

Can We Chat?



## The Bible - Part II

*"You don't know what you don't know"*

Pastor Craig Sweeney

**Topic:** The **Bible**

**Key Thought:** We can **trust** our **source**. (II Timothy 3:16-17)

**3 Goals we want for this message:**

1. We want to have **confidence** in our SOURCE.
  2. We want to know the **truth** and be set free. **John 8:31-32**
  3. We want to **connect** the last generation to the next by our living example.
- **Why were the New Testament books and letters originally written?**  
To be an **authoritative** witness of the **life** and teachings of Jesus.
  - **How was the New Testament compiled in its present form?**  
With **sober** judgment.
  - The Bible has **66** books are divided into two major sections –
    - The OT containing **39** books.
    - The NT contains **27** books.
  - Written over **1,500** year span with **40** authors, from three continents, **Asia**, **Africa** and **Europe** and in three languages: **Hebrew**, **Aramaic** and **Greek**.
  - The **basic message of the Bible** - The history of God **saving humanity** from itself.
  - of God **saving humanity** from itself.

## Five Criteria the Church Used to Compile the New Testament

1. Apostolicity – The church accepted only those letters and books that had the authority of the apostles behind them. Luke and Mark both had the apostolicity of Paul and Peter.
2. The rule of faith – An accumulation of apostolic teaching found within the churches they pastored.
3. Chronology – Only letters and books being from the period of the apostolic age (period of Jesus and his Apostles) would be accepted.
4. Catholicity universal – The letter or books had universal or wide-spread acceptance by the church as a whole.
  - a. One church demanding a certain letter be accepted, would not carry the day.
5. Self-evidencing quality – These letters and books did not become Scripture because a group of men said so; they were accepted into the Canon because they had already been recognized as inspired writings by the church in its practice.

### Takeaway 1

The reason the Bible is with us... God desires we know Him and be known by Him.

I Timothy 1:15 “Christ Jesus came into the world to save those far from God”

### Takeaway 2

The Bible is the history of our salvation.

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