

Systematic Theology: Bibliology

Revelation and Canon (Based on notes from Dr. K. Bauder and Dr. S. Wellum)

What does GCBC teach?

We teach that **the Bible is God's written revelation to man**, and thus **the sixty-six books of the Bible given to us by the Holy Spirit constitute the plenary (inspired equally in all parts) Word of God.**¹

We teach that the Word of God is an objective, propositional revelation,² verbally inspired in every word,³ absolutely inerrant in the original documents, infallible, and God-breathed. We teach the literal, grammatical-historical interpretation of Scripture which affirms the belief that the opening chapters of Genesis present creation in six literal days.⁴

We teach that the Bible constitutes the only infallible rule of faith and practice.⁵

We teach that God spoke in His written Word by a process of dual authorship. The Holy Spirit so superintended that human authors that, through their individual personalities and different styles of writing, they composed and recorded God's Word to man⁶ without error in the whole or in the part.⁷

We teach that, whereas there may be several applications of any given passage of Scripture, there is but one true interpretation. The meaning of Scripture is to be found as one diligently applies the literal grammatical-historical method of interpretation under the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit.⁸ It is the responsibility of believers to ascertain carefully the true intent and meaning of Scripture, recognizing that proper application is binding on all generations. Yet the truth of Scripture stands in judgment of men; never do men stand in judgment of it.

Revelation

What are we talking about?

General Revelation: 'General' or 'natural' revelation is that _____ of God, the _____ of God's being and will which is given to _____ people everywhere, at _____ times, through the _____ experience of being alive in God's world.

Special Revelation: God making himself _____ through the imparting of truth by particular _____ and _____, especially in the _____ of the _____ (=Scripture) and the _____ of the _____ (=Jesus Christ).

¹1 Corinthians 2:7-14; 2 Peter 1:20-21

²1 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Corinthians 2:13

³2 Timothy 3:16

⁴Genesis 1:31; Exodus 31:17

⁵Matthew 5:18; 24:35; John 10:35; 16:12-13; 17:17; 1 Corinthians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20-21

⁶2 Peter 1:20-21

⁷Matthew 5:18; 2 Timothy 3:16

⁸John 7:17; 16:12-15; 1 Corinthians 2:7-15; 1 John 2:20

What has the Church throughout history taught?

1. Thomism

2. Reformation.

What does the *Bible* say?

General Revelation

Psalm 19:1-4, Acts 14:14-18, Acts 17:22-28, Romans 1:18-32.

Special Revelation

The Bible is replete with examples of God revealing Himself. He reveals Himself in three ways: through _____, through _____, and through a _____. Hebrews 1:1-2

What does this mean?

What do people know about God from general revelation?

- God is _____ (Acts 17:26; Rom 1:20).
- God is the _____ (Acts 17:25).
- God is _____ and _____ (Rom 1:20; Acts 17:25).
- God is _____ and _____ (Rom 1:20).
- God, although distinct from the _____, is _____ in it (Acts 17:24, 26-27).
- God _____ all things (Acts 17:24-28; 14:15-16).
- God is _____, the ultimate source of _____, and he is worthy of our _____ (Rom 1:32). Idolaters exchange the truth of God for a lie (Acts 14:15; 17:23; Rom 1:25) which results in God's wrath (Rom 1:18).

What about special revelation?

1. Revelation does not tell us _____ that God knows.
2. REVELATION DOES NOT = _____.
 - a. Parts of the written Word did not come as the result of revelation.
 - i. 2 Chron. 12:15
 - ii. Luke 1:1-4
 - b. Not all revelation was written down. Acts 21:8-11

How does this doctrine relate to the Gospel?

General Revelation:

General revelation renders human beings _____.

Special Revelation

1. *God's redemptive acts are _____*
2. *But God's redemptive acts are never left to _____ for _____ – God's revelatory word _____ God's redemptive acts.*
3. *God's revelatory word (= _____) is itself a redemptive act.*

What difference does it make?

Key Issue: Is general revelation *sufficient* for salvation?

Key Issue: Is special revelation continuing to this day?

Key Issue: Had God not revealed Himself and truth to us, we would be without hope.

Canon

What are we talking about?

The canon is the _____ of those _____ which come from God and are therefore _____ for faith and practice.

The writings of Scripture are not _____ because they are _____; they are _____ if and only if they are _____. You could have something that was inspired that is not in the canon.

For Rome, canonicity is a matter of elevating something to the canon. For us, it is merely a matter of _____ what is already in the canon.

What has the Church throughout history taught?

Irenaeus

What does the *Bible* say?

Luke 24:44

2 Peter 3:15-16

What does this mean?

The basis of Canonicity.

- A. God has _____.
- B. We must distinguish between the _____ of the _____ and the _____ of that _____ by humans. The authority does not come from the _____, but from _____. *They are* _____ - _____.
- C. The recognition of canonicity is a matter of _____. We recognize certain books as authoritative only because God enables us to do that. (Now there are reasons as well. Will discuss further.) The books were written over time, recognized as authoritative, guarded, kept, and circulated within the believing community. There is an element of faith that enters into this.

The Old Testament Canon

The Apocrypha.

- A. Not recognized as canonical by the Jewish people for three reasons:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
- B. The approach of the Church

The New Testament Canon

The writers of the NT held that their writings were both _____ and a part of _____.

- A. Paul's opinion of his own writing: I Cor. 14:37; I Thess. 4:2
- B. The _____ to continue in what was taught. (2 Thess. 2:15)
- C. Obedience to these writings was made a test of _____. (2 Thess. 3:14)
- D. The NT writers equated their writings with Scripture. 2 Peter 3:15-16, I Tim. 5:18 (Cites Matt 10:10 alongside Deut 25:4 as both scripture)

Early Church Canonical Recognition

- A. _____.
- B. The _____ of _____.
- C. Widespread and continuous _____ by the _____.

What difference does it make?

How should we respond?