

The Eternally Enduring Word

God has spoken to us; we have His Word.

The Word of God exists and is accessible to us today.

- Because of its nature
- Because of God's promise
- Through God's providence
- Through the process of time and history
- Authentic Authoritative

“The question of the source and rule of Christian knowledge lies at the foundation of all theology.” Philip Schaff, *History of the Christian Church*, 516

The recognized and accepted collection of books that are God's Word – “Canon”

The process of recognizing and affirming The Canon of Scripture

Old Testament

Exodus 24:3-7

Deut 31:24-26

2 Kings 22:8

Joshua 24:26-27

1 Kings 16:34

1 Samuel 10:25

Daniel 9:2

Judas Maccabeus

Dead Sea Scrolls

Jesus and Apostles

Matthew 19: 3-6

Matt 22: 28-32

Luke 24:44-47

New Testament

John 20:30-31

2 Peter 3:15-16

Rev. 2:2

Early church leaders

Clement of Rome – AD 30-100

Didache – late first-early second century

Polycarp – student of John

Justin Martyr – mid 2nd century

Tatian's *Diatessaron* – mid 2nd century

Irenaeus – late 2nd century

Tertullian –end of 2nd century
Clement of Alexandria – late 2nd century
Muratorian Cannon – list from late 2nd century
Origen – early 3rd century
Athanasius – AD 367

Councils

Council at Laodicea - AD 363
Council of Hippo - AD 393
Council of Carthage - AD 397

Later affirmations

Reformation
Confessions – 1643, 44, 1742, 1921, 23

Criteria

Authority – having the authorship of or close connection to a recognized prophet or leader in Israel (OT) or apostle (NT)
Acceptance – generally accepted by the early NT churches individually and collectively
Doctrine – clear and consistent declaration of God’s truth

Apocrypha

Books written at same time as OT books
Never considered inspired by Jesus, apostles
Not listed among authoritative writings in Qumran documents
Rejected by early church leaders
Helpful historical literature, not authoritative Word of God

“The most thorough investigations of modern times have not been able to unsettle the faith of the church in the New Testament, nor ever will.” Philip Schaff

My sheep hear my voice
John 10:27