

PURPOSES OF THE APOSTLES EPH. 2:20; 3:5; 4:11

But what's their purpose(s)? (These are not 3 separate & differing purposes but 3 intertwined / interwoven purposes.

1. Evangelizing the world!

Luke 24:44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Luke 24:45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, Luke 24:46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: Luke 24:47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. Luke 24:48 And ye are witnesses of these things.

Acts 10:39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: Acts 10:41 Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.

2. Establishing the Church...& churches!

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; Ephesians 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

Ephesians 3:5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

3. Writing & completing the Canon | Scripture!

Ephesians 3:5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

Acts 1:1 THE former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Acts 1:2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: Acts 1:3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Acts 10:39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: Acts 10:40 Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; Acts 10:41 Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead. Acts 10:42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead. Acts 10:43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

2 Thessalonians 2:15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

2 Peter 3:1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: 2 Peter 3:2 That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:

2 Peter 3:14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. 2 Peter 3:15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; 2 Peter 3:16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. 2 Peter 3:17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. 2 Peter 3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Jude 17 But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Thoughts about books & Christianity:

➤ The Church began with a canon → books!!!

39 books condensed into

➤ The Canon was variously summarized as:

A. The Law and the Prophets

B. The Law (תּוֹרָה), prophets (נְבִיאִים) & the writings (כְּתוּבִים)

Luke 24:25 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: **Luke 24:26** Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? **Luke 24:27** And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

Luke 24:44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in **the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.** **Luke 24:45** Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, **Luke 24:46** And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: **Luke 24:47** And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. **Luke 24:48** And ye are witnesses of these things.

John 5:39 Search **the scriptures** (τὰς γραφάς); for in them ye think ye have eternal life: **and they are they which testify of me.** **2 Timothy 3:15** And that from a child thou hast known **the holy scriptures** (τὰ ἱερὰ γράμματα), which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **2 Timothy 3:16** All **scripture** (Πᾶσα γραφή) is given by inspiration of God (θεόπνευστος), and is profitable (ὠφέλιμος) for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

- **The Canon (OT) was about Christ**
- **Christ confirmed the OT Canon!**
- **Christ also established the NT Canon!**

John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; **John 14:17** Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

John 14:25 **These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you.**

John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, **he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.**

John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, **he shall testify of me:** **John 15:27** And ye **also** shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

John 16:12 I have **yet** many things to say unto you, **but** ye cannot bear them now.

John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, **he will guide you into all truth: for** he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: **and he will shew you things to come.** **John 16:14** **He shall glorify me:** for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

Thought often, and maybe usually, read as verses about personal illumination...these texts refer primarily to the Apostles and the t & wr of Scripture

A. Historical books (and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you)

Texts:

Examples:

B. Instructional books (he shall teach you all things, he will guide you into all truth)

Texts:

Examples:

C. Prophetic books (he will shew you things to come)

Texts:

Examples:

D. All Christological!!! (whatsoever I have said unto you, he shall testify of me, He shall glorify me)

Texts:

Examples:

➤ **The Church received a Canon / the NT Scripture**

➤ **The Church received this Canon from the Holy Spirit through the Apostles & their associates**

Acts 1:1 THE **former** treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of **all** that Jesus began both to do and teach,

Acts 1:2 Until the day in which he was taken up, **after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: Acts 1:3** To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly **in the apostles' doctrine** and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Ephesians 3:5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

Jude 3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for (τῆ ἅπαξ παραδοθείση τοῖς ἁγίοις πίστει) **the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.**

➤ **The NT Canon gradually took shape**

2 Thessalonians 2:15

Therefore, brethren, stand fast (στήκετε), and hold (κρατεῖτε) the traditions (τὰς παραδόσεις) which ye have been taught, **whether by word (διὰ λόγου), or our epistle (δι' ἐπιστολῆς ἡμῶν).**

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Written OT Oral NT | → | Written OT Oral NT & Written NT | → | Written OT Written NT |
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➤ **The Canon was canonical immediately**

Canonical = authoritative, Scripture, the Word of God

1 Timothy 5:17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. **1 Timothy 5:18 For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward (τοῦ μισθοῦ αὐτοῦ).**

Deuteronomy 25:4 Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn.

Luke 10:7 And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: **for the labourer is worthy of his hire (τοῦ μισθοῦ αὐτοῦ).** Go not from house to house.

1 Corinthians 14:36 What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only? **1 Corinthians 14:37** If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. **1 Corinthians 14:38** But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.

➤ **The NT Canon recognized this canonization process**

2 Peter 3:14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. **2 Peter 3:15** And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; **even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; 2 Peter 3:16** As also in **all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. 2 Peter 3:17** Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness. **2 Peter 3:18** But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

➤ **The Church continues with a Canon → Bible!**

Revelation 1:1 THE Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: **Revelation 1:2** Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. **Revelation 1:3** Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Revelation 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

Revelation 1:11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, **What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto** the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

Revelation 1:19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

➤ **The Church was always and shall always be a “bookish people!” A people of the Book!!!**

Deuteronomy 17:18 And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, **that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: Deuteronomy 17:19** And it shall be **with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:**

Deuteronomy 31:11 When all Israel is come to appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose, **thou shalt read this law before all Israel in their hearing.**

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Psalm 37:30 The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, And his tongue talketh of judgment. **Psalm 37:31** **The law of his God is in his heart; None of his steps shall slide.**