

Does God Have Final Authority?

The Bible, God's Final Authority!

The Bible is the world's best-selling book. Year after year millions of copies are sold or given away. Although most ancient books have disappeared from memory, the Bible continues to be printed more than any other book and is available in more than 2,000 languages. It has helped form the basis for Western society and has shaped much of its religious, economic and social outlook.

When God created mankind, He instilled in us a high degree of intelligence, curiosity and capacity for learning. He gave each of us a mind that can gather and store knowledge and pass it on to succeeding generations.

When God created the universe, He established a principle to govern it - the principle of authority. God Himself was the highest authority. Under God were the archangels and under the archangels were many other angels. When man was created, he, too, was under God's authority.

God did not need to give us a book that contained information we could learn on our own. Instead, God gave us a mind with which we could acquire and develop an abundance of useful knowledge. What we needed was a book containing information we could never discover alone—knowledge that must be divinely revealed. That is precisely what the Bible is. It is a book of spiritual truth.

All of us live under and rely upon authorities of one sort or another. Authority means the right to rule and the right to be obeyed. All authority belongs to God because He is the Creator of all things.

As children, we relied upon the authority of our parents or other caregivers in order to survive. When we entered school, we relied upon the authority of our teachers in order to further develop our minds and social skills. Without the presence of knowledgeable authority figures, children would hardly be able to grow and mature. Even as adults, we rely upon the authority of others more knowledgeable than ourselves in the areas of work, travel, investments, and so on.

It is impossible for a single person to discover all that can be known without authoritative sources outside oneself. Authority pertains to the right and power to command and be obeyed, but God ultimately is the source of all authority, though in practice, people live with a variety of authorities.

God's thoughts are written in Scripture so if you are going to know what God has said, *you must study the Bible*. How are human thoughts transmitted? By the media, books, TV, movies, newspaper, and people. They say, "Here is what I believe".

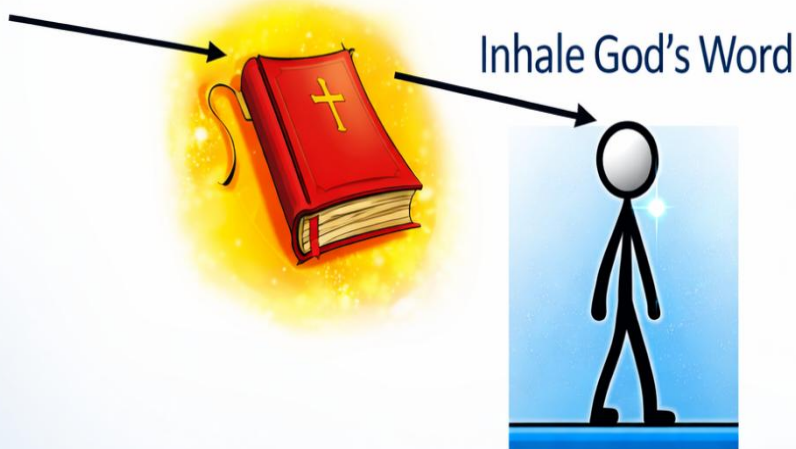
We need to counter this human viewpoint with injections of Divine Viewpoint. It is very unlikely that you think God's thoughts throughout the day.

The only way our conduct can or will change is through the doctrine that we inhale into our minds, which then – gives us something to exhale – to live by other than our human thoughts.

Proverbs 23:7

“For as he thinks within himself, so he is” ...

1 Corinthians 2:16 - For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.



Follow
The Instructions!
(exhale God's Word)
The only way to
please God.

I know What You're Thinking!

“How can *this* booklet help me as a Christian?”

The Bible has become academic for many Christians and Bible study has degenerated to facts, rules, and details.

Why should we study the Bible?

To know God personally and intimately. To understand His Plan, Purpose and Will for our lives. To know what truth really is versus what the world system's tells us is truth or what we have convinced ourselves is truth. We should want to please God. To think His thoughts, to live our lives based on what He teaches in the Bible.

My purpose for writing this booklet is to demonstrate that studying God's Word must become the most important thing in your life.

Your brain craves information. It absorbs all it hears and sees. It's always searching, scanning, waiting for something unusual to learn. It was built that way and it helps you to function in life.

How does your brain know what's important? Suppose you're out for a walk, and a lion jumps in front of you. What happens inside your head and body? Neurons fire. Emotions crank up. Chemicals surge. And that's how your brain knows... This must be important! Don't forget it or you may not have a second chance! But when it comes to spiritual things, our Old Sin Nature tells us there are many ways to do something apart from God's way. Something can be true to me even if it's not true to you. People debate the issues of life all the time, but only God's Word is an absolute truth not mans.

The cosmic (anti-God thinking) will try to convince you that your opinion about life is truth because you believe it, and it makes sense to you. Human viewpoint thinking tells you that you're in a safe, warm, lion-free zone. Not true! Satan is a *roaring lion* out to destroy your life, to manipulate your thinking – to keep you separated from God and to keep you from learning Absolutes which only come from God's Word. It is easier for us to agree with Satan's and the world's way of thinking because of our OSN.

The problem, your OSN is convincing your brain that studying God's Word is not a priority in your life. Other things are more important.

You Will Convince Yourself

That being faithful to Bible study and attending church are not really that important.

There are other things more important for my life, resources that are better spent storing the really *big* things. If you were face to face with a lion – you better make the right decision or become lunch!

Making the right decisions in life determines success or failure (for time and eternity) and there is no simple way to tell your brain, “Hey brain, thank you very much, but no matter what - I need to study the Absolute Truths found in God’s Word because there is a roaring lion named Satan seeking whom he may destroy”.

1 Peter 5:8 - Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Pastor Teacher

The pastor-teacher is the man gifted by God to equip believers for ministry and for the edification of the church!

Scripture Passages

Ephesians 4:11-14; Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Peter 5:1-4; 2 Timothy 2:15; Titus 2:15; 1 Peter 4:10-11

The Bible

Is not intended to be owned, respected, and occasionally referred to. It is to be read, reread, carefully scrutinized, and memorized. It is the final and ultimate authority in matters of belief and practice.

My prayer is that this book will answer many of the questions you have about the Bible, but especially the following:

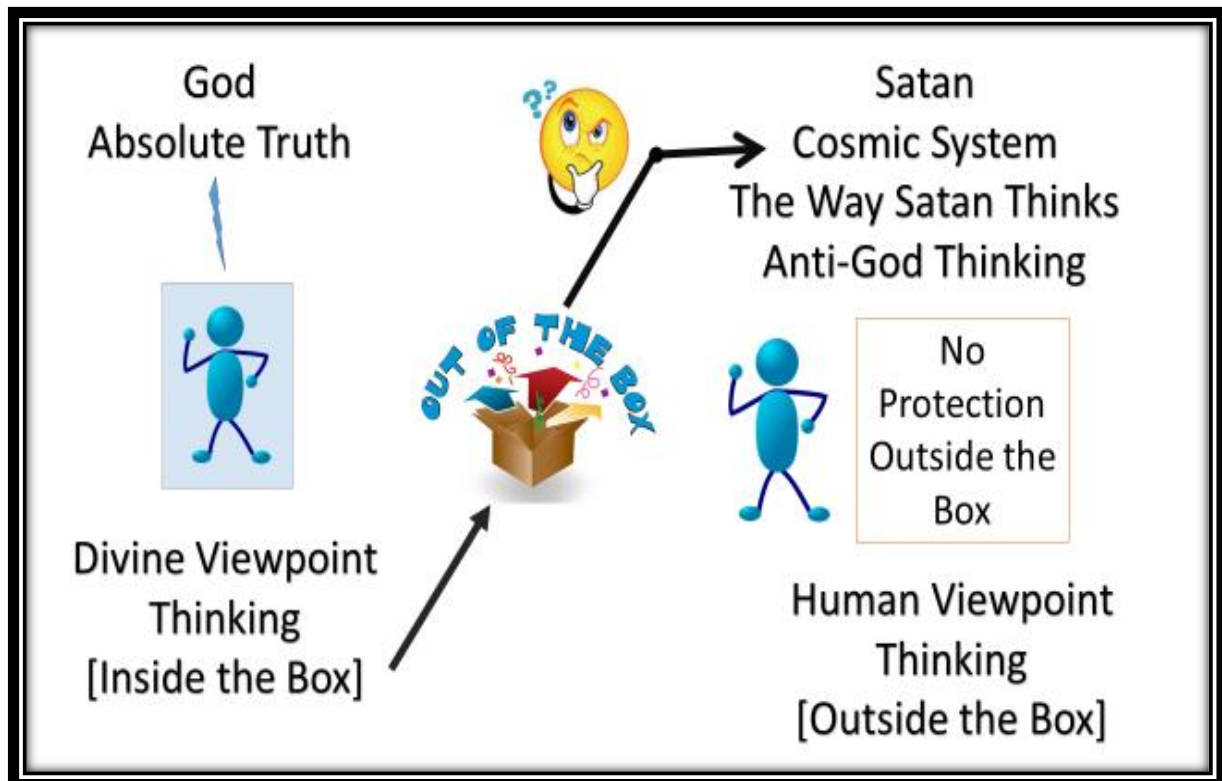
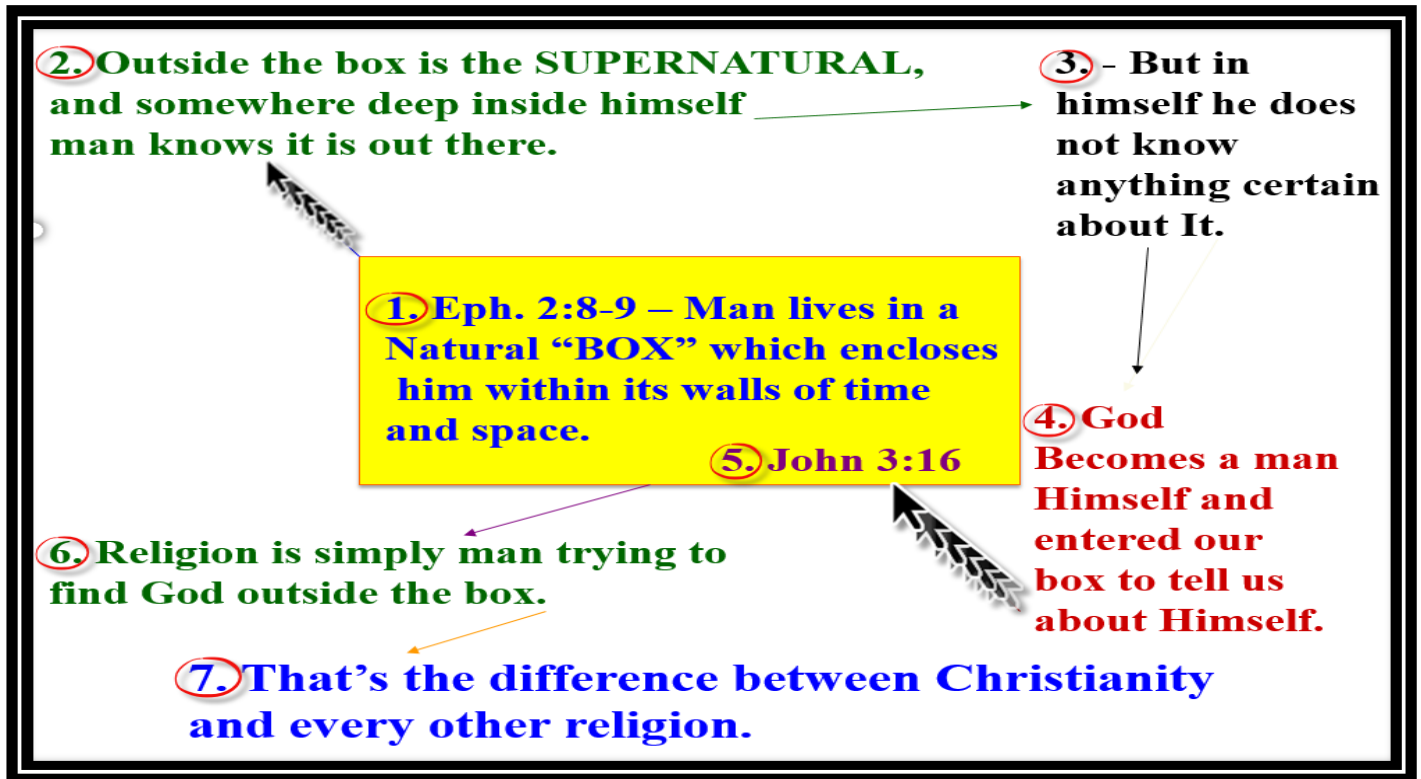
Can we trust the Bible?

