

The Formation and Basis of the New Testament Canon

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Week 4

4. Sufficient Grounds: The NT's Self-Attestation and Our Full Assurance
 - a. Definitions
 - b. Scriptural self-testimony
 - i. Preliminary comments: The nature of the evidence
 - ii. The cumulative weight of several lines of teaching
 - (a) NT view of the OT Scriptures as canon
 - (i) Specific documents
 - (ii) Unique in their nature: Of divine, not human origin
 - (iii) Authoritative: quotations on nearly every page
 - (iv) Fixed: not to be added to or altered
 - (b) NT view of the emerging new covenant revelation in general
 - (i) The redemptive historical moment
 - (ii) New revelatory ministry in general
 - α . Specific, unique, authoritative body of revelation from Christ, the apostles, *and* others

β. Limited in scope, both Christologically and chronologically

γ. Need for discernment in the church to recognize what is said for what it is

d. Summary

(iii) Extension to new, revelatory *documents*

α. Documents from God: not of human decision

β. Universally authoritative in the church

γ. Whose uniqueness & integrity is vouched for; not to be added to or altered

δ. Help provide written confirmation and, thus, certainty about the content of the new revelation, even in the apostles' absence.

ε. Sometimes referred to directly as "Scripture," on par with the OT

iii. Conclusions

(a) All the conceptual apparatus regarding "canon" clearly testified to within the NT about itself.

(b) The church's reflection after the fact