

# Canonicity and the Greek New Testament

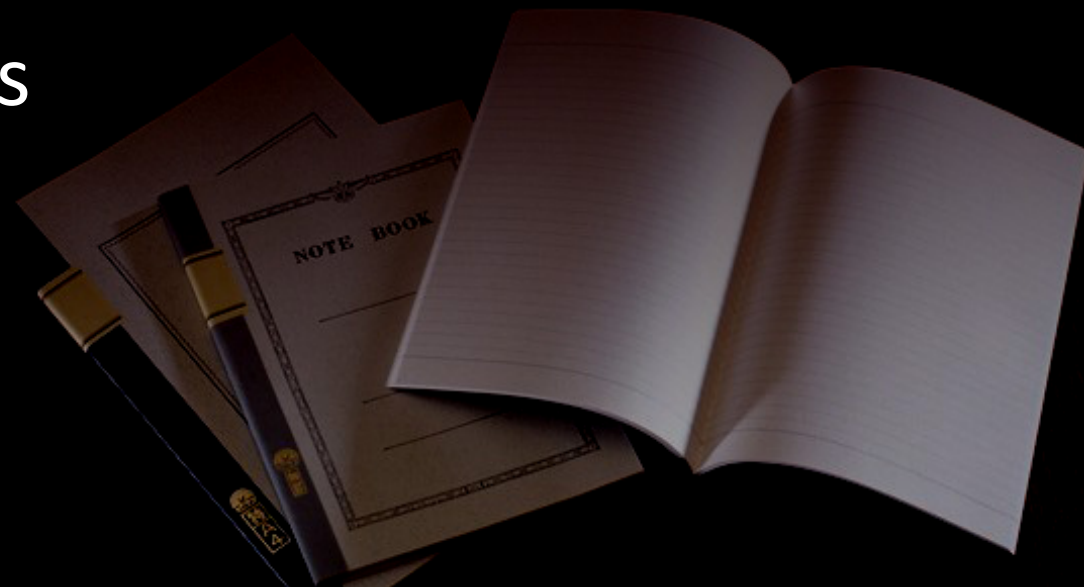
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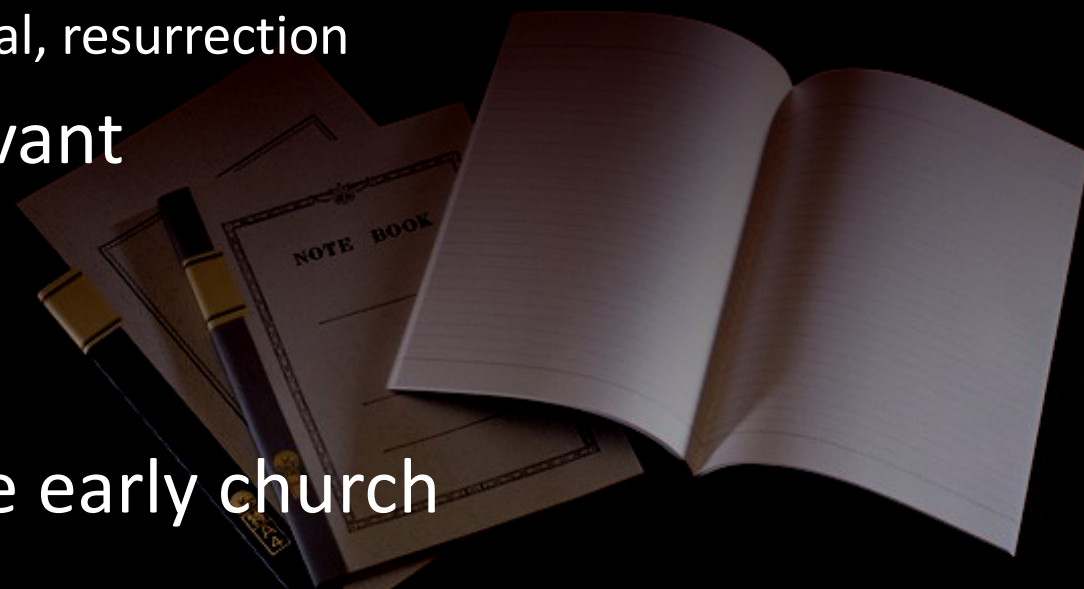
# Canonicity and the NT

