

The Academy for Christian Thought

Thinking Things Through *in a Theological Safe Space*

BL2 Who Chose the Books of the Bible?

Composition, Collection & Criteria

Date: September 20th, 2008

Time: 10.00am-11.30am with Free Breakfast@9.30am

Registration: \$20 online (www.actministry.org) or \$30 at the Door

Location: The American Bible Society, Broadway & 61st, New York, New York

Tutor: Rev. Ron Choong, ThM (Princeton), STM (Yale), Executive Director, ACT

How did the books of the Bible get to be 'canonized?' Who chose them and by what authority do we accept their choice? What were the tests conducted to assess the suitability of God's Word in human words? This is the story of how our Bible came to be.

Outline of Lecture 2

1. **When did the Bibles become our Bible?**
 - a. Old Testament (OT): AD 6th century
 - b. New Testament (NT): AD 4th-16th century
2. **Criteria of Canonicity:**
 - a. Ancient Criteria of Authoritative Canonicity
 - b. Modern Tests of Reliability
3. **Inerrancy & Inspiration or Trustworthiness & Authority?**
4. **The Early Church & the OT**
 - a. The Hebrew Scripture and Jesus
 - b. The Torah and Jesus
 - c. From Ritual to Spirit
5. **Jesus as the true Canon**
6. **Is the biblical canon *THE Word of God* or *A WORD* from God**
7. **How to Understand a Word from God in Words of Man**
8. **By whose authority were the books selected?**
 - a. Canonical Authorities
 - b. Authorities and Loyalties
9. **Conclusion**

*If thou seest a man of understanding, get thee betimes with him (Ben Sira, Eccles 6:36)
It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise than the praise of fools (Eccles. 7:5).*

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