

Early Citations of the Four Gospels and Other “Gospels”

The following chart is adapted from one created by Glenn Davis, which may be found at <http://www.ntcanon.org>. It shows the citations (or lack thereof) for our four Gospels and Acts in sixteen early authorities, and, for comparison, the same information for eight non-canonical “Gospels.” The seventeen early authorities are, in order, Clement of Rome, Ignatius, Polycarp, Marcion (early heretic), Valentinus and his followers (early heretic), Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Clement of Alexandria, Tertullian, the Muratorian Canon, Origin, Eusebius, Codex Sinaiticus, Athenasius of Alexandria, Didymus the Blind, the Peshitta (a Syriac translation of the scriptures), and the Vulgate (a Latin translation).

Symbol	Opinion of Authority
✓	accepted; true; scriptural; or quoted from very approvingly
✓	acceptable, but only with changes
?	dubious; disputed; or useful for inspiration
✗	spurious (in the classification of Eusebius)
✗	false; heretical; heterodox; quoted from very disapprovingly
·	not mentioned or quoted from in any surviving work

	CR	Ig	Po	M	Va	JM	Ir	C	MC	I	O	E	CS	A	D	P	V
<u>Matthew</u>	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>Mark</u>	✓	·	✓	·	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>Luke</u>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>John</u>	·	✓	·	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>Gospel of Thomas</u>	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	✗	✗	·	·	·	·	·
<u>Gospel of Truth</u>	·	·	·	·	✓	·	✗	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
<u>Gospel of the Twelve</u>	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	✗	·	·	·	·	·	·
<u>Gospel of Peter</u>	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	?	✗	·	·	·	·	·
<u>Gospel of Basilides</u>	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	✗	·	✗	·	·	·	·	·	·
<u>Gospel of the Egyptians</u>	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	✓	·	·	✗	·	·	·	·	·	·
<u>Gospel of the Hebrews</u>	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	✓	·	·	?	✗	·	·	·	·	·
<u>Gospel of Matthias</u>	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	✗	✗	·	·	·	·	·
	CR	Ig	Po	M	Va	JM	Ir	C	MC	I	O	E	CS	A	D	P	V