

We have seen that our only warrant for being sure that we have the correct books in our Old Testament is the fact that Jesus Christ set the seal of His approval upon it. We have no other way of testing these books. A marvelous process took place. There was unanimity by the people of God within a few centuries after the last book was written. Jesus approved the conclusion and thereby gave recognition to the fact that this unanimity had been produced by the providential leading of the Holy Spirit. Exactly the same process took place as regards the New Testament. Jesus authenticated the New Testament in advance. He thereby authenticated the same process if one should occur, as it did. The only conclusion possible is that Jesus authenticated this process, and that we can rest secure that its results are correct.

The fact that the Roman Catholic Church, since the sixteenth century, considers the Old Testament to contain seven books which Protestants reject, does not affect this conclusion. The people of God to whom the Old Testament was given were Jews. At the time of Christ all groups of Jews agreed on the contents of the Old Testament. The New Testament was given to the Christians, who took over the Old Testament from the Jews. Among the Christians unanimity regarding the books of the New Testament came into being within a few centuries, and has continued ever since.

11. As a result of this authentication by the Lord Jesus Christ, we can be sure that our Bible contains those books, and only those books, that God intended it to contain.

Every Christian has the right and duty of private interpretation as to the meaning of the Scripture. Its great outstanding teachings are so clear that a way-faring man, though a fool, need not err therein. On lesser points each one must study up to the limit of his knowledge and ability, see what is clearly taught in the Scripture, and stand upon it. This is God's will for the Christian.