- Overview of the NT
- Christ and the NT
- Apostles and the NT
- Apostolic Connections and the NT
- External Recognitions



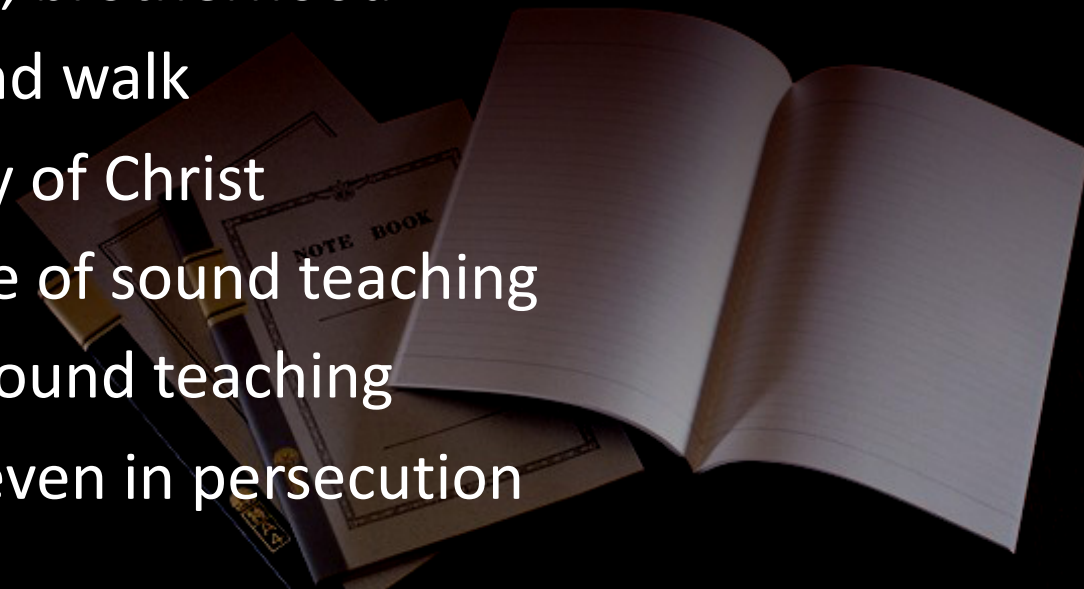
# Overview of the NT: Historical Books (5)

- Historical Books of the NT
- Matthew (45) – Jesus is king
  - Mt 4 – gospel of the kingdom
  - Mt 11 – John is the messenger, conditional Elijah
  - Mt 12 – Jesus rejected, predicts death, resurrection
  - Mt 13 – Jesus teaches in parables
  - Mt 16 – church announced
  - Mt 27-28 – Jesus' death, burial, resurrection
- Mark (50) – Jesus is servant
- Luke (60) – Jesus is man
- John (80) – Jesus is God
- Acts (63) – events of the early church



