

Beulah Heights University

Research Assignment

Submitted to Professor Jackie Armstrong

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the completion of

BI117

Biblical Literature

By

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In the very last chapter of John it states that, if they had recorded the things that Jesus did in his thirty three years here on earth, the whole world could not contain it. One would interpret this to mean that this was in reference to the New Testament! So it is not hard to imagine the inclusion of the Old Testament accounts. Noncanonical writings are simply those early biblical documents that are not found in the New Testament. With the success of archeological discoveries support the “Written Word,” believers strongly are in support and appreciate the traditions of the Early Church fathers, who stood firmly, defended the beginnings of the church and rituals during extremely difficult times, so it became vitally important that these added information be made available even though they were not canonized. This assignment is about the noncanonical writings of the Gospel writings of the Gospel of Mary Magdalene and I believe it was not and should not be canonized.

It is unfortunate but it is the truth. When some people, who have been enduring hardships in life get a break- through, there are others who are bent on either destroying them, physically or emotionally. The Gospel of Mary Magdalene is a testament of such cruelty. In short the Gnostics are people who do not believe that God created the Universe and everything and every person in it, so there is no surprise in this conspiracy to defame and tarnish Mary Magdalene as a person who Jesus healed from demonic possession into a great supporter of his ministry here on earth.

The Gospel of Mary (or the Gospel of Mary Magdalene) is a writing discovered in 1896 in Egypt containing a Gnostic version of New Testament events alleged to have taken place, particularly in association with Mary Magdalene. Scholars date the original composition of this work to the fifth century. The emphasis in the manuscript appears to focus more on issues of the third century similar to other Gnostic writings. The ideas of secret knowledge, alternative stories regarding biblical events, and mysterious statements about God, good and evil, and the afterlife

regularly contradict or add additional material than exists in the New Testament narratives. The Gospel of Mary Magdalene offers a limited, yet important insight into the Gnostic writings. However, it is clearly not authored by Mary nor is its message consistent with the New Testament's writings. It was not accepted as authoritative by the early church and is not to be accepted as accurate information regarding the historical Mary Magdalene.

<https://www.compellingtruth.org/ghtmlospel-of-Mary-Magdalene>. (Accessed February 26, 2020)

Arrogance metaphorically is the vehicle that takes people through a state of blindness and sometimes to self- destruction. The Da Vinci Code takes this conspiracy theory to new heights by portraying the Christian church as covering up Jesus' relationship with Mary Magdalene and denying His appointment of Mary as the leader of the church. The problem with this conspiracy theory is that there is absolutely no evidence for it, not even in the Gospel of Mary. The Gospel of Mary nowhere states that Jesus appointed Mary as the leader of the Christian church. The Gospel of Mary nowhere states that Jesus and Mary were romantically involved.

By the Gospel accounts, we come to know the reality of St. Mary Magdalene's love for Christ and her fidelity to Him during His passion, death, and resurrection. The Church has recognized her as a disciple and Equal-to-the-Apostles, and we ask for her continuing intercessions for us.

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church, Fenton Michigan *<http://orthochristian.com/63238.html>*
(Accessed Feb. 26, 2020)

The Gospel of Mary was not written by Mary Magdalene or any other Mary of the Bible. The Gnostic teachings found in the Gospel of Mary date it to the late 2nd century AD at the earliest. As a result, there is no validity to its teachings. Similar to the Gospel of Thomas, the Gospel of Philip, and the Gospel of Judas, the Gospel of Mary is a Gnostic forgery, using the name of a

biblical character in an attempt to give validity to heretical teachings. The only value in studying the Gospel of Mary is in learning what heresies existed in the early centuries of the Christian church. <https://www.gotquestions.org/gospel-of-Mary-Magdalene.html> (Accessed Feb26, 2020)

While the revisionists cite the "gnostic gospels," these were rejected from the official canon of sacred Scripture because they lacked apostolic authorship, were heretical and contained fictitious stories. One cannot counter Church tradition with spurious evidence from the gnostic gospels.

Lastly, the book cites several individuals who have accused the Church of "a smear campaign" to discredit Mary Magdalene so as to disempower a powerful woman. Oh please! What greater honor could the Church grant than by recognizing Mary Magdalene as a saint and a model for every sincere Christian who struggles for holiness? Pope St. Gregory realized Mary Magdalene beautiful example: a woman who found new life in Christ, not a woman who found a self-empowered political agenda. Frankly, more people ought to spend their time reading the Bible, the fathers of the Church and the Catechism instead of such bogus print as The Da Vinci Code <https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/culture/catholic-contributions/mary-magdalene.html> (Accessed Feb. 26, 2020)

Even though I strongly believe that the book should be made available to the public I do not believe it should be canonized. It being canonized would have brought more conflict and misinterpretations. From what I have been reading there are six Marys in the Bible and some people with the same past will cause confusion. Most importantly it is written by Gnostics-people who do not believe that God created the Universe and everything and person exists through Him. For the Orthodox and Roman Catholics to canonize the Gospel of Magdalene is to compromise Bible with Gnostic heretic. It is also important that making it available will promote

transparency within the body of Christ and enlighten us with the awesome power of the Holy Spirit to transform us to the honor and glory of God.

Reference

1. <https://www.compellingtruth.org/gospel-of-Mary-Magdalene>

(Accessed February 26, 2020)

2. *St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church, Fenton Michigan*

<http://orthochristian.com/63238.html>

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3. <https://www.gotquestions.org/gospel-of-Mary-Magdalene.html> (Accessed Feb26, 2020)

4. <https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/culture/catholic-contributions/mary-magdalene.html>

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