

## TRUTH MATTERS

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**T**RUTH IS THE foundation upon which knowledge, character, lives, reputations, faith and relationships are built. Like no time in history, people today are inundated with conflicting “claims of truth” on all sides of every issue. When everyone claims to have a different truth, It’s difficult to know who or what to believe. It is also evident many have substituted opinions for evidence and proof. This leaves many wondering where truth can be found.

Today, people are immersed in lifelike video games and virtual reality experiences that are nothing like life or reality. News editorials focus on “spin” rather than news. Reality television presents dramatic life and death situations with unseen camera crews hovering feet away. Political correctness is often valued more than evidence or proof. Social media portrays perfect lives, which are far from it. Advertising sells emotion-evoking illusions that barely mention the product or its features and benefits. Movies and videos contain more walking dead and superheroes than real-life characters and computer-generated images portray an illusion of real life through special effects..

Weekly television series perfectly solve world-shaking problems in sixty-minutes (still leaving room for thirty-minutes of advertising). Politicians and leaders seem to represent the interests of donors and party leaders more than the citizens who elect them.. Truth is often simply swept aside and replaced with politically correct slogans such as, “There is no absolute truth,” “What is true for you is not true for me” and “Let’s agree to disagree.” We teach our

children to “always tell the truth,” but where are they to find truth today and what messages do our lives and the world around them communicate?

Truth is essential for critical lifetime decisions: “What should I do in my life? Whom should I marry? “How should I plan for college, children, retirement, etc.” Those who casually or impulsively make these decisions rarely achieve the results they hoped for.

At a deeper level, most want to know: “Why do I exist? Is God real and is there life beyond this one? Is there a greater plan and purpose for my life?” These questions have eternal implications and demand more than casual or impulsive consideration.

God has revealed His truths, ways, plans, purpose and promises for mankind in His inspired Scripture. “You Can Know The Truth” offers compelling, verifiable evidence the Bible is God’s inspired truth and word. It directly links the Bible to ten layers of verifiable prophetic, scientific, archaeological, literary and other fact-based evidence. Clear, non-theological language is supported by quotations from prominent, credible experts.

The “10 Verifiable Proofs the Bible is God’s Truth” will encourage and strengthen the believer’s confident faith and trust in God and His Word, the Bible. These proofs will also help skeptics and non-believers rationally and intelligently resolve questions, objections and uncertainties. “You Can Know the Truth” is a unique and powerful resource for sweeping aside the world’s doubts, confusion and skepticism.

### **OF TRUTH AND ELEPHANTS**

Pontius Pilate asked Jesus, “What is truth” before condemning Him to death. Pilate was not seeking truth, but was instead stating, “Truth is whatever (influential) people say or believe it is.” Today, 360-degree internet and media opinions surround every view or event and make Pilate’s attitude more prevalent than at any time in history. The “elephant in the room” is: When

everyone has a conflicting truth and all opinions and philosophies are considered equally true, truth and proof become meaningless concepts. When this mindset prevails, not even “elephant truth” can survive..

The modern proverbial blind men “see” the elephant by feeling it’s parts, but, the fable doesn’t end there: Two sighted children contradicted the blind men, describing the elephant as “a huge animal with saucer-sized eyes, ears like sails, giant teeth (tusks) and shoulders that block out the sun. One blind man snapped, “We are older than you and disabled. Our views are protected.” Another authoritatively declared, “That’s ridiculous, if such a beast existed, we would know about it.” The third reasoned, “The four of us agreed the elephant is like a tree, rope, leaf and a snake; there are only two of you so the majority must be right.” The fourth offered, “Let’s agree that all our views are equally correct and no truth is more true than any other.” This seemed like a fine idea to all, except to the children who had seen the elephant. The blind men derided them for being uncompromising and narrow-minded. They were not prevented from “seeing” the elephant by their blindness but by their unwillingness to consider or investigate “truth” and proof beyond their own opinions or senses.

*“The bible gives me a deep comforting sense that (things seen are temporal, and things unseen are eternal”*

Helen Keller – “The Story of My Life”  
(blind and deaf from birth)

Truth should be as simple as “see the proof, believe the truth.” But post-modernism has substituted popular opinions and personal feelings for verifiable evidence. In doing so, it has re-created God in its own image. This post-modern “god” nurtures feelings and self-esteem, but overlooks truth standards, evidence, proof, righteousness and moral boundaries.

The claim, “All truth is relative” is not even relatively true. One’s circumstance and the relative importance of truth to the individual may change, but

truth itself remains unchanged - or it is not truth at all. The feelings of the four blind men about the elephant's appearance are legitimate, but not equal to the eyewitness observation of even one sighted child. "Let's wait and see" is a reasonable response to "Will it rain on our picnic?" but an irresponsibly reckless response to God's truth and matters of eternal life and death.

