

27 BOOKS OF LIFE

TRUTH

Jesus prays to God the Father:

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. John 17:17 (ESV)

CRITICS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

- Devoted to demonstrating the New Testament is not true
- Dislike the idea the New Testament may have any authority

NEW TESTAMENT CRITICS SAY IT IS UNRELIABLE

MANY CRITICS' PERSPECTIVE

- The New Testament was written by people looking for attention
- The New Testament writers were liars pretending to be Apostles and trying to convince others of spiritual truth

CONSIDER THIS...

- Christians were not favored by the Jews, but persecuted
- Christians suffered persecution by Rome beginning with Emperor Nero until Emperor Constantine (64–321 ad)

TACITUS-*THE ANNALS* 116 AD

44.3. The originator of the name, Christ, was executed as a criminal by the procurator Pontius Pilate during the reign of Tiberius; and though repressed, this *destructive superstition* erupted again, not only through Judea, which was the origin of *this evil*, but also through the city of Rome, to which *all that is horrible and shameful* floods together and is celebrated.

Tacitus- *The Annals* 116 AD

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44.4. Therefore, first those were seized who admitted their faith, and then, using the information they provided, a vast multitude were convicted, not so much for the crime of burning the city, but for *hatred of the human race*. And perishing they were additionally made into sports: they were killed by dogs by having the hides of beasts attached to them, or they were nailed to crosses or set aflame, and, when the daylight passed away, they were used as nighttime lamps.

RELIABILITY

Critics say the New Testament and therefore Christianity is unreliable
People rarely choose to die for a lie. The people of the first century were convinced of the reliability of the information they had, and they were prepared to and many did die for it.

CRITICS SAY THE NEW TESTAMENT IS UNTRUE BECAUSE OF CIRCULAR REASONING

CIRCULAR REASONING

Interviewer: "Your resume looks impressive but I need another reference."

Bill: "Jill can give me a good reference."

Interviewer: "Good. But how do I know that Jill is trustworthy?"

Bill: "Certainly. I can vouch for her."

CIRCULAR REASONING ISSUE

Joe: "The New Testament is true."

Critic: "How do you know it is true?"

Joe: "It is true because it says it is."

Critic: "You can't use the New Testament to prove itself."

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CIRCULAR REASONING RESOLUTION

- The New Testament is made up of how many books?
- 27 individual writings which can support, explain, defend one another
- Circular reasoning does not apply to the New Testament or to the Bible as a whole which is made up of 66 books

THE NEW TESTAMENT IS REJECTED AS SCRIPTURE BY JEWS

JEWISH CRITICS OF THE NT SAY GOD STOPPED TALKING

- The Hebrew Bible is made up of our 39 books from Genesis to Malachi
- During the formation of the Hebrew Bible God spoke through His prophets and afterward it became the work of the teachers to explain what God said
- The New Testament writings which came 400 years after Malachi are not from God because God no longer spoke

JEWISH FOLLOWER OF CHRIST, PETER, SAYS SCRIPTURE WAS STILL BEING WRITTEN

¹⁵ And remember, the Lord's patience gives people time to be saved. This is what our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom God gave him— ¹⁶ speaking of these things in all of his letters. Some of his comments are hard to understand, and those who are ignorant and unstable have twisted his letters to mean something quite different, just as they do with other parts of Scripture. And this will result in their destruction.

2 Peter 3:15–16 (NLT)

THE NEW TESTAMENT IS VERIFIED NOT BY JUST WORDS BUT BY DOING WHAT IT SAYS

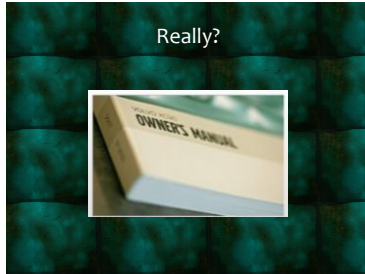
CRITICS RIP THE VALIDITY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT AT A DISTANCE

- Momma said, "You can't say you don't like it if you haven't even tried it."

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- The New Testament as the whole of Scripture is not just information to be analyzed it is an instruction manual to God and the life we were made to experience

REALLY?



LIFE GIVING

