



# DIVING DEEPER INTO THE BIBLE

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## PART 2: IS MY BIBLE THE ONLY BIBLE?

Just like money can be counterfeited, the Bible, which is God's Word, can also be counterfeited. In ancient times and even today, there are religions using "Bibles" (sources of authority) that are not from God. So, what are these counterfeit Bibles and how can I be sure I have the only Bible from God?

### WHAT OTHER "BIBLES" (SOURCES OF AUTHORITY) ARE THERE?

Examples of ancient writings which existed during the early church period include Apocryphal books, Pseudepigrapha books, Gnostic Gospels, Hindu Vedas, Qur'an, and the Jewish Talmud.

Examples of contemporary sources of authority include the King James Bible-Mormon version, New World Translation (Jehovah's Witnesses), Key to Health & Scriptures (Christian Science), and Bibles containing apocryphal books (e.g., New Jerusalem Bible, NSRV Catholic Bible).

### HOW CAN I KNOW WHICH "BIBLE" IS TRULY FROM GOD?

In order to know which writings were inspired by God, and which were not, the early Christian church had to have a standard against which each writing could be tested. This standard is known as the canon of Scripture.

### THE CANON OF SCRIPTURE

Canonicity refers to the church's recognition and acceptance of the books of Scripture as God's inspired Word. The term itself comes from the Greek word *kanōn* which originally meant a "reed" or a "rod." Since a rod was frequently used as a measuring stick the word began to convey the idea of a standard or rule.

Criteria for scriptural canonicity:

- Authentic \_\_\_\_\_ authorship.

- Consistent \_\_\_\_\_ with existing Scripture.
- Universal \_\_\_\_\_ by the early Christian church.
- The canon is \_\_\_\_\_. Nothing is to be added to the Bible or taken away from it.

## KEY POINT



- A Geiger counter detects radioactive material, it does *not* make the material radioactive.
- Likewise, the canon of scripture \_\_\_\_\_ inspired writings, it did *not* \_\_\_\_\_ the writings inspired.

## IS MY BIBLE THE ONLY BIBLE?

- YES...because it is inspired “\_\_\_\_\_”
- YES...because \_\_\_\_\_ scripture is inspired.
- YES.....because \_\_\_\_\_ is inspired.
- Yes.....because it contains \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Bible is \_\_\_\_\_ in its original languages because it will not lead you astray in matters of faith and practice.

## THE BOTTOM LINE



- The only true Bible that is inspired by God, which was written by accredited authors, is the one containing \_\_\_\_\_ Old Testament books and \_\_\_\_\_ New Testament books that have met the canon of Scripture.

## DISCUSSION QUESTION

How would you tactfully reply to someone who said the Bible is unreliable because it has been changed down through the years? (cf. 2 Cor. 10:5; Col. 4:6).