Is the Bible reliable?

How we can know this is the Bible -- the Word of God, as opposed to the other claims that other books put forth or claim?

Is There a Difference Between Christianity and Religion?

The Answer is Yes!



UNDERSTANDING

When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, makes no other sense, then take every word at its ordinary, usual, literal meaning. Unless, of course, the facts of the immediate context studied, in the light of related passages and fundamental truths, clearly indicates otherwise.

Since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, man has been asking three major questions:

1. Where have we come from?
2. Why are we here?
3. Where are we going?

The problem is that man has always been in search of the “meaning of life”. Any philosophy of history must contain four important features:

1. It must explain the *why* of historic events in an organized way.
2. It must explain why things happened in the past, why the world is where it is presently and *what and why* of the future.
3. It must have a unifying principle which ties together and makes sense of events, distinctions and successions.
4. It must demonstrate that the flow of history has an ultimate goal or purpose, that events are not unrelated to each other and that future events are the grand climax toward which all previous events have been moving.

The Bible deals with the issue of meaning in the following:

1. It offers a systematic interpretation of history.
2. It covers the entire scope of history from beginning to end.
3. It concludes the *what and why* of the future.

What Do We Mean When We Say Absolute Truth?

It is something that is true at all times, for all people, in all places and under all circumstances. Now the question is, “Do you believe there is an absolute truth?” How many times have you heard this statement: “well that is true for you, but it is not true for me.”

CONSIDER THIS PERSPECTIVE

Did Jesus Christ die for all people (unlimited atonement)? The answer is yes. *1 John 2:2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.* If you reject him, you will spend eternity in hell. (That’s Absolute Truth)

(Point of Doctrine): Your perspective does not count, (i.e. I don’t believe in a literal Hell) your sincerity does not count, only what God the Creator says is an absolute. He created everything. He alone has that right to determine right from wrong!

Is stealing wrong? Of course it is – what if I ask **you** the same question in a different context, what if your child was starving to death, and you stole food to feed that child, is stealing wrong then? **Yes it is.**

The problem today is most people do not believe in absolute truth - we adjust our belief system to what goes on around us. Who can define what is truth, only God can. How is absolute truth defined, it is defined by His character, His essence, the things that makes God who He is.

You may ask me how can you say there is a hell, **have you been there?** No I have not. But I did not say there is a hell; God said there is a hell. I realize that this only applies if you believe the Bible is the Absolute Word of God.

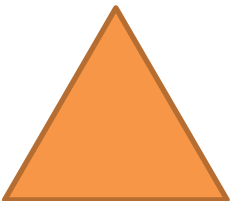
If you do not believe God exists, then, of course, the Bible has no meaning for you. You have no absolutes, but it does not change the fact that God’s Absolute Truth does exist, only you don’t believe it. Therefore, you will get your belief system from the world, which is what is called the “cosmic system”.

PRESUPPOSITIONS

When anyone comes to a field of study they must consider their presuppositions. Everyone has them and yet some do not consider them.

For instance, the atheist presupposes that God does not exist and that man is sovereign over his own life. He believes man has evolved as a product of random chance and time. He presupposes that he has all the facts, that he is unbiased, that he is able to understand all information and make logical, rational decisions without error. If he did presuppose these things, he would be forced to admit that he could not know anything for certain. If he admitted he did not know all things, then he would also be forced to conclude that he didn't "think" there was a God and was not sure, since his knowledge was limited. He either needs to claim omniscience and eternity or admit that what he "thinks he knows" is fallible, since his information is limited. Hence, his ability to be "objective" is a fallacy, since he does not have all the facts and the ability to weigh those facts objectively. Presuppositions have significant consequences.

As Christians we presuppose God has given us the Bible which is perfect, without error, and complete, giving us everything we need for life and godliness, equipping us for every good work, being the sufficient, authoritative, only self-authenticating source of Absolute Truth. We presuppose that God is the one who reveals the truth, through His Word, by the Holy Spirit.



Let's say you are a philosopher, you come along and you teach life is a triangle and it has three sides.



But later another philosopher comes along and says I have gone deeper into the matter and life is a square with four sides.



But still, later, another philosopher comes along and says the first two are wrong, life is a rectangle, it is four-sided but all sides are not equal.



What you have is a multi-cultural opinion about life and truth.

We know that God's Word came topside down, from God to man – the Bible is the thought and the mind of God. When God said thou shall not steal, lie, etc. it means that absolutely, at all times, for all people, in all places, under all circumstances.

Absolutes rest in the character of God. Why is it wrong to lie? Because God is truth. Why should we love one another? Because God is love.

The world says there are no absolutes. Everything is relative; this is what I believe; it's my truth. The world says, Christians have their truth, Muslims have their truth, the Jews have their truth, Catholicism has its truth, and let's all get along. We all have our truths.



We live in a day when the concept of truth is challenged more and more. Never before has there been such a redefining of truth.

The Greek word "alētheia" (truth) means what is seen, indicated, expressed, or disclosed, i.e., a thing as it really is, not as it is concealed or falsified. Alētheia is that which is absolute, that which is incontrovertible, irrefutable, incontestable, unarguable, and unchanging. If something is true, it's always true and can never be untrue, no matter what the circumstances.