## THE BIBLE IS GOD'S OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE TRUTH STANDARD

One's individual truth standard is the criteria by which one accepts something as true. Human truth standards are not necessarily true, but they enable people to find a balance between indiscriminately believing everything and believing nothing. Since simply believing something does not make it true, one must still ask, "Is what I believe true or only what I believe?" A child's truth standard often mirrors the beliefs of his or her parents, but, parents are human and imperfect. Some 80-90-year-olds still cling to the false beliefs of their parents of almost a century earlier, because they never questioned whether those beliefs were true or untrue. For a truth standard to be true, it must be objectively verifiable, unchanging and consistently reliable

Scripture/the Bible is objectively verifiable, indisputably unchanged over thousands of years and consistently reliable when applied to human lives. It is God's authoritative truth standard of His ways, truths, plans, purpose and promises for mankind. In contrast, personal philosophies, opinions and feelings vary by individual, are chronically untrue or unverifiable and, at best, are only anecdotally reliable..

People make many conflicting and contradictory claims about God, Christ and Scripture that cannot all be true. While the appearance of an elephant's ear has little impact on one's life or future, God's ways and truths have eternal implications. Scripture declares, "Those who suppress God's truths are without excuse" and "The fool has said in his heart, "There is no

God"" (Romans 1:18-20, Psalm 14:1). Those unconcerned with being viewed as "inexcusable fools" by Almighty God are both.

According to God's revealed and inspired truth, every individual's response to Jesus Christ and God's truth and ways during this lifetime is eternally binding. It determines whether or not one has Spiritual life and enters into an eternal relationship with God. God's truth is true, even if no one believes it and the world's lies are untrue, even if everyone believes them. There is no "burden of proof" on God or Christians to prove God or His ways and truths to scoffers and non-believers. There is, however, a "burden of belief" resting squarely on the shoulders of every living person.

## WHAT IF THE BIBLE IS TRUE?

Some casually respond to this question as if they were being asked, "Do you have a backup plan if your picnic is rained-out?". Yet, Scripture/the Bible is the sole, verifiable revelation of God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and God's truth, ways, plans, purpose and promises for mankind. Although Scripture entirely comprises the Bible, the sixty-six books known as "the Bible" were not compiled into a single book until many years later. The terms "Scripture" and "the Bible" are interchangeably used throughout "You Can Know The Truth." On earth, people ask "What if the Bible is true or God's Inspired Word?" Throughout eternity they will be amazed that anyone could have believed otherwise."

*"Christianity is a statement which, if false, is of no importance, and, if true, is of infinite importance. The one thing it cannot be is moderately important"*

**C. S. Lewis**

A categorical disbelief in Scripture/the Bible willfully rejects or ignores the combined historical, literary, scientific, archaeological, prophetic and other objectively verifiable truths and proofs affirming the Bible. God has not

abandoned mankind to ‘guess’ who He is or what He seeks, nor does He depend on human agreement, approval or even understanding for His truth and ways. When “I think” replaces “The Bible says” in one’s life and language, one has become one’s own god and human opinion has become one’s truth standard. Since God’s ways and truths are higher than human ways, they are not intuitive to mankind. Scripture/the Bible eliminates “I didn’t know” from the human “excuse repository.” It is God’s verifiable, unchanging, reliable truth standard for His unique and indispensable eternal truths.

## FIVE REASONS GOD’S BIBLE TRUTH IS INDISPENSABLE

### 1. **Spiritual life in this world determines Spiritual life for eternity.**

Everyone intellectually knows they will die and their body will decay in the grave. Everyone also has an inborn knowledge of God’s existence, deity and power (Romans 1:18-20), even though many deny it.. All people are created in God’s image and inherently know a greater life and purpose exist beyond this temporary world.

*“It is quite impossible for a thinking being to imagine non-being, a cessation of thought and life. In this, everyone carries the proof of his own immortality within himself.”*

**Johann Wolfgang von Goethe** 1749-1832

Without the God and Christ of Scripture, people have no past, present or future. Without God’s creation, people have only a random, accidental past. Without Jesus Christ as one’s Lord and Savior, one has no greater plan or purpose in the present. Without the eternal redeemer revealed in Scripture, people have no future beyond this temporary life and world.

In the context of eternity, this temporary world and lifetime are like a tiny grain of sand between two eternal mountains. One’s free will response to God on this “tiny grain of sand” is eternally decisive. Human opinions and

philosophies may appeal to people and even lead to earthly wealth, power and fame. But, without Spiritual life in Jesus Christ, all will be lost at one’s last breath.

*“For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. <sup>26</sup>What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?”*

*(Matthew 16:25-26 - NIV)*

### 2. **People exist for Spiritual life in relationship with God**

The only relationship God offers is that of a loving heavenly Father with sons and daughters adopted through faith in Jesus Christ. “God is Spirit and those who worship Him, must worship in spirit and Truth” John 4:24 - NKJV. Since all have sinned and come short of God’s glory, “good people” by human standards have no standing or relationship with God. A Spirit-led, love-based relationship with God hinges on one’s free will acceptance of the love and grace God offers in Jesus Christ. God has the power to overcome free will and force people to believe, love and trust Him, but, to do so, would eliminate man’s free will response and love for God.

