

We have in Paul's Epistles -- generally Paul writes, Paul an apostle of Jesus Christ. But now are we going to argue in a circle. Are we going to say, Paul's Epistles are part of the Bible, therefore when they say Paul was an Apostle that proves he was. Alright we know Paul was an apostle because it's written in Paul's Epistles. And we know Paul's Epistles are a part of the Bible because they were written by Paul the Apostle. That is arguing in a circle. Definitely.

If you can prove elsewhere that Paul was an apostle, and if you believe that apostolicity determines canonicity, then you have a ground for saying Paul's Epistles are a part of the N.T.

If you know that Paul's Epistles are part of the NT on some reason than that apostolicity determines canonicity, then you can prove from them that Paul was an apostle. But when you get this arguing in a circle you have nothing. So in my opinion the statement that apostolicity determines canonicity, is not a true approach to the problem.

Of course we do not completely reject it for this reason. Undoubtedly the apostles were appointed of God to have the general supervision of the Christian church in its early state. The matters connected with the NT would be included in that which was under the general supervision of the apostles. In the providence of God it definitely was His intention Paul should be one of the apostles. But we can only prove this by the inspired Word of God, and specifically by Paul's own Epistles. So that we need some other ground on which to determine it.

Also from a practical viewpoint. If we have God's Word -- if we had it, here's it is -- it's the judge and not I -- that's tremendously helpful. But if I had to take each book and try to examine what are the evidences. Can I prove this was written by an apostle? Can I prove an apostle really gave his authority to this book? Can I prove that Paul -- aside from what he says in his epistles -- was an apostle? We are put in a position where it is pretty hard to prove any one book, and regarding a great many of them we are left in doubt. Is it or isn't it? We have to study and wonder. I don't believe that's God's intention.

God gave us a definite OT. Paul said to Timothy that from a youth you have known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you ~~six~~ wise unto salvation. The Holy Scriptures. Here was the definite OT. The Jews believed in the definite set. Jesus Christ and the apostles took this attitude toward it. That is agreed by practically all scholars - conservative, liberal, whatever. That at the time of Christ that was the attitude. That all groups of Jews, and it was the actual attitude of Christ and the Apostles. This is a definite thing -- the OT.

Now is it not natural to expect God would do a similar thing in relation to the NT. The first question would be, Will there be any NT? When we have Jesus Christ telling people He was the fulfillment of the prophecies of the OT, that they had seen through a glass darkly, now they see face to face.