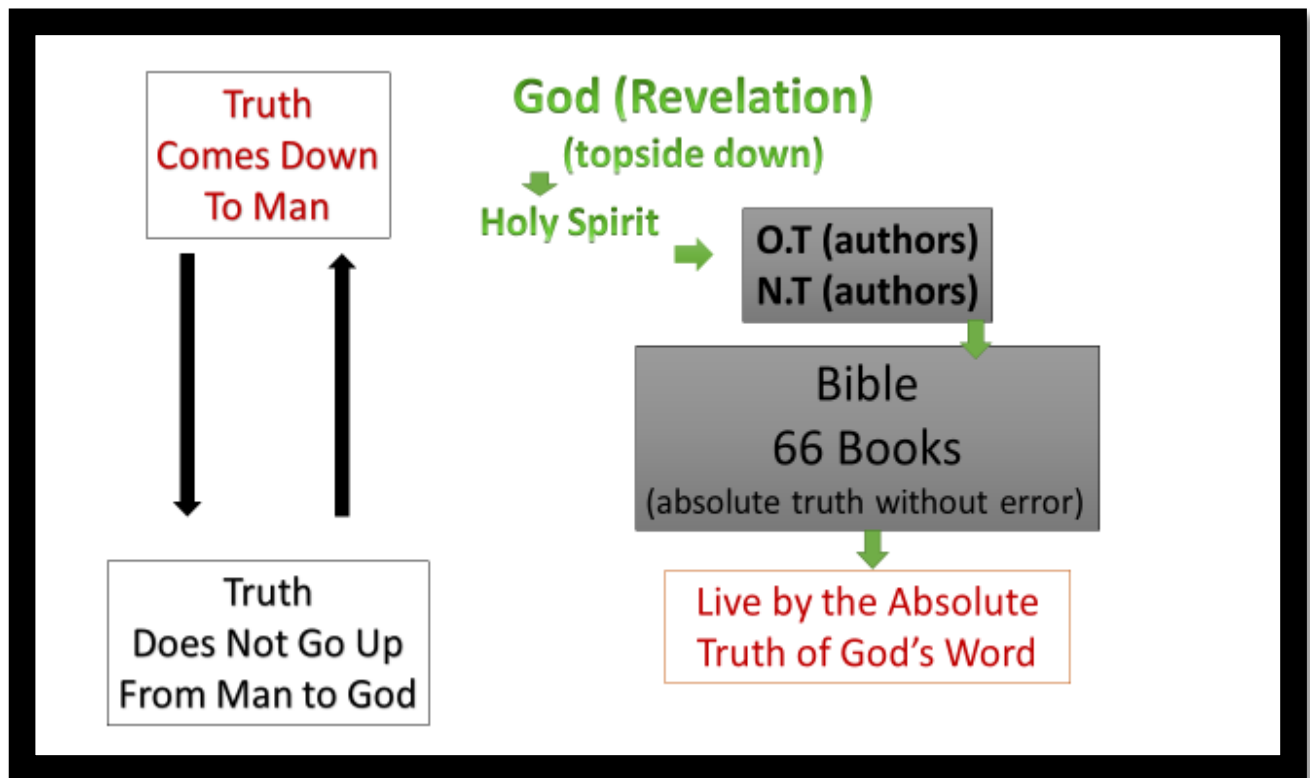
In *John 18:37-38*, Pontius Pilate asked the Lord Jesus, "Art thou a king?" Our Lord responded, "Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto **the truth**. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice." What a powerful statement! "If you would have truth," He was saying, "you will listen to Me." To that Pilate spoke three words—probably in at least a cynical if not contemptuous tone—that have echoed through the millennia: "What is truth?"

The most noteworthy thing about that scene is that while Pilate asked a legitimate and pivotal question, he did not wait for an answer, rather "when he had said this, he went out again." Think of it—he was standing in front of Truth Incarnate but walked away. And people have been walking away from the truth ever since.

What, then, is true? What is factual? What is absolutely reliable, totally secure, and unchanging? We are left with only one answer—God and His Word. How sad it is that so many today are "ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" (2 *Timothy* 3:7). No matter what man discovers, no matter what he learns, no matter what advances he makes, he still misses the truth.

The church is not the foundation of the truth; it didn't invent the truth. Rather the church is the mainstay, the prop, the support, the transmitter of the truth.

But What About God's Absolute Truth?



Perspective



Think of the Word of God as the concentric rings or bull's-eye target. All the rings on this model's surface reflect Biblical teaching, but the farther we go from the inner circle, the more we must present lines of reason to account for our assertions and how they best represent Biblical teachings.

We are confronted with complicated modern questions concerning every aspect of life and death that call for biblical answers. We struggle with what we are required to obey today. We wonder why the Bible seems silent in regard to some social issues. It feels like the Bible is a dummy in the hands of a ventriloquist and pastors can make it say just about anything they so desire.

The debate regarding how the Bible is prevalent today touches the very core of the nature of revelation, the product of which is the Bible.

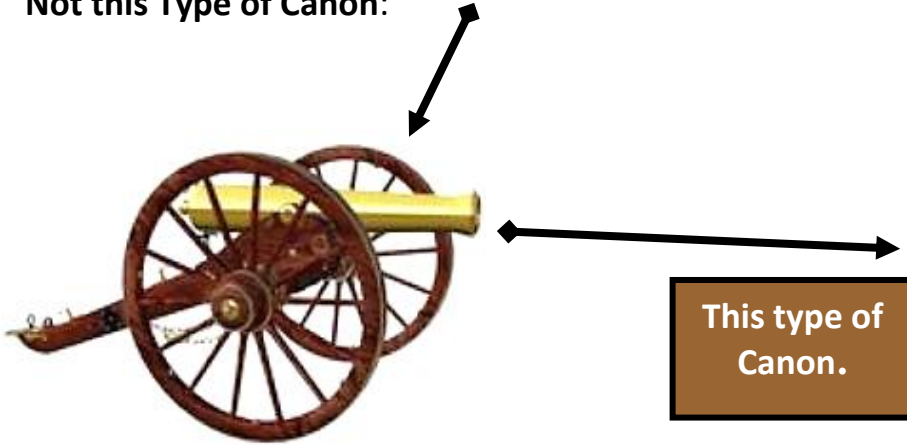
First:

The Bible is a reference manual that applies to every person in every dispensation the same way throughout life. The Bible never changes. Many discredit the Bible with no accountability even though cultures have changed, technology has increased and we have greater freedom to do and believe whatever we want. As a pastor teacher of the Word of God, I believe the Bible has an answer for everything man may face today. It may not be a point blank answer but the Bible has concepts that can cover the gray areas of life to the clear, more pointed issues. People today may communicate to others that there is no absolute truth anymore, but that is a lie manufactured by Satan in the cosmic (worldly) system.

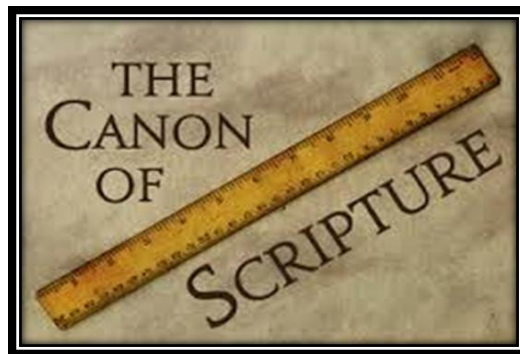
Second:

We must adjust our lives to the Bible and not try to adjust the Bible to our lives. We should not try to become the authority over our lives because that place rightly belongs to God. We are to bring into line our lives and thinking with the Absolute Truth of God's Canon of Scripture, the Bible.

Not this Type of Canon:



We are to align ourselves up against the Word of God and not try to align the Bible up against us i.e., make the Bible fit our belief system.



Another Thinking Illustration

Divine Viewpoint vs. Human Viewpoint

Based on Isa. 55:8



**Notice God's thoughts are the farthest distance from us.
We actually line up with the world's system of thinking,
closer to Satan's way of thinking than we are to
God's way of thinking!**

As Isaiah 55:8 teaches, our mindset is nothing like God's – if we are not made aware of that, we will go through life justifying our approach to life

Isaiah 55:8 - "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. ⁹ "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.

Revelation, Inspiration, Illumination, Communication

1. The thought, will, and plan of God are different from the thought, will, and plan of mankind.

2. Man needs to learn the thought, will, and plan of God. (*Isaiah 55:8-9; 1 Corinthians 2:9-11*).

3. **Revelation** (*2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20; 3:15-18*):

- Describes the act by which God makes Himself and His will known to man.
- Is either general or special.
- The written Word (Bible) is the only special revelation available today.
- Revelation is truth imparted which could not be discovered by natural reasoning.
- All man needs to know of God, as to His nature, character and being in this present earthly state is expounded in the holy, infallible Scriptures.
- All who would give themselves to expound this book must accept it as a revelation from God through man to man.

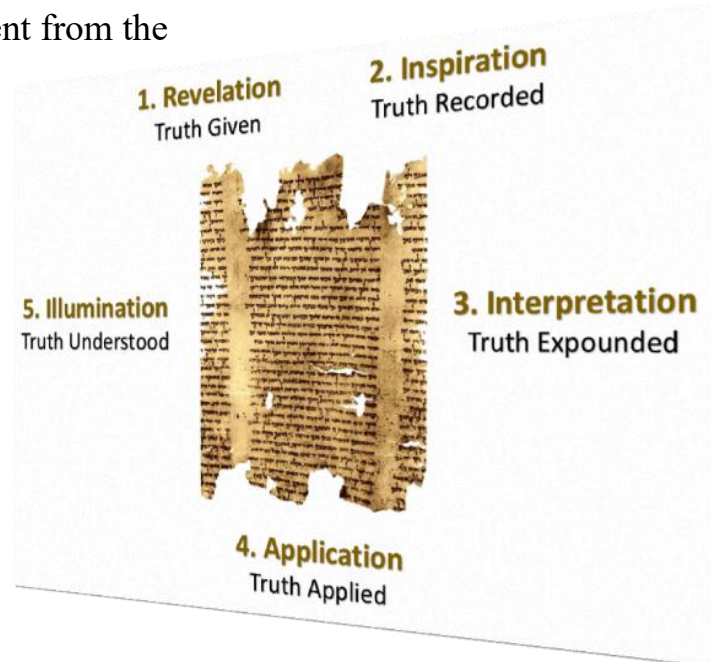
4. Inspiration

(*Luke 24:44; John 17:17; 1 Timothy 5:18; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21; 3:15-16*):

- It describes the process by which revelation is recorded.
- The Scriptures are an infallible revelation recorded under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- The Bible, God's complete revelation, is His written Word to mankind.
- The written Word is exactly as God wanted it down to the very words and letters, and is without error.

5. **Illumination** (*John 14:26, 1 Corinthians 2:12-13, 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 2:15; 2 Peter 3:16; 1 John 2:27*):

- The written Word comes from God.
- Coming to understand the one correct meaning and the many applications of the written Word through the ministry of the Holy Spirit combined with man's study.
- Has to do with the perception of truth brought about by the influence of the Holy



Spirit who makes the Word clear, helps you interpret it and helps you apply the Word to your life.