Jesus Christ bridges-the-gap between human flesh and God’s eternal Spiritual kingdom. Those who believe God and trust Jesus Christ as Lord are born again to eternal Spiritual life. Those who are not born again to Spiritual life in this lifetime remain without Spiritual life and relationship with God in the next. These timeless, unchanging, irreducible, non-negotiable truths of Scripture rest entirely on God’s faithfulness to His revealed truths and promises..

“Without faith, it is impossible to please God” (Hebrews 11:6 – NIV). “God-pleasing faith” comes by hearing the Word of God” (Romans 10:17–KJV). “Hearing” the Word of God believes and responds to God’s truth by turning

one's heart to Jesus Christ, salvation, and eternal life. A philosophical agreement with Christian principles may lead one to church. But, only a heart-level belief and love for God and Jesus Christ leads to eternal Spiritual life in relationship with Almighty God.

### 3. God's Truth Standard is the only truth standard that matters

*Some claim, "I'm trusting God to work things out, do the right thing or any of a hundred other things."* While this sounds like faith in God, it often only means, "I hope God does what I want Him to do." Unless one's hopes and expectations are vested in God's truth and promises in Scripture/the Bible, they have no more efficacy than a perfunctory "God bless you" following a sneeze.

Two possible sources of information about God's ways and truths are human opinion and Scripture/the Bible. Human opinion often "seems right to people" but rarely outlives its bearer and leads only to the grave. God's truth standard, the Bible, stands forever and is the standard by which all other claimed truth is verified (not vice-versa). If Scripture is one's truth standard, Jesus Christ will reign as Lord of one's life. The Bible is not God, but it is God's true, inspired, unchanging revelation of His truth and ways and the standard by which all will ultimately be judged.

*"There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day."*

John 12:48 (NIV)

### 4. God's promises are revealed in Scripture

The song, "You can't stand on the promises if you don't know what they are" conveys a profound truth. The lyrics are about attending church, listening to sermons, giving money and being religious, yet remaining ignorant of God and His truth. Ignorance of Scripture is an old habit of the rebellious. In 500 BC, Hosea wrote, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." A "half-Gospel message" preaches about God's love, grace and mercy in Christ, but

ignores God's holiness, righteousness and justice and man's desperate need to repent of sin and be forgiven. A half-Gospel message is a lie, not a half-truth...

### 5. All are either warriors or helpless children on the Spiritual battlefield

Sending small children onto a battlefield to be heartlessly slaughtered would be unconscionable and cruel. Yet many rush into life's spiritual battles as exposed and vulnerable as helpless children on a battlefield.

*"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms".*

Ephesians 6:12 (NIV)

Satan and his ways are revealed in Scripture, but hidden from those who reject or ignore Scripture/the Bible. Satan is a merciless enemy who uses lies and deceit to fill the void created by mankind's unwillingness to believe God. Satan seeks to rob God of the glory, honor and praise God rightfully deserves. He seeks to separate people from hearing and knowing the ways and truths of God that lead to eternal Spiritual life in Jesus Christ. .

God does not force anyone to believe Him and trust Christ, nor does He permit Satan to overcome human free-will and force people to embrace wickedness and evil. However, those who reject or ignore God's inspired truth in Scripture, have already opened their heart, mind and life to Satan's lies and deception.

People often misrepresent, misinterpret or misquote God's truths. But God's timeless, unchanging Scripture/the Bible eliminates any excuse for "not knowing." None are judged for honestly misunderstanding God and Scripture, but all are accountable for believing God and trusting Christ. There is a cosmic battle being waged for the eternal soul of every individual. This struggle between human flesh and "powers and principalities in high places" (Ephesians 6:10) is being watched by "a great cloud of heavenly

witnesses” (Hebrews 12:1). Without inspired Scripture/the Bible, people are like defenseless children on a battlefield.

God inspired Scripture, an inborn knowledge of God in every person and heavens and nature that proclaim God’s glory are sufficient, yet only the beginning of God’s amazing revelation of Himself and Jesus Christ. Sin separates mankind from God, for “all have sinned.” Man’s continued unwillingness to believe God and trust Jesus Christ for forgiveness, mercy and grace, not sin, is what keeps him separated from God.

Suppose God, who knows every heart and truth, asked today: “Have you believed me and trusted Jesus Christ” and “How have you responded to my inspired Scripture?” The joyful confession of faithful believers would be: “I have trusted and loved You and Jesus Christ based on your inspired Scripture with my heart, mind, soul and strength.”

Sadly, the woeful lament of non-believers could only be: “I ignored and rejected You, Jesus Christ, and Scripture/the Bible every day of my life even though I knew the truth in my heart and owned several Bibles.” Yet even now, among those considering the question, some are thinking “But that’s not going to happen anytime soon - I’ll always have time.”

*[Note: Throughout this book, the dates shown are the approximate date the related Scripture was written. Scripture references used are generally representative, but not all-inclusive]*