

The Role of Scripture in the Church

The Testimony of God

John 5:31-47

November 14, 2021

- I. How did we get the scriptures?
 - a. Early recordings, ie. “personal notebooks” and “aids to memory”.
 - b. Used to “supplement orality, for the sake of reminding them of remembering.”¹ 2 Tim 4:13.
 - c. Rehearsing the Jesus tradition, ie. the oral tradition. I Cor 11:23-25, and Luke 22: 19-20.
 - d. Within months of the resurrection, the early Church had firmly established the core doctrines, and beliefs especially with regard to the divinity of Jesus and possible “legendary development.” 1 Cor 15: 3-7.²
- II. God speaks to us in scripture.
 - a. This section starts at 5: 18-24, and here He is claiming to be equal with God the Father. 7:19-12:45
 - b. The testimony of a single shining light, such as John the Baptist, is important but not sufficient. God is here speaking to us on a *personal* level. Jewish jurisprudence needed a corroborating witness.
 - c. God also speaks to us on an *empirical* level through Jesus’ life, claims, and resurrection.
 - d. The pride of place here though is the testimony of God the Father as revealed in *scripture*.