

1 **The Canon of Scripture**

October 22, 2023

Jonathan Wheatley

2 **The New Testament Canon**

From Page 1 of An Admonition to the Christian Reader (1618):

As for the books of the New Testament, which are contained in the Bible, although some particular Doctors, though without reason, have doubted, whether the epistle to the Hebrews, the epistle of James, the second of Peter, the second and third of John, the epistle of Jude, and the Revelation of John, were to be held for Canonical or no: yet notwithstanding the Primitive Church generally have never doubted of it, neither are they in our time questioned, but are by all Christendom esteemed and held to be divine and Canonical books.

3

4 **Our New Testament Books**5 **The New Testament Canon**

1. Composed of books written by Apostles or received as of Divine authority in the apostolic age.
2. Composed of books standing on a plane of authority not shared by any other books.
3. Composed of books which bore evidence of their own origin.
4. Composed of books endorsed and approved by the universal Christian consciousness.
5. Composed of books concerning which the church was given spiritual discernment to enable her to discriminate the false from the true.

Elemental Theology, Pp.4-5.

6 **1. Composed of books written by Apostles or received as of Divine authority in the apostolic age.**

12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. 13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. 15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you. John 16:12-15

7 **1. Composed of books written by Apostles or received as of Divine authority in the apostolic age.**

15 And account *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; 16 As also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as *they do* also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. 2 Peter 3:15-16

8 **2. Composed of books standing on a plane of authority not shared by any other books.**

For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the

word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe. 1 Thessalonians 2:13

That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 2 Thessalonians 2:2

9 **3. Composed of books which bore evidence of their own origin.**

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus *our* brother, 2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Colossians 1:1-2

The salutation of *me* Paul with mine own hand. 1 Corinthians 16:21

The salutation of Paul with mine own hand, which is the token in every epistle: so I write. 2 Thessalonians 3:17

10 **Bibliography**

An admonition to the Christian Believer – Synod of Dort. 1618

Elemental Theology – Bancroft, E.H. Zondervan, NY. 1960.

The Bible, Its Nature and Inspiration - Grubb. Edward. The Swarthmore Press LTD. London. 1920.