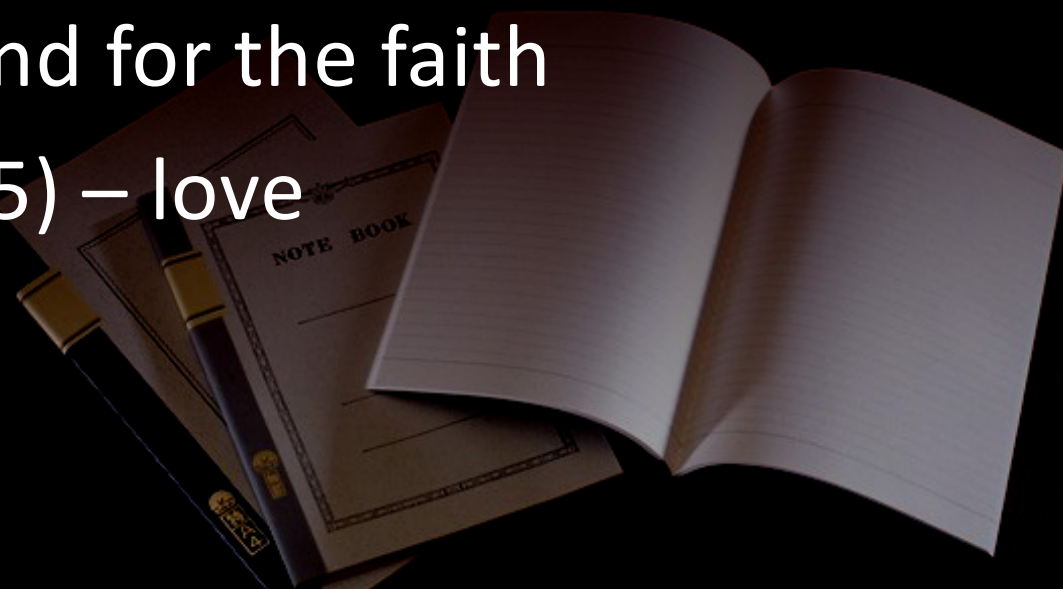
# Overview of the NT: Pauline Epistles (13)

- 1 and 2 Thessalonians (50-51) – future hope
- 1 and 2 Corinthians (54-55) – growth expected
- Galatians (56) – walk in grace, not law
- Romans (57) – the mercies of God and how believers should respond
- Philippians (61) – joy even in suffering
- Philemon (63) – forgiveness, brotherhood
- Ephesians (63) – position and walk
- Colossians (63) – supremacy of Christ
- 1 Timothy (65) – importance of sound teaching
- Titus (65) – importance of sound teaching
- 2 Timothy (67-68) – purity even in persecution



# Overview of the NT: General Epistles (8)

- James (48) – put faith into practice
- Hebrews (64-67) – supremacy of Christ
- 1 and 2 Peter (65-67) – joy, perseverance in suffering
- Jude (65-80) – contend for the faith
- 1,2, and 3 John (80-85) – love



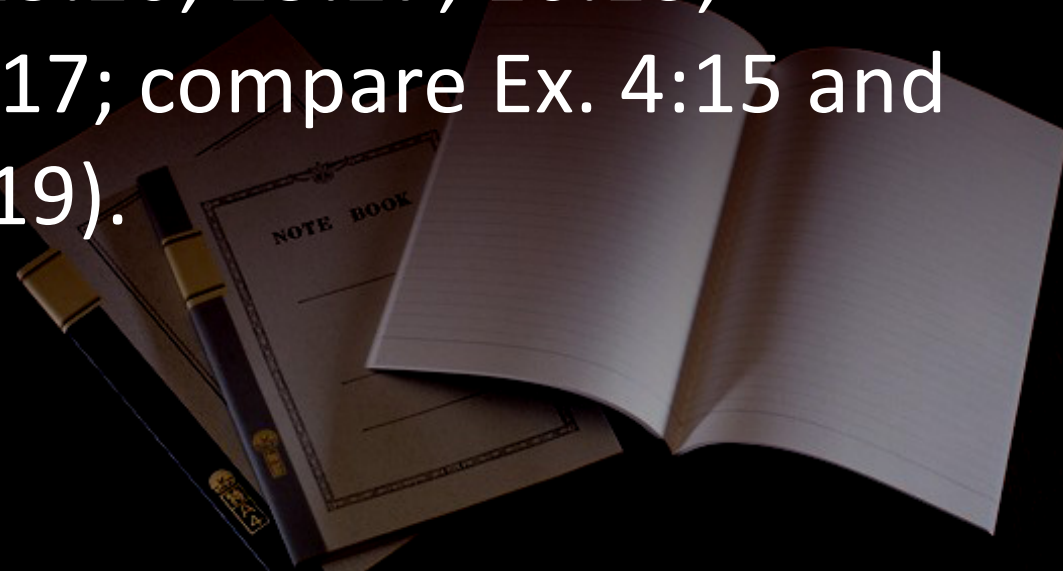
# Overview of the NT: Prophetic Books (1)

