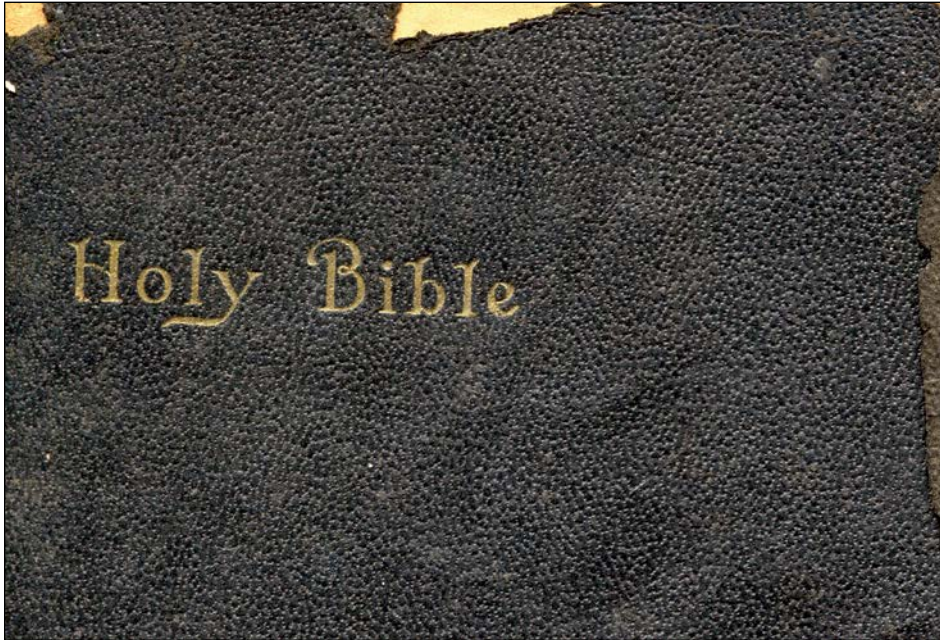


Falls Fellowship



How the Bible Came Together — Part 3

Turn to a Bible's table of contents and you'll see that each of the books was written by either a prophet or apostle (Ephesians 2:20) or by someone with a direct relationship to one.

Miracles were the means by which God confirmed the authority of his spokesmen. In Exodus 4, Moses was given miraculous powers to confirm his call. In 2 Corinthians 12:12, Paul teaches that the mark of an apostle is "signs, wonders and miracles."

Truth cannot contradict itself, so agreement with the other books of Scripture was only logical. As was historical accuracy. If the facts of a book were inaccurate, it

couldn't have been from God.

The inner witness of the Spirit was equally important. A key question these early Christians asked was, "When we read this, is there an inner sense from God that what is written is right and true?"

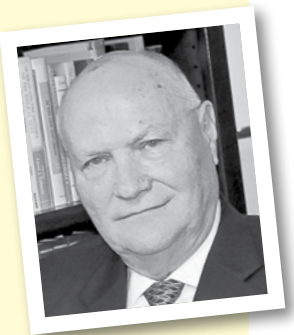
Initial acceptance by people to whom the work was addressed was crucial. What was the original audience's sense? Did they accept the book as an authoritative word from God? Daniel, who lived with in a few years of Jeremiah, called Jeremiah's book "Scripture" in Daniel 9:2. Paul called the Gospel of Luke "Scripture" in 1 Timothy

See Together on page 4

"Basic Christianity"

The most popular verse among people who read the Bible is John 3:16:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life."



That's the verse that led me to accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I suppose that is true for many Christians. The verse is in my library of verses that I often use when I am witnessing to someone about accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The verse sums up the whole Gospel. You cannot know Christ personally without accepting the profound truth of this verse: God loved us so much that he sent his Son, Jesus Christ, as our Savior. To embrace the truth of the verse is to embrace Christ as

See Basic on page 2



Christianity does not exist, I want to address three topics about Jesus Christ: His Life; His Death and His Resurrection. These three topics define Christianity, what it means to be a Christian, and what it means to live a Christian life.

What I want to say about these three topics is informed by my own study of Scripture and experiences as a Christian and a body of literature which has been written in an attempt to define Christianity. My belief system is just that: my belief system. But I have attempted to have my beliefs informed by other Christians and their interpretations of Christianity and their personal journey as a Christian. Such people as C.S. Lewis, Dale Moody and John R.W. Stott have influenced me. Lewis in his *Mere Christianity* helped me form filters through which I could sift my search for the meaning of Christianity. Stott outlined the basics of Christianity for me in such works as *Basic Christianity*, obviously I lifted the title of my series from him, and Moody gave me personal inspiration and intellectual challenge through such works of his as the *Hope of Glory*. Obviously, I have been influenced in my search to understand Christianity by many others — teachers, missionaries, preachers and friends. Regardless of what direction my journey to understand Christianity has taken me, the three subjects I have already mentioned, “The Life of Jesus Christ”, “The Death of Jesus Christ” and “The Resurrection of Jesus Christ” come up.

One last word about the series, my words are not the definitive word about Christianity. They are just that — my words. I welcome dialogue in which your thoughts about “Basic Christianity” may inform me.