- The believer should continually seek the Lord to give illumination on the revelation given by inspiration.

6. Communication (*Ezekiel 2-3; 1 Corinthians 12:28-31; Ephesians 4:11-12; Hebrews 5:11-14*):

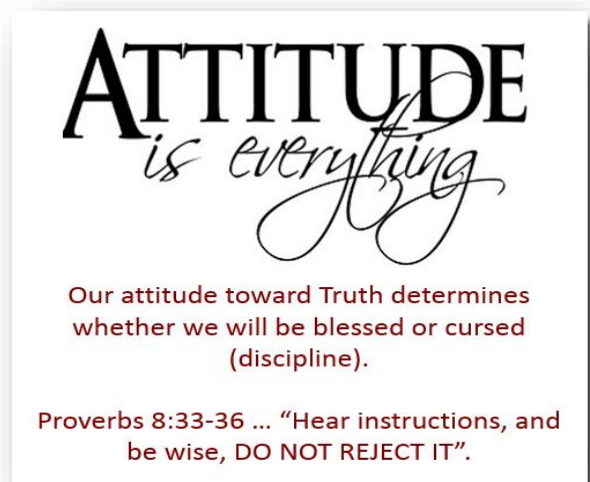
- The process by which God transfers His message.
- The transfer is from the page of the Bible to the soul and human spirit of man.
- God uses man (especially gifted communicators) in this process.

7. Interpretation

- Has to do with hermeneutics. Webster's Dictionary defines hermeneutics as "the science of interpretation, or of finding the meaning of an author's words and phrases, and of explaining it to others; exegesis, particularly applied to the interpretation of the Scriptures".
- Hermeneutics has also been defined as both "the science and art of Biblical interpretation."
- As a science, it is concerned with fitting principles of interpretation and as an art, it is concerned with the proper application of those principles.

8. Application:

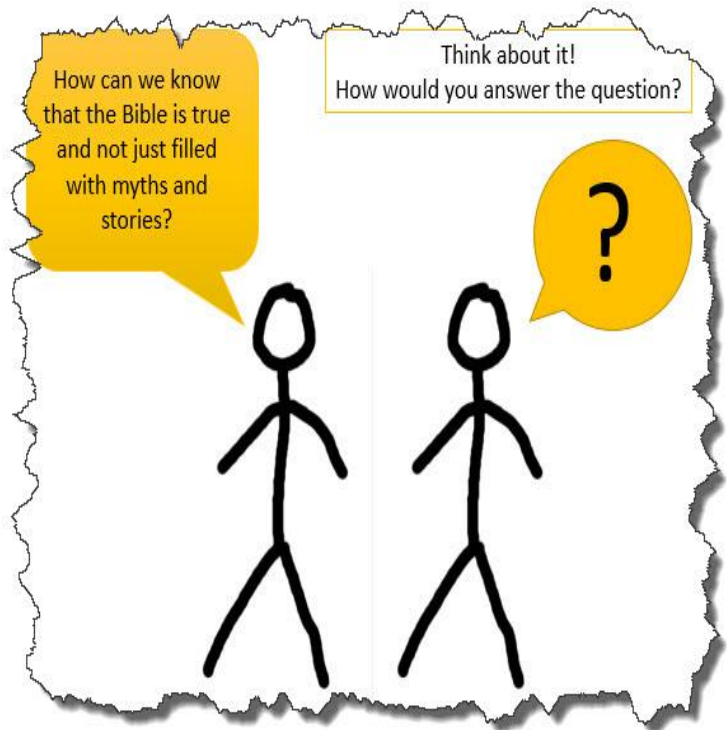
- Has to do more with the word "exegesis" which means to guide or lead out.
- Exegesis refers to bringing out the meaning of any writing, which might otherwise be difficult to understand.
- Hermeneutics supplies the principles of interpretation, while exegesis describes the process of interpretation.



Divine Truth

Introduction

Divine truth is the most important subject in the believer's basic belief system. It is absolutely essential that we understand from the Scriptures all of the components involved in fulfilling God's plan for our lives by living the Christian way of life. An accurate understanding of confession-repentance, the life of faith-rest, and the subjects of enforced and genuine humility must be ascertained from divine truth. There can be no bonafide motivation and genuine momentum in the spiritual life apart from the Biblical doctrines dealing with the various mechanics of experiential Christianity. Therefore, this particular study is the most important one in our consideration of basic Bible doctrine.



A Definition of Divine Truth

Divine truth or Bible truth is the content of the Canon of Scripture derived from exegesis classified by promises, principles and categories. Bible truth is also the mind or thinking of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *1 Corinthians 2:16 (NASB)* ¹⁶ *For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.* This divine truth should be communicated to all.

In the Old Testament, the prophets and priests were the authorized personnel in teaching Bible doctrine. Today, in the Church Age, the authorized personnel are primarily the pastor-teacher and those individuals in the local church who possess a spiritual gift of teaching.

Few words stir the heart like "Freedom." In all of its contexts, we desire fervently to be free. Free of physical bonds, free of political bonds, and free of the bonds that chain our moral character and spiritual condition. Surely freedom of moral character and the spiritual condition are the most important. We all want to be better people, and we all want forgiveness for evil deeds done in the past.

In view of this, Jesus said, *"If you continue in My Word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."* **John 8:31-32 (NASB)** Freedom comes from the truth--acknowledging it, accepting it, and putting it to work in our lives.

Christianity has become man-centered in its outlook. People are not so much seeking to please God but rather to entertain and please themselves. They look for congregations that offer motivational sessions for the adults and entertainment for their children. The issue of doctrinal correctness, according to the Scriptures, is not even a concern for many. Negative preaching of any type is frowned upon.

To condemn sin and oppose those who perpetuate it is looked at as self-righteous and judgmental. Often we hear the scripture, *"judge not that you be not judged"*, being quoted and lifted from its context in order to censor any who might take a stand against immorality or non-biblical practices. *"If it doesn't make me feel good then I don't want to hear it"*, seems to be the attitude of the day.

Paul warned the evangelist, Timothy, concerning this self-centered, man-pleasing form of religion in **2 Timothy 4:3-4**, *"For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great- number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths."*

Renewing Of The Mind

Step #1 – Deprogramming,
convincing you that your past
way of thinking is all wrong.

Step #2 – Call for complete
change of the will – seeing that
the mind goes into Neutral
(perfect preparation for the third step)

Step #3 – Reprogramming
designed to replace old
concepts with new ones!



We need to get to the truth and hold on to it as we will be judged by it. (*John 12:48 NASB*) ⁴⁸ "He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the Word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.

Is There Absolute Truth?

What do we mean by absolutes? Using a standard dictionary meaning we learn the following: *An absolute is anything that is free or independent of anything extraneous.*

In simple terms, an absolute is a truth that stands alone and is complete in itself. God, for example, is absolute truth. Absolute truth is that which never changes with the passage of time or circumstances.

Webster's dictionary also gives *real* or *actual* as synonyms for the word *absolute*. Truth is that which harmonizes with reality; it is not mere opinion. But who has the right to establish moral absolutes?

Does one human being have a right to impose his or her standards of right or wrong on others? Christians are often accused of trying to do just this. What is the true Christian position on the existence of absolute truth? This can easily be answered by three statements.

- Only God has the authority to establish absolute truth; man does not.
- God has revealed moral absolutes in the Bible.
- These absolutes are to be learned, espoused, and practiced by all men and women.

It is on this foundation that Christianity is built. This allows us to establish a working definition of truth. Absolute truth is that truth revealed by God in the Bible that never changes under the influence of time, place, or circumstance. It begins with Jesus Christ who is "the same, yesterday, today, and forever" and incorporates everything that the Word of God presents as factual.

The opposite of absolutism is relativism. That which is relative means time, circumstance, and place determine what is true for the given moment. To a relativist, truth "changes" from time to time and culture to culture.

2 Timothy 3:15-17 (NASB77)

¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ **All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;** ¹⁷ that the man of God may be **adequate**, equipped for every good work.

Verse 16:

“all” - both Old Testament and New Testament

“inspired” - “*Theopneustos*” “*Theos*” God; “*pneuma*” breath (God breathed).

“by God” - God is the source.

“profitable” - the Bible has a purpose.

“teaching” - the Bible gives us the body of truth (doctrine) upon which we are to base our perspective and make our decisions.

“reproof” - to convict of error and to rebuke. The Holy Spirit uses the Word to show us where we have wandered off course.

“correction” - restoration to an upright or right state. It sheds light on the right way to live the Christian way of life.

“training” - instructions and discipline; tells us what we should do and the way we should think.

Verse 17:

“adequate” - that we may be prepared; it means skillful, equipped, qualified.

“good work” - to do what God wants us to do, which is to be filled with the Holy Spirit, remaining in fellowship, studying the Bible, applying what we learn to life.

Someone can say the Bible is the inerrant, infallible Word of God but their system of interpretation goes opposite of the truth of that verse. This is called “faulty hermeneutics”. You can do something right in a wrong way which invalidates what you believe or how you translated or interpreted a verse. Therefore, the Bible as the Word of God is absolute truth.

