

RELIABILITY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Ps 119:105



THE ATTACKS

- ❖ 400 years before we had a NT
- ❖ 200,000 variants in the manuscripts
- ❖ 80 other gospels rejected for political purposes
- ❖ never had a reliable NT anyway

THE HOW

- ❖ Apostolic Authority
- ❖ Internal Consistency
- ❖ Wide Distribution and Acceptance by the churches

APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY

- ❖ the final court of appeal
- ❖ Dating:
 - ❖ Paul's letters 50-66AD
 - ❖ Mt. 60-80AD
 - ❖ Mk. 50-60AD
 - ❖ Lk. 60's AD
 - ❖ John 80-95AD

APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY

- ❖ the early church reject outright any book written by someone using the name of an apostle to gain credibility!
- ❖ “It is evident that by AD 180 the idea of the fourfold Gospel had become so axiomatic throughout Christendom that it could be referred to as an established fact as obvious and inevitable and natural as the four cardinal points of the compass or the four winds.”

INTERNAL CONSISTENCY

- ❖ There are no similarities only striking differences
- ❖ “the rubbish of the second century.”

WIDE-DISTRIBUTION

- ❖ No council or pope imposed upon the churches books that the the people of God had not already accepted.
- ❖ The Muratorian Fragment, dating to 175AD identifying 23 of the 27 NT books

