

Roger Gale Mattingly (American citizen)
Avinguda de les Garrigues, No. 16
Planta 4, Apartment 3a
Lleida, Spain 25001

Dear Brethren,

A few years ago, I listened to some sermons and classes by Mr. Ed Wharton, a preacher and teacher in the church and was impressed by his ability to deliver powerful, heart-moving sermons as well as teach interesting and informative classes. Shortly afterwards, I contacted him and we exchanged some notes regarding a few Bible questions that I had. Eventually, I sent him an essay and asked him to evaluate it and make comments. Although he did not make specific comments, he did send back this reply:

Roger,

I have to say you are an able writer; interesting, novel and authoritative. I really enjoy reading your material. You paint word pictures well. Keep up the good work, brother.

Yours in the great hope, Ed Wharton

The reason I've quoted him here is because I want to assure you that the enclosed eight-page essay will be interesting and worthwhile reading. It contains some elements from the one that I sent to Mr. Wharton, but this one is shorter and far more focused. I have entitled it,

"According to the Bible, When Was the Writing of the New Testament Completed?"

This writing is, I believe, the first of its kind regarding this topic in nearly 2,000 years of known church history. I can say with confidence that I have never before heard this information being presented in this way, whether it be in sermons, classes or even the printed word. In this essay, I present actual Bible proof obtained by correlating Old and New Testament prophecies with their respective counterparts, and then drawing conclusions which come together in a logical and natural way. Additionally, this essay provides a precise Bible definition for the phrase "mystery of God" and clarifies the meanings of some other difficult passages. I used the English Standard Version almost exclusively.

King Saul "broke faith with the Lord in that he did not keep the command of the Lord, and also consulted a medium, seeking guidance. He did not seek guidance from the Lord" (1 Chronicles 10:13-14). In my quest to find God's answer to the question, I exclusively searched the Scriptures and completely disregarded every external source.

This issue actually is a matter of faith because many members of the Lord's church have chosen to place their trust in ancient uninspired historians rather than in the Lord. Their misplaced trust has not only led to the creation of many outrageous misapplications of the book of Revelation, but has also encouraged classroom students and readers of their books to accept those same misapplications in place of the book's true application intended by God. For this reason, it is necessary to learn when the writing of the New Testament was actually completed. Consequently, this essay contains absolutely no quotes from the witch of Endor, Iraneaus, Suetonius, Tacitus, Eusebius or any other ancient uninspired historian.

It is my hope that every reader will completely understand the arguments being made in this essay. By knowing with certainty when the writing of the New Testament was completed, they will be much better equipped to discern between truth and falsehood, a quality of mind which is indispensable for anyone courageously attempting to wade through the deep waters of human ignorance and error surrounding the books of Daniel, Revelation and other books of prophecy.

Comments and criticisms made in the interest of truth are welcomed, whether they concern factual errors or ones made regarding spelling, grammar, punctuation or Bible references.

Brotherly,

Roger Gale Mattingly

Email: rogermattingly@hotmail.com

P.S. It is also my hope that not only will every elder and preacher in every local church have the opportunity to read this essay, but that they will also afford every Christian under their care the same opportunity. This paper only presents God's answer to the question posed; it does not challenge the principles of faith revealed in the Bible.

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