“The sum of Your Word is truth, and every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting.” (Psalm 119:160)

“If you continue in My Word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” (John 8:31-32)

“Sanctify them in the truth; Your Word is truth.” (John 17:17)

“Gird loins with truth” (Eph. 6:14)

- Truth is not simply whatever works. This is the philosophy of pragmatism – an ends-vs.-means-type approach. In reality, lies can appear to “work,” but they are still lies and not the truth.
- Truth is not simply what is coherent or understandable. A group of people can get together and form a conspiracy based on a set of falsehoods where they all agree to tell the same false story, but it does not make their presentation true.
- Truth is not what makes people feel good. Unfortunately bad news can be true.
- Truth is not what the majority says is true. Fifty-one percent of a group can reach a wrong conclusion.
- Truth is not what is comprehensive. A lengthy, detailed presentation can still result in a false conclusion.
- Truth is not defined by what is intended. Good intentions can still be wrong.
- Truth is not how we know; truth is what we know.
- Truth is not simply what is believed. A lie believed is still a lie.
- Truth is not what is publicly proved. A truth can be privately known (for example, the location of buried treasure).

Those who hold to the notion that only science can make truth claims, fails to recognize that there are many realms of truth where science is impotent. For example:

- Science cannot prove the disciplines of mathematics and logic because it presupposes them.
- Science cannot prove metaphysical truths such as: minds other than my own do exist.
- Science is unable to provide truth in the areas of morals and ethics. You cannot use science, for example, to prove the Nazis were evil.
- Science is incapable of stating truths about aesthetic positions such as the beauty of a sunrise.
- Lastly, when anyone makes the statement “science is the only source of objective truth,” they have just made a philosophical claim—which cannot be tested by science.

Assumptions

The non-Christian world assumes that all religions, including Christianity, teach basically the same thing. They are just different paths to improving your life and spiritual side. (Not True)

There is also the assumption that no one can know which religious beliefs are true or false, so Christians can't say they know what's true and what's not. Truth is relative. (Not True)

Relativism is the belief that we cannot know what is true. Here's the problem: Take the statement, *We cannot know what truth is*. This statement would have to be true if relativism were correct. But relativism says we can't know if anything is true or false, so we could not even know if the statement, *We cannot know what is true, is true!* Relativism is self-refuting. That's because there is such a thing as truth.

Those Who Suppress the Truth

Romans 1:18 (NASB)

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

1. The unbeliever who rejects God suppresses the truth of the gospel in their own soul even though they know it to be true.
2. They hold back, hinder, prevent, hold down, and suppress the truth, even though they have heard the truth about God's love for them.
3. They know that God loves them but they don't want to know. They do not want to face the reality that God cares about them and has provided eternal life for them. Instead, they have to deny and hold down this truth in their soul. They must prevent this truth from becoming a reality to them.
4. The way in which they prevent the truth of God's love for them from becoming a reality is by continuing to be focus all of their energy, attention, thoughts, and desires on their sin nature.
5. They are preoccupied with what they want instead of what God wants or has done for them.
6. Their sin nature continuously motivates them. As a result, they keep on seeking out their pleasures, doing the deeds of unrighteousness, performing the thoughts and actions of wickedness and evil, resulting in the practice of injustice toward others.

7. They cannot allow the truth of God's love for them to come into their thinking and be a reality, for this would destroy the world of illusion and delusion they have created for themselves. They would rather live in the false reality that they have created than live in the reality that God loves them and has provided eternal life and blessings for them.
8. Therefore, from their own free will, they reject the love of God and suppress the reality and truthfulness of His love for them. They choose to remain living in the unreality their own sinful desires.

The Truth About Jesus Is That Jesus Is The Truth!

Truth: Few things in the world today are more under attack than the concept of Truth: Truth with a capital "T" that is, Absolute Truth.

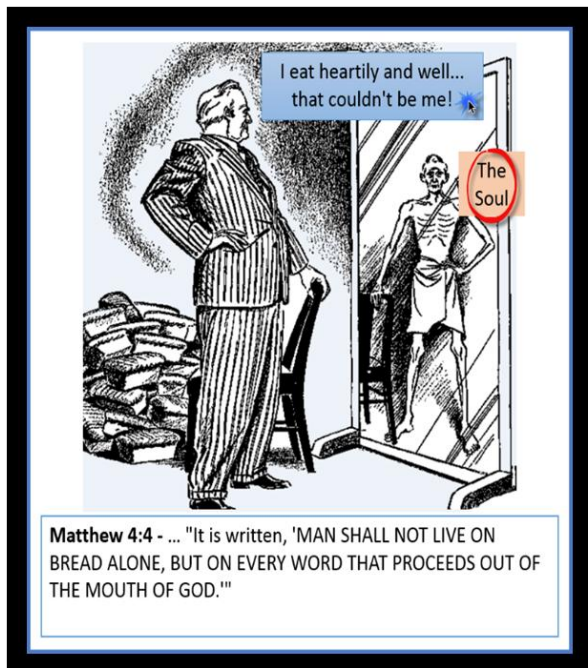
Absolute Truth is that which is real. It is reality. Since Absolute Truth defines reality, it therefore includes the very meaning and purpose of life. Absolute Truth is independent from any and all human or angelic opinions about it. Absolute Truth is separate from the creation but it may be seen and expressed in creation.

Absolute Truth is objective (outside of me – Divine Viewpoint) not subjective (inside me – human viewpoint reasoning or experience-based "knowledge". Neither "supernatural" so-called "spiritual" experiences "knowledge" nor that "knowledge" based on daily living is a source for Absolute Truth).

Absolute Truth is not relative: it does not change with situations. Absolute Truth is not true simply because I believe it. My believing something does not make it true.

Absolute Truth is true whether I believe it or not!

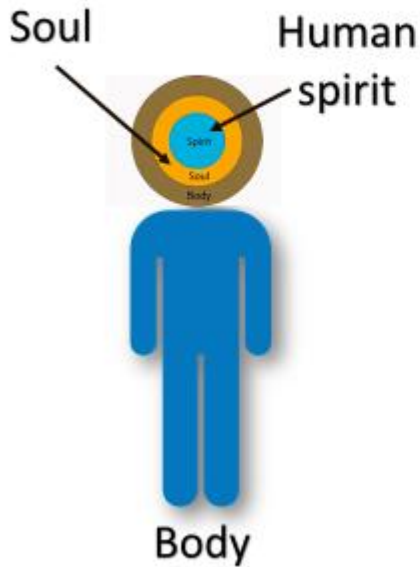
My thinking does not judge Absolute Truth; Absolute truth judges my thinking. Absolute Truth is revealed Truth: it comes from God. Absolute Truth is not something you create; it cannot be “true” for me but “not true” for you and both still be Absolute Truth! Absolute Truth is always that which defines reality and is completely reliable as it does not change.



**Everybody has an agenda,
but what motivates that agenda?**

Man's Soul

Man & Woman



The Soul of Man & Woman

1. Self-consciousness (awareness)
2. Mentality (thinking part)
3. Volition (decider – decision making)
4. Emotion (appreciator)
5. Conscience (norms and standards)