- Revelation (85-95) – prologue
  - Rev 1-3 the church
  - Rev 4-19 – tribulation period
  - Rev 19 – return of Jesus
  - Rev 20 – kingdom established
  - Rev 21-22 – eternity



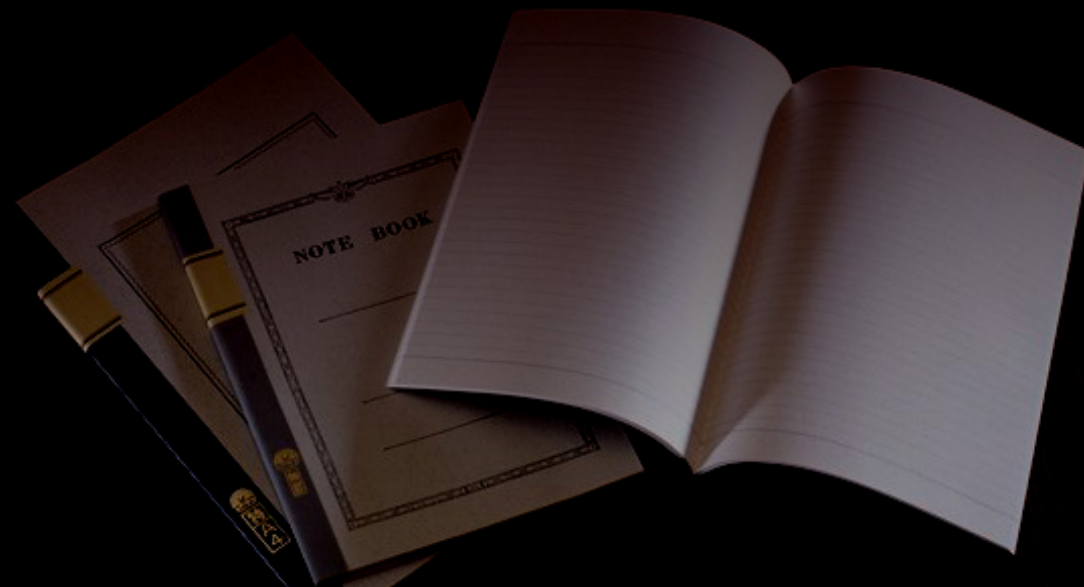
# Christ and the NT

- Christ, in promising the coming of the Holy Spirit, identified His role in revelation and inspiration of New Testament writings (Jn. 16:12-15).
- He commissioned the apostles to bear witness of the truth He would reveal (Mt. 10:14, 15; 28:19; Lk. 10:16; Jn. 13:20; 15:27; 16:13; 17:20; Acts 1:8; 9:15-17; compare Ex. 4:15 and 1 Cor. 14:37; Rev. 22:19).



