

What is Scripture? (ask)

- MacArthur & Mayhue: "Scripture. Literally, 'writing'; the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments."
- Wayne Gruden: "Scripture: The writings (Greek *graphe* rendered in Latin by *scriptura*) of the Old and New Testaments, which have historically been recognized as God's words in written form. Another term for the Bible."
- Oxford: "Scripture: the sacred writings of Christianity contained in the Bible."
- The Bible's definition: 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21.
- Scripture is the _____ of _____ that are _____ in the _____, whose purpose is to transform individuals to be more like Christ.
- Therefore, all Scripture is _____ in some way to every _____ and _____.

How is Scripture different from the word of God?

- Scripture is more _____ because it only includes God's _____
- 1 Cor 5:9; 2 Cor 2:4; 7:8-9; Col 4:16 - Does anything stand out to you in these verses?

- The process of something becoming Scripture is layered

- The question is: At which point does God's word become Scripture?

- Who wrote the Torah?
 - Gen 11:31; Deut 34:5-8; Josh 24:26

- The point: not every word of God is _____ in _____, and _____ went through a _____ before it became the text we have today.

The Canon of Scripture

- What does canon mean?
 - A canon is a _____ of _____ considered _____

- What is the canon of Scripture?
- Why do we believe that only these 66 books are Scripture?

Old Testament Canon

- Matt 21:42; Luke 24:27, 44-45; Acts 17:11; 1 Tim 4:13
- The Protestant Bible vs. The Catholic and others'

New Testament Canon

- 2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Peter 3:15-16; Acts 11:16
- Church fathers quote the NT as Scripture
- We now recognize four criteria used for determining the New Testament canon
 - _____: The book needed to be written by an apostle or a close companion of an apostle.
 - _____: The content had to be consistent with the teachings of the apostles and not contradict other accepted books.
 - _____: The book needed to be used and accepted by many churches.
 - _____: Church leaders and councils played a role in confirming the authenticity and authority of the accepted books.

Conclusion on Canon & Scripture

- Scripture, by nature, is timeless in _____ (orthodoxy), _____ (orthopraxy), and _____ (orthopathy).
 - Therefore, all 66 books of the Bible in their entirety were written for us today just as much as they were for the original readers.
- We can be confident that our 66 books are Scripture, and are the totality thereof.