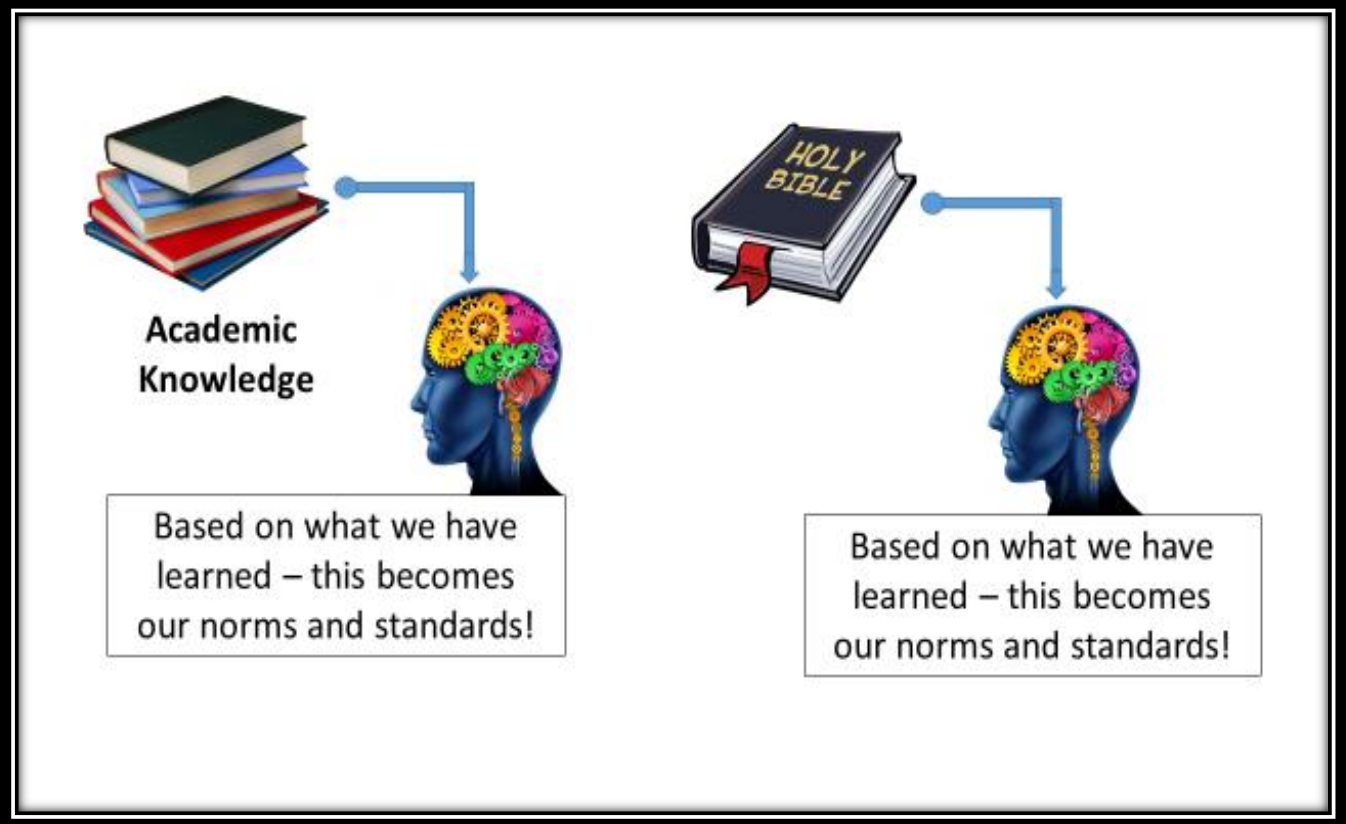
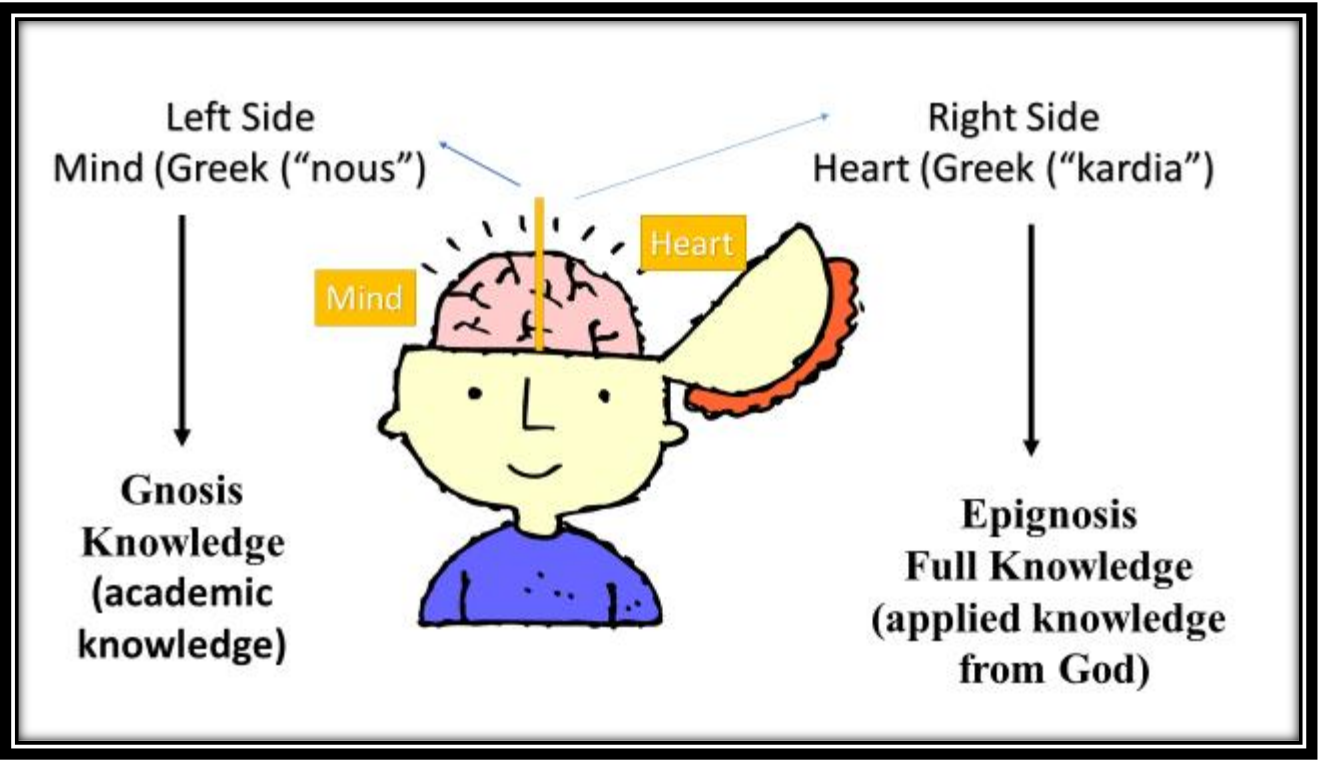
All information comes into the mind first (all info can be accepted or rejected)



If accepted this information is transferred to the heart!

We accept it as truth based on faith.

Human viewpoint is rejected by Christians (ONLY) Divine Viewpoint is accepted.

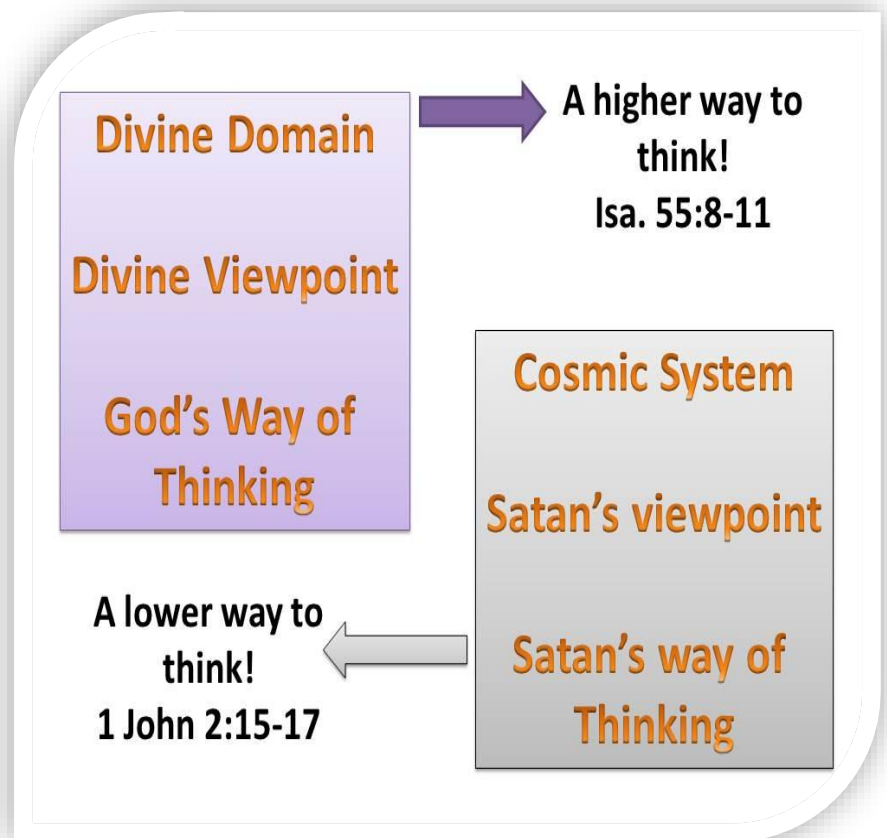


Establishing Some Facts

FACT – we don't think like God!

Isaiah 55:8-13 (NASB77)

⁸ "For **My thoughts** are not **your thoughts**, Neither are **your ways My ways**," declares the LORD. ⁹ "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰ "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth, And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; ¹¹ So shall My Word be which goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it. ¹² "For you will go out with joy, And be led forth with peace; The mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you, And all the trees of the field will clap their hands. ¹³ "Instead of the thorn bush the cypress will come up; And instead of the nettle the myrtle will come up; And it will be a memorial to the LORD, For an everlasting sign which will not be cut off."



**Unless we change our system of thinking,
we will never understand all that God has in store for us.**

Verse 8:

“My thoughts” - Divine Viewpoint, My way of thinking, My ideas, My concepts. It means to invent something to think – to set a value on something. God is saying My inventions, (creation) values, thought pattern is not the same as your human viewpoint thinking which is part of the cosmic system.

“your thoughts” - human viewpoint thinking – your ideas of correct absolutes, what you think is clear thinking, (does not make it an absolute truth).

“your ways” - human achievement.

“My ways” - Divine achievement.

Verse 9: is teaching that it is time to reprogram the way we think.

Verses 10-11: teaches three things:

1. His Word will give results.
2. His Word will furnish tools and resources.
3. His Word will meet needs.

1 John 2:15 (NASB77)

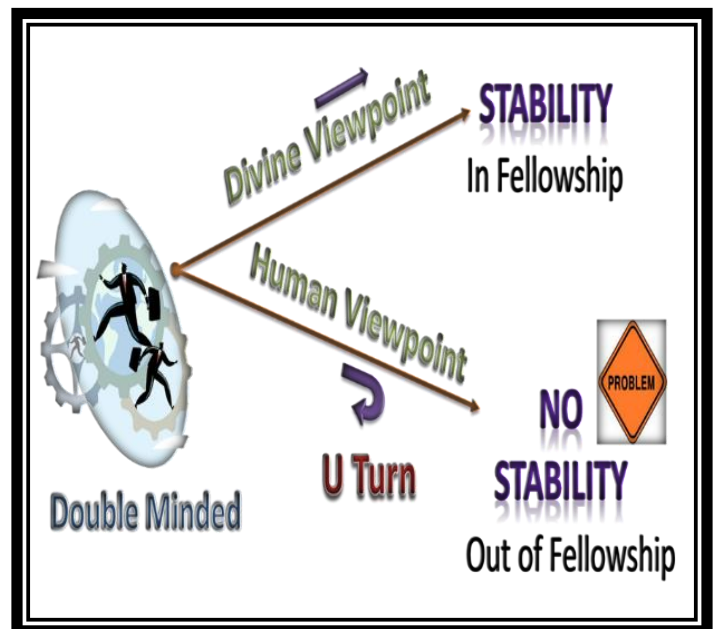
¹⁵ **Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**

The principle: the love of the father and the love of the world cannot coexist in your mind, one dries out the other.

“Do not” - stop.

“love” - a mental attitude word that means something you think.

