

Subject: Mens Club April 2, 2008 Meeting Minutes

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**St James Men's Club
4/2/2008 Meeting Minutes**

Table Leader - Chick Jordan

Prayer Leader - Mark Savarese

Mark focused the prayer session on God's given freedom and our free will. He opened the session with the song *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* and closed the session with *Our God Reigns*. We had an insightful prayer session on the use of free will in our lives.

Witness Theme and Presenter - Scripture by Juan Lahera

Juan spoke of the impact of scripture in his life, particularly after attending his first retreat (CRHP) weekend here at St. James. He said that in his own life he needs to continue to trust in the Lord. He reflected on how the bible teaches that we should turn the other cheek and not return evil for evil. He quoted 1 Peter 3:11, which says that we must turn from evil and do good; seek peace and follow after it. His challenge questions focused on temptation and how does reading scripture help avoid it. Juan had a question about the differences between Canonical and Divine scripture. See the last item in these minutes for Tom Grace's comments on this subject.

Scripture for April 6th Review and Discussion

Acts 2:14, 22-33, 1 Peter 1:17-21, Luke 24:13-35

Common themes are the sacrifice that Jesus made for our sins, his resurrection, and his presence in the Eucharist at the breaking of the bread.

Novel Assignment - Epicenter by Joel Rosenberg

Chapter 14 – Future Headline: Muslims turn to Christ in Record Numbers

Chapter 15 - Tracking the Tremors

Appendix 1 – Frequently Asked Questions

Overall, this is a scary book which takes the prophecy of Ezekiel 38 – 39 and builds a logical case that Iran and Russia will form an alliance to attempt to destroy Israel. This will result in a tremendous battle in which God will intervene and save Israel. It's particularly frightening because, in Joel's view, this will occur very soon and will have a dramatic effect on the world as we know it. The good news is that God will prevail and the world will know it.

Next Assignment

Juan suggested that we take a lighter approach for our next book. He suggested **The Jesus Prayer** and we all agreed.

Administrative Item

The Right to Life ministry met earlier today and will be focusing their efforts on education, particularly on alternatives to abortion. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 4/23 at 5:30 PM.

The ministry will be having a potluck dinner on May 18th

4/9/2008 Meeting

The Men's Club will attend the 7:00 PM mass for Maria Hobson and will meet afterwards to discuss the transition of activities to the next CRHP weekend.

Additional Comments from Tom Grace on Canonical and Divine Scripture

I read Juan's notes from the Internet and now understand the distinction between the terms Canonical and Divine as applied to Scripture.

“Canon” or “Canonical” refers to the list of biblical books (OT & NT) that were official accepted as divinely inspired works, and hence “divine scripture”.

The official Catholic canon first appears in the late 4th century AD (382) and appeared rather regularly for the next 50 years at the Councils of Rome, Hippo, Carthage et al. This Canon, no doubt, was made necessary because of the claims of several heretical sects (esp. the Arians & the Nestorians) who were quoting from sources that were not part of the officially accepted list of books for the Bible to support their heretical views. The Catholic Church held to the view that only works included in the Canon could be deemed as inspired and therefore containing revealed truths. Any works not in the Canon, alto perhaps of historical or other value, were not divinely inspired revelation.

The disputed sources are not the so-called Apocrypha works that distinguish Catholic and Protestant bibles. Rather they refer to works that are sometimes referred to as the Pseudoepigraphical Texts, a long word that literally translates into “false writings”. However to confuse the matter more they are frequently lumped into the same category and title as the Apocrypha writings. Some of these false writings have interest and value to social and cultural scientist. No biblical scholar considers them as part of authentic apostolic legacy. Pseudoepigraphical texts are later works posing as earlier works written by Apostles. As to the claim by certain modern unconscionable authors, ever seeking the pot of gold, that these works were secreted away by the Vatican, a trip to any library of any size will dispel this claim. They are readily available but as St. Peter warned about St. Paul’s authentic writings, “such writings are difficult to understand and the unstable distort to their own destruction”.

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