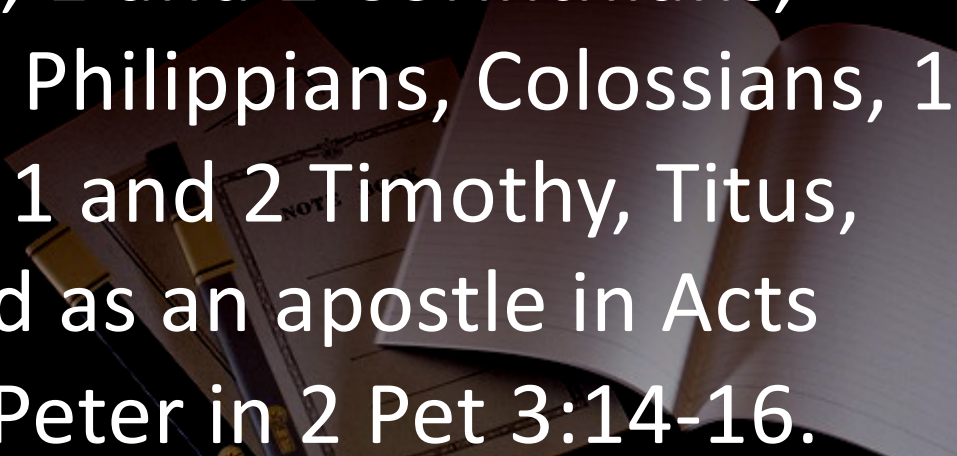
# Christ and the NT

- Apostles, therefore, make authoritative claims for their writings (i.e., note Paul's claims in 1 Cor. 2:13; 14:37; Gal. 1:7-8; 1 Thes. 4:2,15; 2 Thes. 3:6, 12, 14).
- Those specifically referenced as apostles account for the greatest volume of New Testament writings.



