

MISQUOTING TRUTH

Why do some persons believe that the New Testament was *not* copied reliably?

HOW ACCURATE ARE THE COPIES?

TRUTH #1: Simply because there have been errors in _____ doesn't mean that there are errors in the Bible itself.

TRUTH #2: More than _____ of differences between the more-than-5,700 manuscripts and fragments of the New Testament aren't even noticeable in translations.

TRUTH #3: There *are* differences between the New Testament manuscripts---between 200,000 and 400,000 differences, in fact!— but none of these affects any _____ about Jesus Christ.

“Not only do we not have the originals, we don't have the first copies of the originals. ... We have only error-ridden copies. ... If one wants to insist that God inspired the very words of Scripture, what would be the point if we don't *have* the very words of Scripture? ... [The Gospels] were written thirty-five to sixty-five years after Jesus' death, not by people who were eyewitnesses, but by people living later. ... Stories were changed with what would strike us today as reckless abandon. They were modified, amplified, and embellished. And sometimes they were made up. ... Many Christians today may think that the New Testament simply appeared on the scene one day, soon after the death of Jesus, but nothing could be farther from the truth. As it turns out, we are able to pinpoint the first time that any Christian of record listed the twenty-seven books of our New Testament as *the* books of the New Testament. In the year 367, Athanasius wrote his annual pastoral letter to the Egyptian churches under his jurisdiction, and in it he lists our twenty-seven books, excluding all others.”

Selections from Bart D. Ehrman's lectures and writings

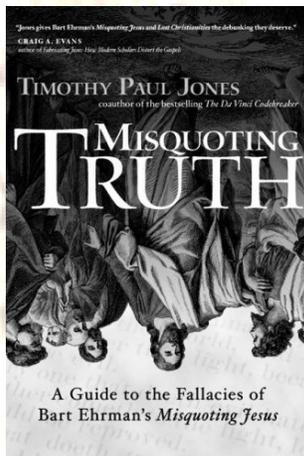


WHO CHOSE THE BOOKS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT?

TRUTH #4: From the time when people first testified that Jesus had been raised from the dead, _____ about Jesus was treated as uniquely authoritative. The four Gospels – as well as, at least, the Acts of the Apostles, Paul’s letters, and John’s first letter – were recognized as eyewitness testimony from the very beginning.

DID THE FOUR GOSPELS REALLY COME FROM EYEWITNESSES?

Some scholars claim that the four New Testament Gospels were *not* written by eyewitnesses and that these Gospels originally circulated *anonymously*, with no authors’ names attached to them. Then, around A.D. 100 when Christians wanted these writings to *seem* more authoritative, they gave these writings the names of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. But, if these false ascriptions had actually occurred, there would have been *many* different apostles’ names ascribed to each of the four Gospels. As it turns out, the *forms* of the titles differ, but the *author ascribed to each Gospel* always remains the same.



TRUTH #5: Even in the first century A.D., Christians knew who wrote the four Gospels, and they connected each Gospel to eyewitness testimony. So, when they began to title the Gospel manuscripts around A.D. 100, everyone _____ them with the _____.

Misquoting Truth by Timothy Paul Jones
InterVarsity Press, 2007. ISBN0830834478