

**NEW BOOK AVAILABLE!**

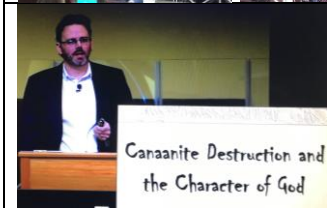
I've recently completed my first published booklet and you can have a free copy by going to <https://ratiochristi.org/resources/publications> and downloading it! Here is the summary:

*In a world that seems supercharged with confrontation, how can we have effective gospel conversations? In the H.E.A.R.T. of Spiritual Dialogue, we will diagnose the way to healthy spiritual conversations, giving practical tips and biblical guidance for how to begin and maintain healthy spiritual discussions. Knowing the truth is critical. Knowing how to share it is also vital. This booklet moves you beyond Christian evidence into Christian ethos, teaching you tactics that can help open doors and, Lord willing, hearts.*

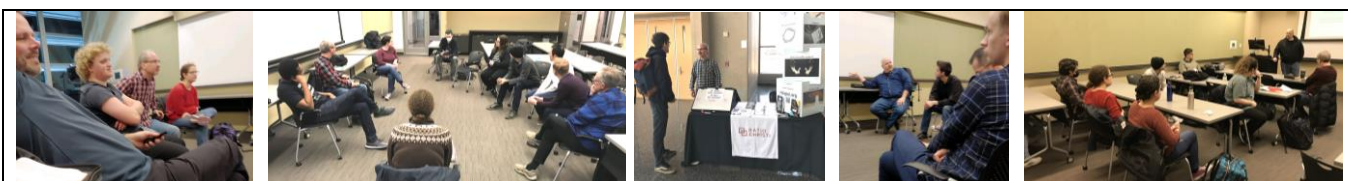
I truly believe the information in this booklet will be valuable for believers as they engage people about Christ. Moreover, I think this information gives us a tactical advantage as it provides Christians with ways to lead our culture in the art of civil dialogue. **Please share this free resource with as many Christians as you can! Get it into the hands of your pastors.**



In January, I preached at Living Faith Church in Indianapolis, IN. I was asked to give a sermon which would compact a semester's worth of Christian apologetics into one hour! You can watch and listen to my effort at the [RCIUPUI.org](http://RCIUPUI.org) webpage: [Andy Foland, Theology 101 \(Apologetics\) – RCIUPUI](#)



In February, I preached at Grace Fellowship Church on the topic "Canaanite Destruction and the Character of God." Critics of the Bible often claim, "The Bible commands genocide!" and "God is a moral monster!" But critics mischaracterize God and His commands. To learn the truth about our Holy, Just, Good, Sovereign, Omniscient God and his commands, listen to the sermon at the following link: <https://rciupui.org/teachings/>



- In February, I was a guest speaker at the pro-life group meeting on the campus of IUPUI.
- This semester RC IUPUI is continuing to rebound from covid and making good strides. Our group is developing some cohesion and some growth. Community is beginning to happen in and out of meetings which is key for future growth.
- In our Tuesday night meetings, we've studied: 1) Origins; 2) Why Christianity is Good for the World. We will be moving into topics of science and faith next.
- We are holding regular Thursday afternoon studies on evidence for the resurrection of Jesus.
- We are doing tabling outreach on campus at IUPUI at least twice a week.
- RC Purdue is holding steady and our other Indiana chapters, Purdue NW and IU South Bend, are having better success this semester than last at rebuilding from the covid hit.
- In other ministry news, I was asked by Great Commission Academy (GCA) to continue teaching Apologetics to their high school students this semester. So, my high school apologetics class has gone from a semester to a year-long class. Further, I've been asked by GCA to teach Logic/Critical Thinking starting in the fall of 2022. I'm excited to teach this course given the immeasurable impact logic has had on my own life. It will be a full year course. *If you know any home schoolers in high school, please make them and their parents aware of this opportunity.* If interested, contact me.

### Thank you!

I am so very grateful to be partnering with each of you. Thank you for your prayers and financial support. Now, "to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen." (Rom. 16:27)

Andy Foland

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### THE APOLOGIST'S CORNER

In today's corner we ask, "Who determined the New Testament, man or God?"



- A** = Archaeology
- R** = Regional Accuracy
- M** = Manuscript Evidence
- E** = Extrabiblical Corroboration
- D** = Determined by God

I've heard it a thousand times on campus: "The New Testament canon was determined by the Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325. This gives way too much time for the church to tamper with the texts and chose the books that will put them in power."

Popular as this mantra seems to be, it is wildly inaccurate. First, the Council of Nicaea was not focused on canonization but on the Arian heresy. Second, we see early church fathers from the first century onward quoting New Testament books as scripture. Third, down through the history of the Bible we see the following pattern: Holy Writ is *determined* by God and *discovered* by men. These discoveries were made not hundreds of years after composition, but by contemporaries of the authors. How were discoveries made? Several tests could be applied to writings to help believers discover if a work should be considered Holy Writ.

1. **Was it written by a prophet of God?** (2 Pet. 1:20-1; Mat. 5:17-8; Lk. 24:27)  
A writing had to be written by a proven prophet of God or the work needed the blessing of a prophet of God. Otherwise, the work wasn't considered inspired. In other words, *propheticity determines canonicity*.
2. **Was he confirmed by an act of God?** (Ex. 4:1-9; Jn. 3:2; Heb. 2:4; 2 Cor. 12:12)  
How do we know if the "prophet" was legitimate? He was confirmed by miracles (supernatural acts of God) or Divine foreknowledge (predictive prophecy.)
3. **Did he tell the truth about God?** (Deut. 13:1-3; 18:1-2; Acts 17:11; 1 Jn. 4:1-6)  
If someone alleging to be a prophet said something that contradicted previously revealed scripture, he was seen as a false prophet and his writings weren't accepted.
4. **Did it have the power of God?** (Isa. 55:11; Heb. 4:12; 2 Tim. 3:17)
  - a. Subjectively – Did it have a transforming force for edification?
  - b. Objectively – Did it prove through predictive prophecy to have the fingerprint of God upon it? If so, it was accepted.
5. **Was it received by the people of God?** (Deut. 31:26; Josh. 24:26; Dan. 9:2; 1 Tim. 5:18; 2 Pet. 3:16; 1 Thess. 5:27)  
There are numerous examples in which contemporaries of the author accepted the writing of God as the word of God. In other words, they were not first accepted hundreds of years later but during the author's lifetime. These scriptures were then copied and passed from church to church.

As the church spread, and as second century heretical groups began to write their own forgeries, the church fathers began to compile lists of genuine books and argue against forgeries. At times, the authenticity of a few books were called into question. There are various reasons for this: 1) communication and transportation were slow in those days; 2) intense persecution for the first 300 years of church history made it difficult to form official councils. Once the church was free from intense persecution (after 325 A.D.), it was able to form councils that could clarify and officially recognize what had been understood from the first century; namely, the genuineness of the New Testament books. Technically then, the canon had been discovered in the first century, maintained and discussed by the church and church fathers, and generally recognized by the councils of Hippo (A.D. 393) and Carthage (397).

It should be noted that since the early church looked upon the 27 books of the New Testament as Scriptures, any great degree of text tampering is highly unlikely. And, as should now be clear, the N.T. books weren't selected based on church power grabs but because the writings were linked to a prophet.

So, was the New Testament determined or discovered? Answer: *It was **determined** by God but **discovered** by the first century church.*