillment of this promise—Acts 2:1-4. Thus they could say: 1 Thessalonians 4:8; 1 Corinthians 2:13.
5. The Apostles treated each other's writings as Scripture—2 Peter 3:15-16
6. The prophetic utterances and predictions of the Messiah; where he would come from... what the place of His birth would be... how He would die... why He would die... that He is a Prophet, Priest, and King, etc.
7. Contains information only God would know—Genesis 1-2 (how it began); Revelation 21-22 (how it ends).
8. The Bible never contradicts itself; its teaching is unified though sometimes hard to understand.

External (subordinate & less important) evidence of Canonicity:

1. The Church in all ages has recognized and acknowledged the Scriptures to be the Word of God. This cannot be a primary proof because the Church can and often has erred. Yet it is no small thing that even in the darkest times the Church acknowledged the Bible as Word of God.
2. The Bible has been the subject of God's special care—so much so that it has been preserved as no other writing on earth.
3. The Septuagint—2nd & 3rd centuries BC—No Apocrypha, Jews rejected.

Because of man's fallen condition in sin, God revealed Himself and His will in a historical process that resulted in a permanent inscripturated revelation. It is complete, contained in 66 canonical books. Inspiration is also evident because these books are as no other books or writings are.

How does this help today?

1. **The Bible (God's Special Revelation) comes with power:** A) To restore man to his lost place as an image-bearing likeness. *Ephesians 4:23-24; Romans 12:2; Colossians 3:10.* B) To conform, control, and sustain him in God's image-likeness for the duration of time—*to sanctify him. 2 Corinthians 3:18; Romans 8:29-30 the golden chain.*
In other words God saves—and He finishes what He starts—through His Spirit using His Word.
Philippians 1:6 ... *that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*
2. **The Word of God proves itself to be the inspired revelation of God without the testimony of any church or man.**
For this reason the whole Bible (OT & NT) should be read frequently by all Christians. It should be at the very center of the Church. Those who ignore Scripture are doomed to failures that damn—to stumble into greater and greater darkness. Those who embrace Scripture alone are never without a guide (*Psalm 73:24 With Thy counsel Thou wilt guide me, And afterward receive me to glory.*) or a light (*Psalm 119:105 Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.*) and they will find their way to their Father's home (*Jeremiah 29:13 'And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.*)
3. **The Bible is cohesive; it naturally proves non-canonical books to be false.**
The Bible's doctrine (teaching) is clear, complete, and finished. As God revealed throughout the ages He used miracles and wonders to prove the truth of what was revealed (Moses and the Exodus, Christ and the life, death, resurrection, ascension, and church). God's will is finished in accomplishment in time—*in deed*, and is finished in revelation—*in word*.

John 20:31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.