

REAL FOOD SHORT TALKS:
GLORY TO THE KING OF AGES - LESSONS FROM CHURCH HISTORY

SESSION 2: THE EMERGENCE OF THE CANON: WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

A crucial question

2 Tim 3:14-17

¹¹ The words of the wise are like goads, their collected sayings like firmly embedded nails--given by one Shepherd. ¹² Be warned, my son, of anything in addition to them. Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body. **Ecclesiastes 12:11-12**

⁷ They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.' ⁸ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men. **Mark 7:7-8**

¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." **Genesis 3:15**

"He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years." **Revelation 20:2**

False steps

"The church decided the canon"

"The Scriptures only have as much force as the fables of Aesop, if destitute of the authority of the church." **Stanislaus Hosius**



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"It was also determined that besides the Canonical Scriptures nothing be read in the Church under the title of divine Scriptures. The Canonical Scriptures are these..." **Proceedings of the Synod of Carthage 397**

"The canon is decided by certain criteria"

"It is a most assured result of biblical criticism that every one of the twenty-seven books which now constitute our New Testament is assuredly genuine and authentic." **B. B. Warfield**

The God who swears by himself

"When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no-one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself." **Hebrews 6:13**

"God alone is a fit witness of himself in his Word... Scripture is indeed self-authenticated." **John Calvin**

"My sheep hear my voice"

³ "The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognise a stranger's voice." **John 10:3-5**

"I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled"

From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. **Acts 17:26**



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“The foundation of the apostles and prophets”

We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognise the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood. **1 John 4:6**

¹⁸ I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. ¹⁹ And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. **Revelation 22:18-19**

Implications

1. Take a Christian approach to history
2. Take confidence in God's word