“world” cosmic system - refers to something that has order - something that is attracted to our old sin nature (a systematic and orderly arrangement of ideas). Therefore, it is a thought pattern which seeks to build up self and exclude the Lord Jesus Christ out of your thinking.



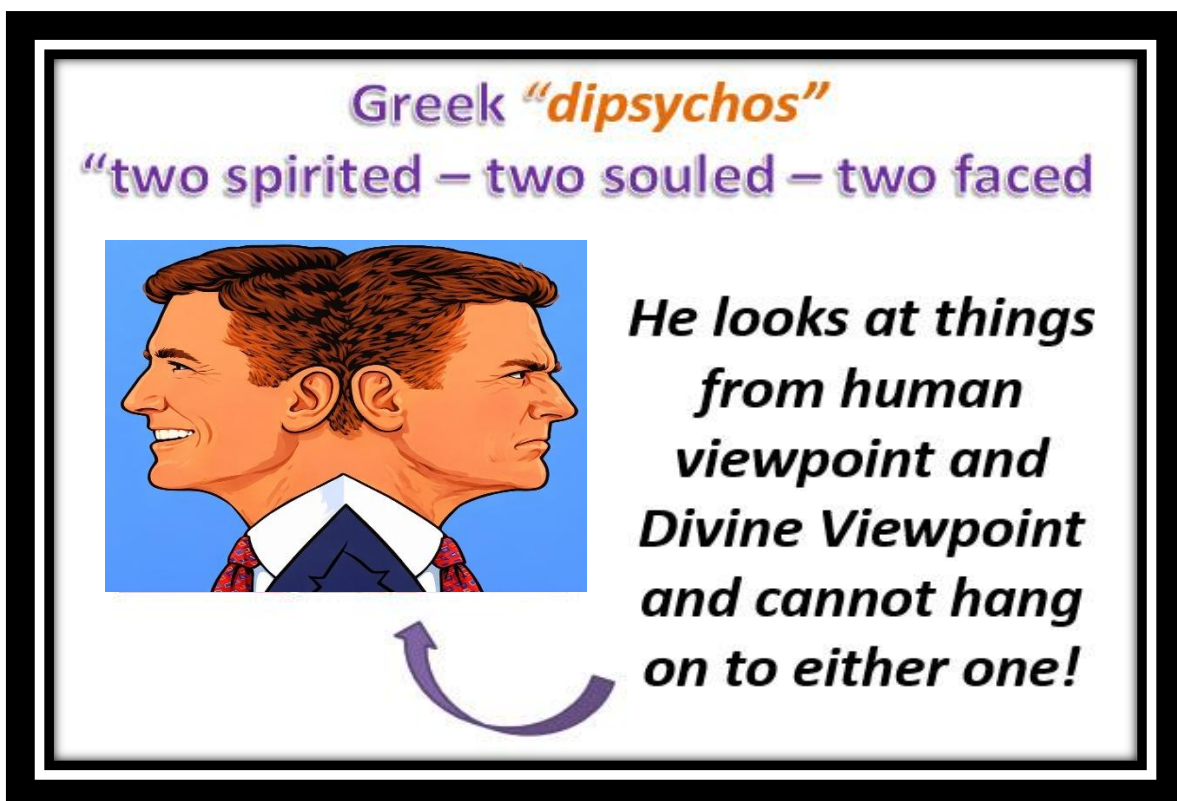
If you think like an unbeliever you will act like one. Satan's world (the cosmic system) is filled with illusions, delusions and misconceptions of happiness.

Satan's myth: *pleasant circumstances and life can make you happy*. Satan's myth about happiness in life includes things such as money, success, pleasure, social life, fame, material things, health, etc.

"If" - third class condition – it means maybe you will maybe you won't – but we all have the potential to love the world because of our old sin nature.

"of" - for

"not in him"- not living in fellowship or controlled by the Holy Spirit.



James 1:8 - being a double-minded (Greek – "dipsychos") man, unstable in all his ways.

Don't Divide the Mind – Take in the Word of God Daily

One of the biggest problems in life is that we fail to take in doctrine on a regular basis. Therefore; we have problems dealing with certain subject matters because we have not looked at the complete picture.

2 Timothy 2:15 (NASB) ¹⁵ *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the Word of truth.*

Application: If you don't have a daily relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ through a study of His Word – you can throw away any hope of spiritual growth.

“Be diligent” – Study, exercise, exert one's self, make every effort, use speed.

“present yourself” – represent, make every effort to concentrate, give priority to the Word.

“approved to God” – do you want His highest and best for your life?

“workman” - an agricultural worker, a laborer, a routine worker. This word indicates one who is involved in the mundane, routine, ordinary, distasteful, or dull things in life. In the ancient world it meant feeding the cattle, working in the fields, cleaning out the barn, etc. Many people want recognition for themselves therefore, they do great things for God, or want to be written up in articles, or want peer recognition for their accomplishments. This attitude is the opposite of this verse.

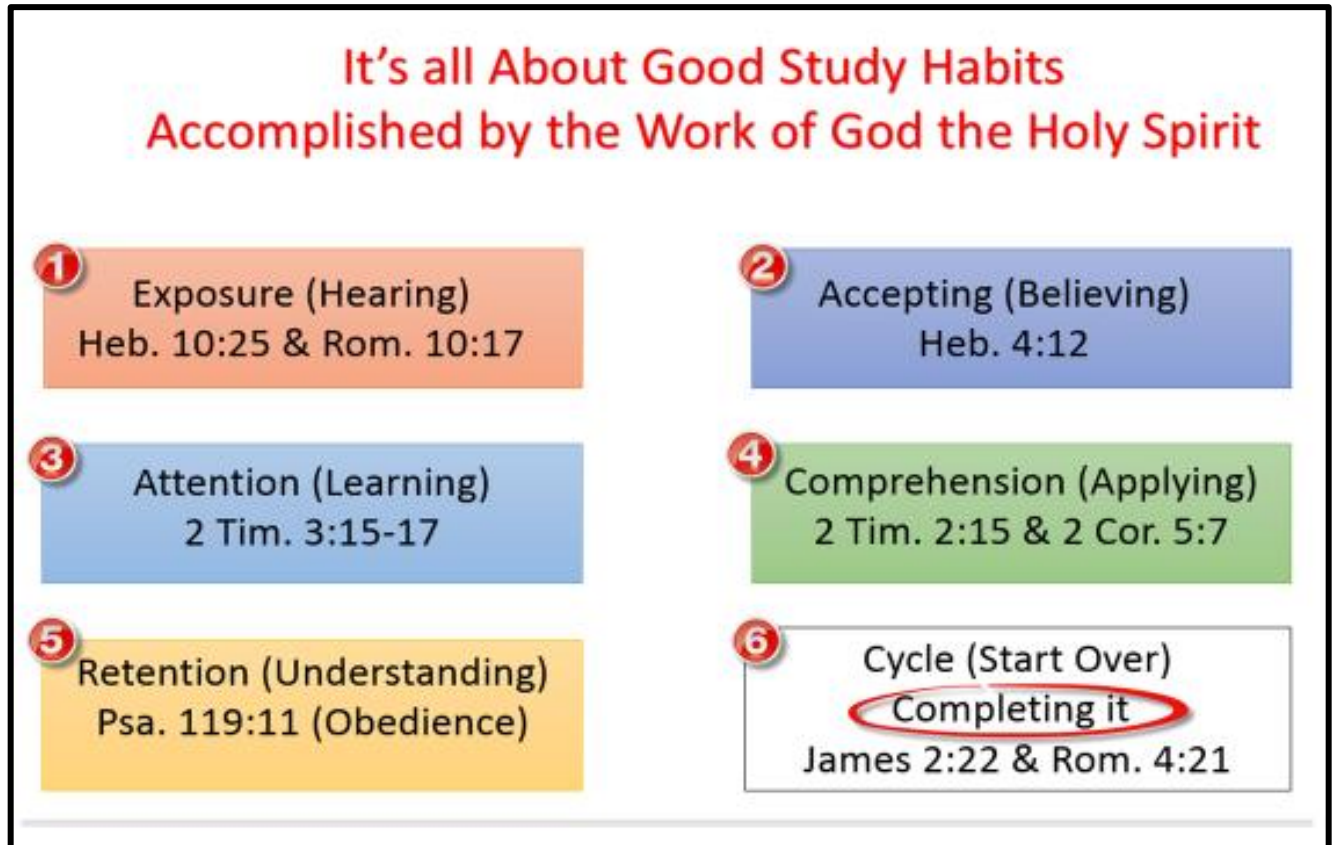
“does not need” - literally, with the previous word, "a not-ashamed workman". You don't have to be ashamed of your station in life if you have an honest vocation. Every believer is in full time service. A Christian worker must keep grace oriented and not despise the ordinary things, or those who live an "ordinary" life.

“rightly dividing the Word of Truth” (accurately handling) - to cut straight, to line out a straight path, to keep with accurate interpretation without deviation. Use Bible doctrine to keep from straying into the cults, into the many different movements, to stay with accurate interpretation and application of the Word of God. This enables a life with no detours.

Summary: Therefore, the verse says, *"Making every effort to represent yourself approved to God, an irreproachable worker making an accurate statement, living the Christian way of life with no deviation from the Word of God."*

We must learn certain doctrines which are pertinent to our application to life on a day by day basis. We must build a solid doctrinal foundation before we can tackle major doctrines in the Bible. If not, we will never accomplish the plan, purpose and will of

God for our lives. We're left here in order to advance to maturity and to glorify God in the Christian way of life.



What Motivates You Or - What is Motivation?

Definition: Motivation is what is located inside the individual impelling or enticing action. Motivation is both the mental and or the emotional incentive or impulse.

