New Testament

Institution Affiliated

Date

As controversial as it is pseudonymity in the New Testament raises doubts among the peoples with regards to some books therein. Of course pseudonymity is supposed to make people have a different view of some books. In its simplest terms pseudonymity refers to attributing authorship to some known and respected person. Paul is a known person and therefore he had authority and credibility. His works have earned respect among the people. If, by any means, some of the books written by him were not actually written by him this revelation could indeed have a negative effect on these books (Fenton, 1955).

Many scholars do believe that some of the books attributed to Paul were written by his followers in his name. Indeed, this section of scholars believe that his followers wrote these books using some of his letters that still survive, including those that do not survive anymore (Powell, 2009). Clement could have been a Gentile/Roman who ministered alongside St. Paul. He could have contributed so much to the development of the New Testament as he could be the author of some books that have been excluded in the Bible but whose messages have been used to develop other books. He was also a leader who contributed critically to the continuity of the church.

The question of inclusion of these books in the Canonical books is controversial but indeed if they were not written by Paul they should be struck out and given a different title. These books should be retained in the Bible with accurate authorship to remove doubt and confusion with true Paul’s works. However, this has to be done once authorship is duly verified as doing so carelessly would bring chaos to the Holy Book.

References

Fenton, J. C. (1955). Pseudonymity in the New Testament. *Theology*, *58*(416), 51-56.

Powell, M. A. (2009). *Introducing the New Testament: a historical, literary, and theological survey*. Baker Books.