

NT1 Lesson 2

Perfection of the NT, the "Standard"

- a)* God does not lie, and therefore Scripture does not lie. (Titus 1:2)
- b) While Scripture is perfect and true, our interpretation may not be.
- God's thoughts are much loftier/higher than ours (Isa 55:9)
 - God has secrets that He has not revealed to anyone (Rom 16:25, Rev 10:7)
 - Sometimes we see truth through dirty or dim mirrors/windows (I Cor 13:12)
 - We are prone to resist God's truth because it forces us to repent (Heb 10:26-27)
 - We only know in part, not everything (I Cor 13:9)
 - Some parts are just hard to understand (2 Pet 3:15-17)
- c)* What if something appears contradictory in Scripture – what do we do?
- We should diligently dig deeper through all Scripture
 - Consult teachers/mentors that are filled with the HS (Heb 13:7-9, I Cor 12:8, Prov 13:20)
 - Let the Holy Spirit lead and guide you (I Cor 2:13)
 - Pray in Jesus' name, asking for wisdom/revelation (John 14:13-14, 16:23-24)
- Be content, patient, and at peace, waiting until we reach heaven to get the clear answer

Selection of the NT Books

- a) Canonization: process by which some books are included in the NT, and some were not. "Canon" means measuring rod.
- b) All NT books share the following:
- Written based on eyewitness testimony to the life, death, and resurrection of Christ (John 19:35)
 - Told the truth about God, and agreed with other Scriptures (2 Cor 11:1-6)
 - Accepted by God's people as truth (I Thess 2:13)
- c)* False doctrine does exist and is real, so take care and be prepared (2 Thess 2:2, 2 Cor 11:4)

Some debate did exist as to the placement/order of the books, but the 3rd Council of Carthage (397 AD) formally accepted the NT as we know it today, and confirmed the divine nature of Scripture. Of course, ultimately God the Holy Spirit determined what was/is canon.

Homework:

- a) complete your info sheet, and return (if you haven't already done so)
- b) What are some things (4-5) that would enable you to believe/trust something (could be a person, writing, speech, event, thing, etc.)?
- c) What do you think is the purpose of the NT, and how does God fulfill that purpose?