

The answer they give is that ~~a~~ apostolicity determines canonicity ~~if that is ~~xxxx~~ their answer) they will give the enemies of the faith such a tremendous advantage, I think we ought to know the truth -- the true situations.~~

The True Situation.

As to consistency. It seems to me that it is reasonable to think God would use a similar process in relation to the NT that he did with the OT. That does not necessarily prove He would, but it seems natural to think He would probably use a somewhat similar process.

But if he used an entirely different thing -- if He said apostolicity determines canonicity -- it puts us in the position where if we have to face the onslaught and say, Does this book belong in the NT or not? If apostolicity determines canonicity what apostle wrote Mark? What apostle wrote Luke? Acts? Romans? Galatians? Ephesians? Philippians? Colossians? What apostles wrote Hebrews? James? We would have to say, We have to study historical evidences to be sure an apostle wrote it.

There are not more than 1/5 of the NT ~~xxx~~ books that anybody even claims an apostle wrote. So then, when they say apostolicity determines canonicity, they say, Or was written under the direction of an apostle. Maybe Mark was written under the direction of Peter. We can't prove it was! Consequently some of us might say Mark belongs in the Bible. Some might say, It doesn't! It would seem quite likely Luke was written under direction of Paul. Not proven though. But when it comes to Hebrews, who wrote it? Half the scholars of the great Christian church have thought --- have been absolutely convinced Paul wrote Hebrews. Equally great scholars and Christians have been convinced Paul did not write ~~Hebrews~~ Hebrews.

As for me, I don't care a bit who wrote Hebrews. I don't care whether Paul wrote it or whether Barnabas wrote it, or whether somebody else wrote it. What I know is that God inspired it. It's part of God's Word and it's true regardless of who wrote it.

But if apostolicity determines canonicity, how can I know if Hebrews belongs in the Bible if I don't know who wrote it? You see the position I'm in then. Nearly half the NT is recognized by us as having been written by Paul. Now we say, by the Apostle Paul. But how do you know Paul was an apostle? Where do you find lists of apostles? Look in the Gospels. Jesus Christ called 12 men. He made them His Apostles. It doesn't mention Paul. Paul is not named in any of the Gospels as an apostle. The only place Paul is mentioned as being an apostle actually is in his own writings. Well not quite the only place because in the Book of Acts it says when the Apostles, Barnabas and Paul went . . . In what sense was Barnabas an apostle? He is not one of the 12. He is not recognized as an apostle in that sense. So it's quite clear in Acts in that place they are using "apostle" in a general sense, as a missionary; the ones going out. No one considers Barnabas to have been an apostle. That is put first -- Barnabas and Paul. So the references in Acts do not prove Paul was an apostle in that specific sense.