

So in my talk on forgery last night, I introduced the question of whether there could be forgeries inside the New Testament by talking about forgeries that definitely exist *outside* the New Testament; and to do that I began by speaking of three books that Peter, the disciple of Jesus, allegedly wrote. My definition of forgery is a fairly technical one. When I speak about forgery I'm not talking about books whose contents have been made up or fabricated, and I'm not talking about books whose contents have been falsified and modified over the years. I'm talking purely about authorial claims. A forgery is a book whose author claims to be a (famous) person when in fact he is someone else - and he knows full well he is someone else. If some writes a book claiming to be Paul, but in fact he is not Paul, that's a forgery.

The phenomenon was widely known, widely practiced, and widely condemned in antiquity, as I've talked about on this blog before.

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