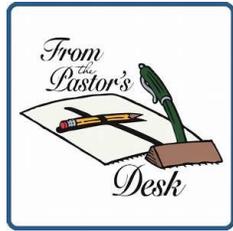


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September  
2022

GRACE NOTES  
YOUR ACCESS TO  
GRACE CHURCH  
NEWS & EVENTS



*Sermons for  
September*

*Lay  
Leader  
Report*

*When We  
See The  
Harvest*

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# GRACE NOTES

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## **The Closing of the Canon of the New Testament**

During the past year and a half, we have looked at the process of formation of the OT and the NT. As I have already mentioned, this process was very complicated.

Many sacred writings were written or compiled by numerous writers over a long period of time in various locations. There was no well-coordinated committee, no chair person, no recording secretary. That fact raises the question of who had power and authority to decide which documents were to be included in the Canon and based on what criteria.

One New Testament scholar, Warren Carter, suggests four key criteria that might help us better understand why some writings were accepted and others rejected. Those four are as follows:

1. **Antiquity:** An origin close to the time of Jesus and the apostles
2. **Apostolicity:** A link with an apostolic figure who was close to Jesus
3. **Acceptable theological content:** It was so important to determine if the document included affirmations about Jesus' humanity, the importance of God's action in Jesus's life and death and resurrection, and the significance of the church and the apostles.
4. **Widespread church use (catholicity):** Writings needed to be well known by churches across the empire; and they especially needed the approval of influential churches such as Alexandria, Antioch, Ephesus, and Rome.

By about 300 CE, Eusebius provided a snapshot of acceptable and unacceptable writings that fell under four categories: 1. Widely acknowledged writings; 2. Disputed writings; 3. Some writings spurious or rejected; 4. Some writings "spurious, wicked and impious." Eusebius' list was widely acknowledged in the second and third centuries.

In the fourth century, the emperor Constantine's patronage of the church created momentum toward closing the canon. As theological controversies increased and intensified in his time, Constantine exerted pressure to unify and consolidate the church. That pressure pushed the church to clarify authoritative texts and their interpretation.

In 363 CE, a regional council in Laodicea issued a list that included most of the writings that would end up in the New Testament, with the exception of Revelation.

In his Easter letter of 367, the bishop of Alexandria Athanasius set out the first list of Christian Scriptures, the 27 books of the New Testament, as authoritative for churches. It was surprising that Athanasius excluded seven writings that he had acknowledged as useful for Christian instruction. Those seven are: *Wisdom of Solomon*, *Wisdom of Sirach*, *Additions to Esther*, *Judith*, *Tobit*, *Didache* and *Shepherd of Hermas*.

Athanasius's list of authoritative writings did not receive immediate and universal agreement. There was neither a formal adoption of the canon at an ecumenical council nor any instant or worldwide approval. Nevertheless, many churches agreed with Athanasius's list and adopted it for their practice.

In 397 CE the regional Council of Carthage in North Africa ratified it as normative practice, declaring that no other writings apart from these 27 canonical writings were to be read in churches as "divine Scriptures."

With Athanasius's declaration in 367 CE and its ratification by the Council of Carthage in 397 CE, the list of 27 writings comes to be recognized as the canon for many churches. This recognition of the 27 writings increased gained support.

About 1000 years later, Martin Luther removed Hebrews, James, Jude and Revelation from the "proper books." The 27 writings, though, were reaffirmed by the Council of Trent (1546), the Articles of the Church of England (1562, 1572), and the opening chapter of the Reformed movement's Westminster Confession (1647).

What can we learn from this academic journey?

The Bible is written not by God's hands but by many human hands.

The Bible did not fall from heaven one day as one whole. Rather it was written, collected, compiled, by unknown but faithful believers throughout a considerable lapse of time. The Bible is a human work.

The amazing, unbelievable miracle is, however, that although it was created by humanity, the Bible has spoken of God's truth and been God's living words for more than 1600 years, teaching and guiding and healing so many believers.

