

Is What We Have Now What They Wrote Then? The Reliability of the New Testament Text

Introduction

- What Are Skeptics Saying?

- Two Attitudes to Avoid

- Four Questions to Answer

I. How *Many* Textual Variants?

A. Why So Many?

B. Comparison with Classical Authors

- Number of Manuscripts

- Greco-Roman Historians and Biographers: Manuscripts and Dates

- Dates of New Testament Manuscripts

C. Bottom Line

II. What *Kinds* of Variants?

A. Over 99%

B. “John Loves Mary”

C. Mark 9.29: “This kind can only be cast out by ...”

D. Revelation 13.18: “the number of the Beast is ...”

III. What Theological Beliefs Depend on Textually Suspect Passages?

IV. Has the Essence of the Christian Faith Been Corrupted by the Scribes?

A. Sir Frederic Kenyon

B. Dr. Bart Ehrman

V. ... Segue