



MAKING SENSE OF THE BIBLE

Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.

Luke 1:1-4
NRSV

“The Reliability of the New Testament”

September 29, 2019

Was the New Testament created 350 years after Jesus’s death?

The earliest writings in the New Testament are the writings of _____, written around 50-60 A.D.

The Gospels were written later, around _____ A.D.

During the late 1st and early 2nd centuries, these writings began to be regarded as _____.

There were three primary criteria used to determine which writings were accepted:

1. _____: widespread use among the churches.
2. _____: connection to the original witnesses of Jesus’ life and resurrection.
3. _____: consistency with the teaching and preaching passed down from the apostles.

While the church did not formally establish the New Testament until the 4th century, it was _____ settled in the 1st and 2nd centuries.

Was the New Testament edited after it was written?

There are many textual _____ in New Testament manuscripts ranging from copying errors to stories that are added or omitted.

Some of these are troubling, none affects the _____ message of the New Testament.

Is the New Testament inconsistent?

The Gospel writers _____ about who was at the tomb at Jesus’ resurrection.

They agree on what was most important: the tomb was _____!

Why was the New Testament written?

The Gospels were written not as histories or biographies, but as accounts of the _____ of Jesus.

The reason Christianity exists is because Jesus _____ from the dead so that the world may have life in his name.

*The foundation of our faith is not a book, but a person: Jesus Christ.
#A2sermon*

Action Steps

1. Choose a Gospel and read it _____ until you finish it.
2. Choose to _____ the one to whom the New Testament points.