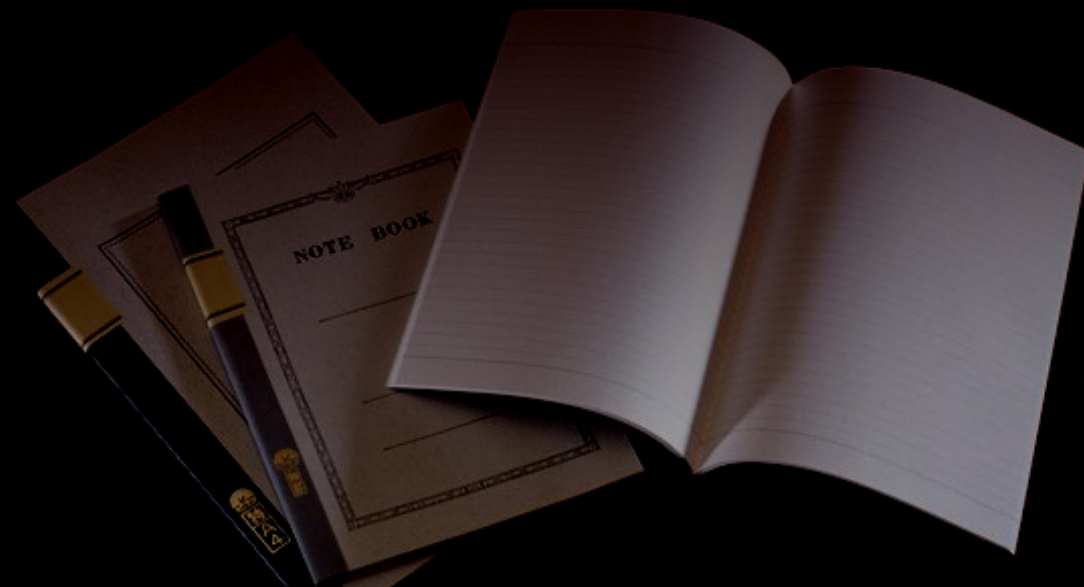


# Apostles and the NT

- Matthew – wrote the Gospel of Matthew – identified as an apostle in Mt 9:9, Mk 3:18, Lk 6:15, Acts 1:15
  - John – wrote the Gospel of John, 1, 2, and 3 John, and Revelation – identified as an apostle in Mt 10:2, Mk 1:18-19.
  - Paul – wrote Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon – called as an apostle in Acts 9:4-6, recognized by Peter in 2 Pet 3:14-16.
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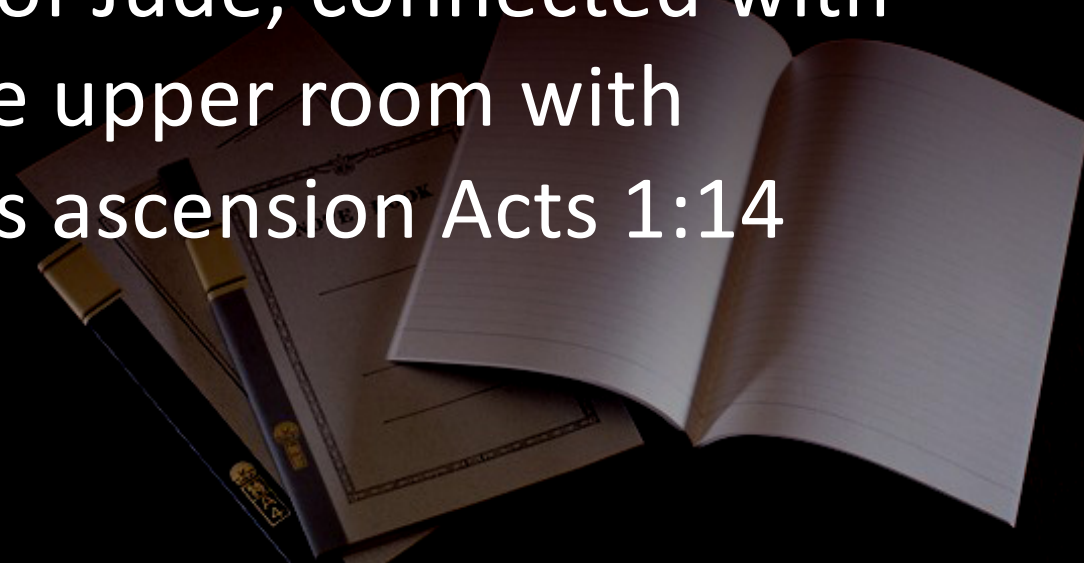
# Apostles and the NT

- Peter – wrote 1 and 2 Peter, called an apostle in Mt 4:18
- James – wrote the Epistle of James, was Jesus' brother, and acknowledged as having apostolic authority by Paul (Gal 1:19), in the upper room with apostles after Christ's ascension Acts 1:14



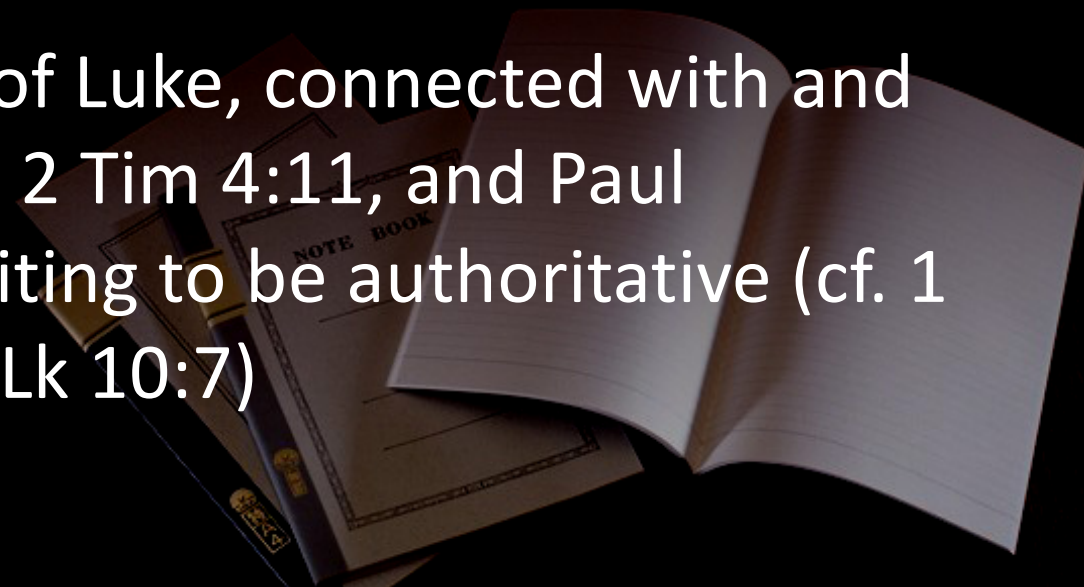
# Apostolic Connections and the NT

- John Mark – wrote Gospel of Mark, connected with and commended by Paul, 2 Tim 4:11
- Luke – wrote Gospel of Luke, connected with and commended by Paul, 2 Tim 4:11, and Paul considered Luke's writing to be authoritative (cf. 1 Tim 5:18, Deut 25:4, Lk 10:7)
- Jude – wrote Epistle of Jude, connected with James (Jude 1), in the upper room with apostles after Christ's ascension Acts 1:14



