

## THE FORMATION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CANON

1. Please read pages 589-608 in *Introducing The New Testament*.
  
2. Please read Matthew 1:22-23; 2:5-6, 15, 17-18; 5:17.
  - How does Matthew use the Old Testament?
  - What do you think Matthew means by the word *fulfill*?
  - Who is Jesus and how does he fulfill the promises of God from the Old Testament?
  - What writings were scripture for the New Testament writers? Do you detect any criteria here for selection of books for the New Testament?
  
3. What were the internal forces affecting the shape of the New Testament canon?
  
4. What were external forces affecting the shape of the New Testament canon?
  
5. Please read the Canon Muratori on pages 600-601 in your textbook?
  - When was it written? By whom?
  - Which books are in? Which books are not included?

- What criteria are used to distinguish recognized from disputed?
6. Please read “The Canon According to Athanasius” (Mid 4<sup>th</sup> century) on pages 602-603 in the textbook. This is generally acknowledged as the first canonical list that includes the 27 books we call the New Testament.
- Which books are in? Which books are out?
  - What criteria are used to distinguish those included and those excluded from the New Testament.
7. How did it come about that some of the early Christian writings were grouped into closed collections (such as 4-fold Gospels, the Pauline collection)? What motivated the need for a canon?
8. What criteria were used in the selection of the New Testament canon?
9. What does this formation process of the New Testament canon mean for you as we begin our study of the New Testament?