— Tom Jenkins

Basic cont’ ...

Lord and Savior. To embrace Christ as Lord and Savior is to become a Christian. What else is involved in Christianity? Is there more for us to embrace than John 3:16? Is being a Christian a static or a dynamic state of reality?

To answer these questions and others, I will address the subject “Basic Christianity” at our morning worship services for the next three Sundays. Since Jesus is synonymous with Christianity, without him

August Birthdays

- 2 Mary Young
- 7 Trey Davis
- 12 Sharon Young
- 13 Sunny Hammons
- 18 Sandra Leonard
- 26 Sandra Ray
- 29 Kaleigh Young



Nominating Committee meeting

Our nominating committee is meeting and will be calling members to see if they are willing to serve on various committees during our upcoming 2021-2022 fiscal year.

When, not if, you are called, please give serious consideration to serving our church. We have ambitious plans to grow and spread God's word through our areas and we need everyone to help!



7. Boxes to receive tithes and offerings are placed at the doors so we do not have to handle offering plates.

Some members fall into the category of having underlying conditions which make them uncomfortable to be in groups. We understand they may not be willing to attend now. Hopefully, this pandemic will soon pass and we can truly get back to normal worship services. During the month of August Wednesday Bible study will be in the Fellowship Hall at 6 PM for super and continue on Zoom at 7 PM for those who can not attend in person. If you plan attending for super please sign the sheet each week in the vestibule.

— Linwood Barham

Worship Precautions During August

The church is taking several precautions to make attendance as safe as possible during this Covid-19 pandemic. Even though we are not aware of anyone in our congregation who has the virus, we are aware you could have the virus and be without symptoms. Therefore, we are requesting that all follow these guidelines:

1. If you are ill, please do not attend until all your symptoms have disappeared.
2. Maintain six-foot social distance except for family members living in the same household.
3. Use furnished hand sanitizer or wipes as you enter the church.
4. Pew Bibles and hymnals have been removed. Order of service and hymns will appear in your individual program bulletin.
5. Use your own face mask if you desire or disposal masks will be available for those wishing to use them.
6. Pews will be cleaned before and after each service.



Newsletter articles needed

We have had a newsletter each month for the past three years.

But, we need news and articles from all of our committees to let everyone know what you are doing and when you are doing it.

Communication is very important, so send your news and articles to Frank at fbpowell@mac.com

Thanks!

Deacons

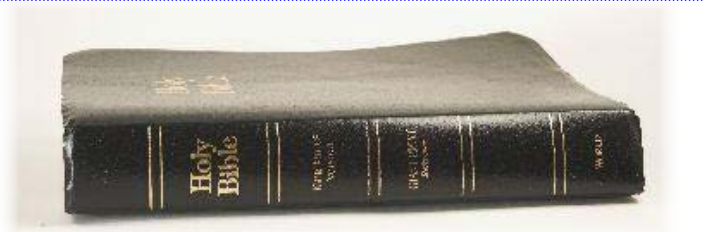
Linwood Barham, Chairman	919-418-1162
Frank Powell, Vice Chairman	919-604-1285
Kevin Barham, Secretary	919-618-4214
Hubert Jenks	919-270-8765
Alan Watkins	919-793-5548
Mike Harris	919-746-5697

Together cont' ...

5:18. Peter affirmed that Paul's letters were "Scripture" in 2 Peter 3:16.

The Muratorian Fragment. Even before Marcion and Montanus, the church was aware of these important criteria. In A.D. 96, Clement of Rome wrote, "The apostles were made evangelists to us by the Lord Christ; Jesus Christ was sent by God. Thus Christ is from God and the apostles from Christ. . . . The Church is built on them as a foundation" (1 Clement 42).

After Marcion and Montanus, lists of New Testament books begin to appear. One of the first was The Muratorian Fragment. It was discovered among the Vatican's sacred documents by historian Ludovico Antonio Muratori in 1740 and dates to about A.D. 190. The fragment is damaged. The portion we possess begins with "the third book of the Gospel is that according to Luke." We assume the first and second Gospels to be Matthew and Mark. The fragment lists John, Acts, all of Paul's letters, James, 1-2 John, Jude and the Revelation of John. It also includes the Revelation of Peter, the Wisdom of Solomon and ("to be used in private, but not public worship") the Shepherd of Hermas.



Eusebius. By the early third century only a handful of books we now call our New Testament were in question. In western regions of the empire, the book of Hebrews faced opposition, and in the east Revelation was unpopular. Eusebius, a church historian of the fourth century, records that James, 2 Peter, 2-3 John and Jude were the only books "spoken against" (though recognized by others).

Athanasius. In 367, Athanasius, the bishop of Alexandria, wrote an Easter letter which contained all twenty-seven books of our present New Testament. In 393 the Synod of Hippo affirmed our current New Testament, and in 397 the Council of Carthage published the same list.

Who Decided What Belongs in the Canon?

Theologians are careful to note the church didn't develop the canon; God did that by inspiring its writing and superintending each book's preservation. The church recognized the canon by experience and mutual agreement.

The End



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