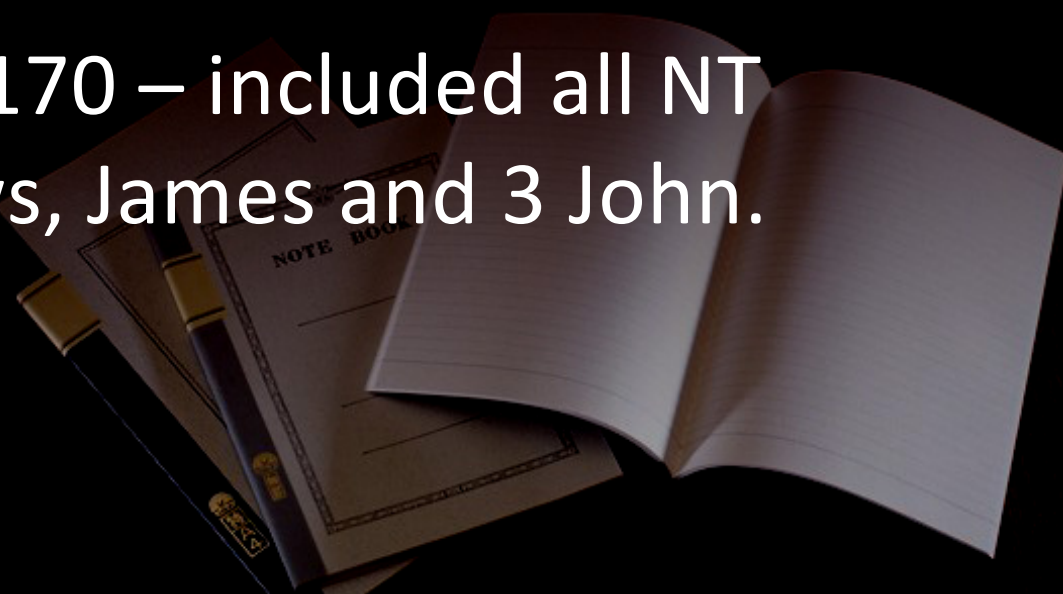
# Apostolic Connections and the NT

- The only remaining book not accounted for is Hebrews.
  - Author could not have been Paul (2:2-4).
  - Apollos? 1 Cor 16:12, commended by Paul, called mighty in the Scripture (Acts 18:24).
  - Barnabas? Acts 11:24, 13:2, commissioned by the Holy Spirit, connected with Paul
  - Luke? Wrote Gospel of Luke, connected with and commended by Paul, 2 Tim 4:11, and Paul considered Luke's writing to be authoritative (cf. 1 Tim 5:18, Deut 25:4, Lk 10:7)



# External Recognitions

- Clement of Rome identified 8 NT books in AD 95
- Ignatius of Antioch identified 7 in AD 115
- Polycarp, 15 in AD 108
- Irenaeus, 21 in AD 185
- Hippolytus 22 in AD 170-235
- Muratorian Canon – 170 – included all NT books except Hebrews, James and 3 John.



