Church History

The Canon of Scripture

1. What does “canon” mean?
   1. It comes from a Greek word that means “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”
   2. The canon of Scripture are those written documents that measure up to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Scripture—it is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of books that Christians believe to be inspired and authoritative
2. Need for a canon
   1. Many documents about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the Christian faith were written in the time of the early church; as the generations got farther and farther from the first century, they used these documents as their main source of information about true Christianity
   2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that began to circulate made it necessary to identify which writings were really authoritative and which ones were not
3. The formation of the canon
   1. Christians accepted the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Scripture as God’s Word, calling it the Old Testament.
   2. Tests for the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of New Testament writings:
      1. Was it written by an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or someone close to an apostle?
      2. Is it widely used in Christian \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?
      3. Does it have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?
   3. Many books, such as the Gnostic Gospel of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, were never seriously considered for inclusion in the canon.
   4. Most New Testament books were accepted practically from the start.
      1. The four gospels
      2. Acts
      3. Paul’s epistles
      4. 1 John
      5. Revelation
   5. Other books were more controversial.
      1. Some were eventually accepted.
         1. Hebrews
         2. James
         3. 1 and 2 Peter
         4. 2 and 3 John
         5. Jude
      2. Others were not
         1. The Shepherd of Hermas
         2. Letter of Barnabas
         3. Revelation of Peter
   6. The canon as we have it was fixed by about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.