It was because the Scripture was inspired by the Holy Spirit.

All human activities can be sacred and any human work can reveal God's divinity once it is sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

Among the gifts that God has bestowed upon humanity - music, arts, crafts, paintings, dance, poetry, knitting, gardening, you name it - everything can express God's goodness and greatness if the artist is showered and empowered by God's spirit. Don't you think it is marvelous?

God is still calling you to join this world of mystery, the world of miracle.

Let us gladly participate in God's living creativity. Hallelujah!

Your Pastor Kyu

### **Sermons in September**

#### **- Jesus Parables in Luke-**

Sept. 4	Jesus' New World Order
Sept. 11	Invitation & Excuses
Sept. 18	Possession & Becoming a disciple
Sept. 25	A sheep Lost and Found

## \*\*\* Lay Leader Report \*\*\*

We are teetering on the edge of Fall! I love the fall colors but I sort of hang onto the summer warmth and my time at the lake for as long as I can. However, September brings a time of rejuvenation. Homecoming Sunday, Sunday School beginning, Small groups get back together and it's a wonderful time to invite new people to try out Grace as a place to worship. Or, touch base with people who haven't been at worship for awhile and personally invite them back. Maybe because of the number of years I was in school and then the number of years that I worked at school, I always feel as though September is a new beginning. We are all encouraged by our Lord to keep growing, His mercies are new every morning. How can each one of us look at this season as one that invites us to reach out to people who might need to hear the Good News every week, who are thirsty for the kind of fellowship the people of Grace can offer? Pray about what part you can be, listen for the prompting of the Holy Spirit and then do!

Happy Fall,

Happy new beginnings! Laurie

### *When We See The Harvest*

A harvest of apples, a harvest of corn; A harvest of plenty, an autumn adorned. With bright colored leaves, a fall festive blend; A wonderful time for families and friends. A harvest of pumpkins, a harvest of grain; A harvest of bounty, and cool autumn rains. A big harvest moon- way up in the sky; A harvest of blessing that God has supplied. Be grateful, be humble, give thanks to the Lord; He has showered His blessing here in our world. But have we been faithful, and have we been true? Have we put God first in all that we do? A harvest that God sees is not food or crop; Not pumpkins, or grain, not apples that drop. But God see the harvest of souls needing Him; A harvest of people who need saved from their sin. Harvest of souls and a harvest of love; A harvest of mercy from our Father above. When we see the harvest, let's see through God's eyes; And share with the nations the life He supplies.

# September 2022

August 2022							September 2022							October 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3								1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
														30	31					

- Church
- Birthdays
- US Holidays
- stjgracechurch@gmail.com
- Found in Mail
- Untitled
- Pastor's Schedule
- Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Lee & Karen Gammell 9:30 AM 12th Sunday after Pentecost	29 Jo-Ann Reed 11:00 AM Community Luncheon	30	31	1 7:00 AM Prayer & Share	2	3 David & Jo-Ann Reed
4 Maddie Easter Joan Beattie 10:30 AM 13th Sunday after Pentecost	5 Labor Day 11:00 AM Community Luncheon	6 Pastor Kyu & Eun Soon Marie Ann Sullivan	7 Kathy Merrill	8 7:00 AM Prayer & Share	9	10
11 10:30 AM 14th Sunday after Pentecost	12 11:00 AM Community Luncheon	13 Hannah Keith	14	15 Jill Geiger 7:00 AM Prayer & Share	16	17
18 Gary & Heather McGinnis 10:30 AM 15th Sunday after Pentecost	19 11:00 AM Community Luncheon	20	21	22 7:00 AM Prayer & Share	23 Linda Goyet	24
25 10:30 AM 16th Sunday after Pentecost	26 Rosh Hashanah 11:00 AM Community Luncheon	27 Brandon Bedor	28	29 7:00 AM Prayer & Share	30 Curt Geiger	1 Chuck & Linda Perkins