# External Recognitions

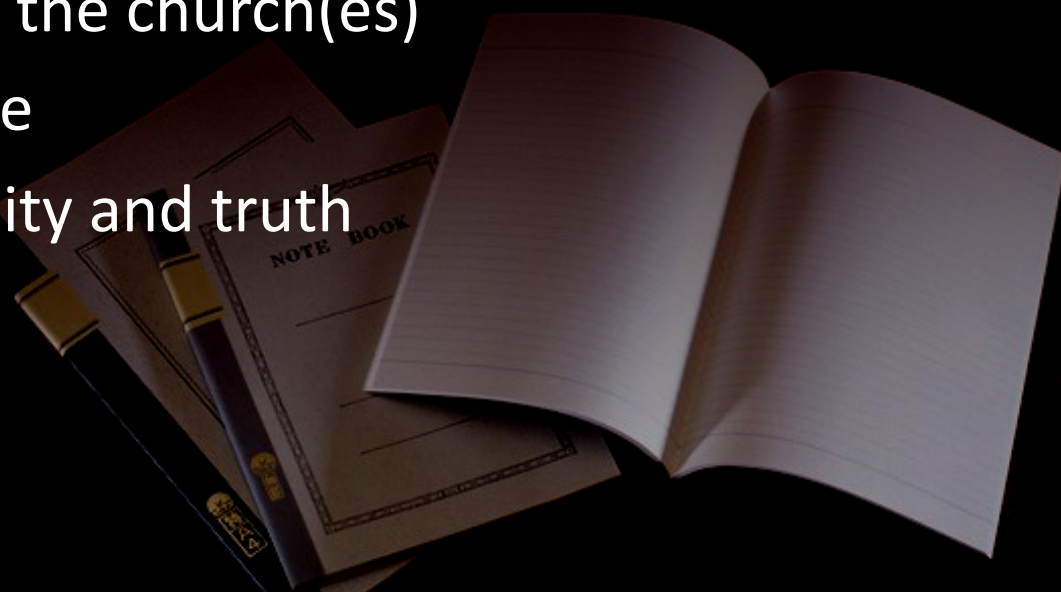
- Council of Laodicea – 363 – identified OT (including Baruch and Epistle of Jeremiah) and 26 books of NT (all but Revelation) <http://www.bible-researcher.com/laodicea.html>

- “59. Let no private psalms nor any uncanonical books be read in church, but only the canonical ones of the New and Old Testament.

60. It is proper to recognize as many books as these: of the Old Testament, 1. the Genesis of the world; 2. the Exodus from Egypt; 3. Leviticus; 4. Numbers; 5. Deuteronomy; 6. Joshua the son of Nun; 7. Judges and Ruth; 8. Esther; 9. First and Second Kings [i.e. First and Second Samuel]; 10. Third and Fourth Kings [i.e. First and Second Kings]; 11. First and Second Chronicles; 12. First and Second Ezra [i.e. Ezra and Nehemiah]; 13. the book of one hundred and fifty Psalms; 14. the Proverbs of Solomon; 15. Ecclesiastes; 16. Song of Songs; 17. Job; 18. the Twelve [minor] Prophets; 19. Isaiah; 20. Jeremiah and Baruch, Lamentations and the Epistle [of Jeremiah]; 21. Ezekiel; 22. Daniel. And the books of the New Testament: 4 Gospels, according to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John; the Acts of the Apostles; seven catholic epistles, namely, 1 of James, 2 of Peter, 3 of John, 1 of Jude; fourteen epistles of Paul, 1 to the Romans, 2 to the Corinthians, 1 to the Galatians, 1 to the Ephesians, 1 to the Philippians, 1 to the Colossians, 2 to the Thessalonians, 1 to the Hebrews, 2 to Timothy, 1 to Titus, and 1 to Philemon.

# External Recognitions

- Councils of Hippo – 393 – identified all 27 books of the NT
- Council of Carthage – 397 – listed all 27 books of the NT
- Basic principles followed:
  - Apostleship or connection with an apostle
  - Level of acceptance in the church(es)
  - Consistency in doctrine
  - The “quality” of morality and truth





# Confidence Based on Christ

- While these external affirmations are helpful, it is the internal material – especially from Christ that gives us the greatest confidence that the New Testament that we have today is what God revealed.

