

Scripture: Theology, Text & Transmission

Class 12: Preservation & Textual Variants

Review

Last lesson we spent some time looking at the Apocrypha – books between the Old and New Testaments that we do not believe are Scripture, but that are worthy to be read and learned from. We will not look at NT-era books like this, other than to say you can find copies of “The Apostolic Fathers” quite easily, and these would be books written within 100 years of the New Testament that are also worthy to be read and learned from.

By this point in our study, we have established from Scripture’s teaching and from early church history that we can be confident in our belief that we have the right books in the Bible.

This week

This lesson focuses on the Bible’s preservation, and how we can be confident that we have the right words in the Bible. *How do we know the words or text in our Bibles are faithful copies of what was originally written? Do we have accurate copies of the originals?*

For sake of time, we will focus on the New Testament. The lesson will again be completely on a powerpoint, and it will be saved on the church website here: <https://www.theheightschurchmn.org/adult-sunday-school>

We will cover the following points:

1. The Preservation of Scripture
2. The Problem of Textual Variants
3. The Tools and Methods used in Discerning the Text.

A Look Ahead at Next Week

- We will wrap up our class and talk about Bible translation. What makes a Bible translation good? And how confident can we be that a translation is accurate and faithful to the preserved text of Scripture?

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