James 4:17 (NASB77)

¹⁷ *Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin.*

So a motive is any thought which determines a choice or induces action.

Proverbs 16:2 (NASB77)

² *All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, But the LORD weighs the motives.*

This verse reveals how easy it is to use human reason, experience, a combination of both human reason and experience, intuition and not the absolutes of God's Word in making decisions.

Psalms 7:9 (NASB77)

⁹ *O let the evil of the wicked come to an end, but establish the righteous; For the righteous God tries the hearts and minds.*

You may be deceived by your own motivation but God knows why you think the way you do.

In the Christian Way of Life, the believer is either motivated by doctrine in the soul and the filling of the Holy Spirit which produces personal love for God or by the lust pattern of the *old sin nature* and Satan's cosmic system, which produces good and evil.

James 4:3 (NASB77)

³ *You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.*

This verse teaches it is easy for us to have the wrong motive even in our prayer life.

Hebrews 4:12 (KJV)

¹² *For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

“the Word of God” - the mind of Christ (the Bible). **1 Corinthians 2:16 (NASB)** ¹⁶
For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.

“quick” - alive (keeps on living) just as prevalent today as it was the day it was written.

“powerful” - our source of operational power.

“sharper than any two-edged sword” - referring to the Roman sword – it was a short and light sword that anyone could handle easily and it never left the user off balance or vulnerable.

“discerner of the thoughts” - the Word of God is the critic of man's thoughts and intentions.

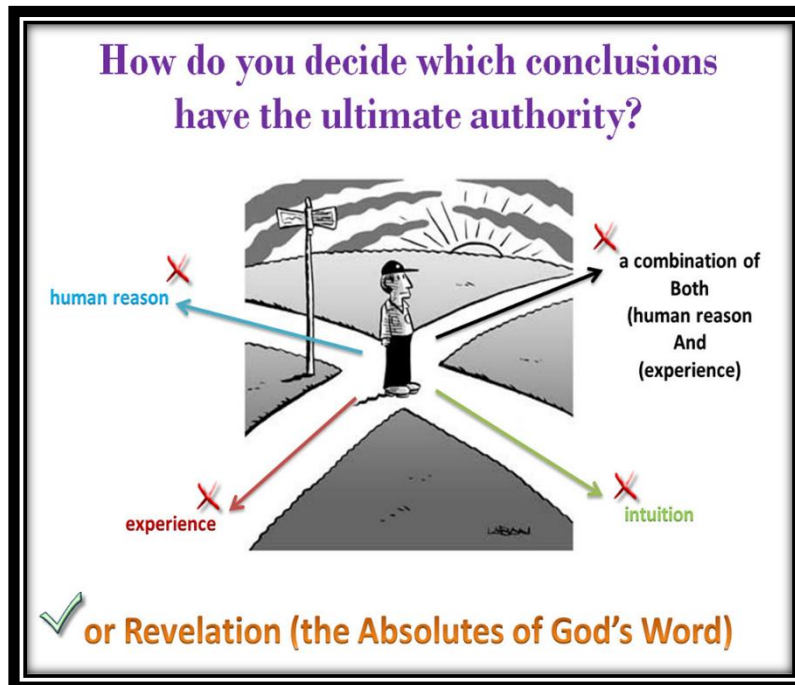
“heart” - the dominant lobe of the brain, the core of man's thinking.

How do you perceive truth?

1. Reason (is it rational).
2. Experience.
3. Combination of reason and experience (scientific method).
4. Intuition (based on perception) have you ever, in referring to someone you haven't seen for a long time say that person is old - when they only had the appearance of being old.
5. Revelation (based on the Word of God).

How do you evaluate what is right?

1. What is true?
2. And what is not true?



The Basis of Knowledge

There are three autonomous systems of perception:

1. **Truth by Rationalism.** An attempt to arrive at truth may be called rationalism. This assumes man may arrive at truth by the use of the human mind alone. A rationalist would say, man's intellect, unaided by anything else, is adequate to arrive at truth.

This view must also be rejected by Christians for two reasons:

First, it overlooks the judgment of God that has been placed on the human mind as stated in *First Corinthians 1:19*, "For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will set aside.' "

Second, rationalism also overlooks the incapacity of the human mind as stated in *First Corinthians 2:9*, "But just as it is written, 'Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him.'" This, of course, does not mean the believer is not to use his mind; but it does mean he recognizes the source of truth is the Word of God not the human intellect. Human viewpoint thinking denies the Word of God; therefore, you will never see the full picture of life.

Rationalism – Independent use of logic and reason, innate ideas, and faith in human ability.

Rationalization (reason) is only a calculating tool. A calculator does not explain the origin of the data, but before you calculate, some data has to go into it.

Man, on his own without any help from anyone, including God, works it out; therefore it is truth because he has worked it out in his own thinking.



- 2. Truth by Empiricism.** Empiricism is the "try it and see if it works" method. If it works, it is true; if it does not work, abandon it; it is not true or useful. The empirical method relies entirely on experience. It can be recognized by phrases such as "Recent studies concerning the behavior of children reveal" This method of determining truth must be rejected by believers on the basis of *2 Corinthians 5:7*, "*for we walk by faith, not by sight.*"

A walk by faith does not mean one must fumble through life by guesswork, but rather consists of convictions and confidence resting on the facts of the Word of God. In saying we are to "*walk by faith not by sight,*" Paul uses a word that means form or outward appearance, what appears to the eye to be true.

The Bible gives instruction that contradicts man's opinion at many points. Believing the Word of God, however, is the only safe and secure path.

Empiricism – Sense perceptions of external experience; scientific method; faith in human ability, which is independent use of logic and reason.

The philosophy behind empiricism is that the mind was an empty slate and these sense perceptions gave us information, therefore, man can come to truth without any outside revelation.

- 3. Truth by Mysticism.** Inner, private experience; intuition; faith in human ability which is independent, non-logical, non-rational, and non-verifiable. Mysticism carries the idea of no meaning in life.

All three - rationalization, empiricism, and mysticism teach:

“Don't try to convince me – my mind is made up”.

- 4. Truth by Revelation (FAITH).** The Christian doctrine of revelation teaches that the Scriptures came to us "topside-down." The Bible is not a collection of the reflections and opinions of men but truth issued from God Himself. This revelation from God is found in the Bible, the source of absolute truth.

5. It is the fountain from which the believer may drink and eat food that nourishes the soul and, therefore, have a foundation on which his life may be built.

There is no course of life as fine as that built on the doctrines of God's Word and no confusion as great as that which occurs with its neglect. Truth is perceived by revelation from God which is contained in the written Scriptures.

Reason cannot interpret the Bible. Revelation is objective absolute truth from God to man. The Bible is not up for debate. It is not about what man thinks is true but rather what Bible says is true.

Illustration: if I haven't seen it, I wouldn't have believed it vs. if I hadn't believed it, I wouldn't have seen it.

An Illustration (Adam)

Adam was given the responsibility by God to name the animals. Adam was created perfect. He had no old sin nature, was created full-grown, and was able to name all the animals. He had to have an extremely high IQ. Adam used all of his human abilities, his intellect (rationalization, empiricism, or combination of both and/or intuition) in naming the animals.

Even though he could name all the animals, Adam would never have understood spiritual matters. There is a great difference in human IQ and human knowledge in contrast to an absolute truth, God's thoughts.

God has given us our natural ability, but spiritual things can only be understood by those who are Christians, those who have put their faith alone in Christ alone for their salvation. Believers can understand spiritual things but only when that believer is in fellowship (confessed sins, **1 John 1:9**), controlled by God the Holy Spirit, studying and applying the Word of God to all the areas of life. Only then, through God, can you grow spiritually. There is no other way!

Genesis 2:16-17 (NASB)

¹⁶ The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; ¹⁷ but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

God said to Adam, eat of all the trees except one. Adam never could have figured that out (any spiritual things) through rationalization or empiricism or any other form of logic unless God revealed that information to him. If God hadn't communicated this truth to Adam, he never could have understood what God wanted or the instructions God had for him.

And so goes the Bible. The Bible (what God has communicated to us through the power and work of God the Holy Spirit) is a book of spiritual phenomenon that can only be understood by faith (FAITH is a means of taking in information which is just as applicable as rationalization or empiricism).

Golden Rule of Interpretation

When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense. Therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context indicate clearly otherwise.

We all start with a certain faith, presuppositions and things that we believe. That in turn will shape how we see different subject matters.

1 Corinthians 2:14-16 (NASB)

¹⁴ But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. ¹⁵ But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. ¹⁶ For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.

The Uniqueness of the Scripture

Introduction: Over and over again, like a broken record, I hear the phrase, "Oh, you don't read the Bible, do you? Sometimes it is phrased, "Why, the Bible is just another book; you ought to read...etc." There is the student who is proud because his Bible is on the shelf with his other books, perhaps dusty, not broken in, but it is there with the other "greats". Then there is the professor who degrades the Bible before his students and snickers at the thought of reading it, let alone of having it in one's library.

The above statements and observations bothered me when I tried, as a non-Christian, to refute the Bible as GOD's Word to man. I finally came to the conclusion that they were simply trite phrases from either/or biased, prejudiced or simply unknowledgeable, unread men and women.

The Bible should be on the top shelf all by itself. The Bible is "*unique*". That's it! The ideas I grappled with to describe the Bible are summed up by the word "*unique*".

Webster must have had this "book of Books" in mind when he wrote the definition for "unique":

1. One and only; single; sole.
2. Different from all others; having no like or equal.

Professor M. Montiero-Williams, former Boden professor of Sanskrit, spent 42 years studying Eastern books and said in comparing them with the Bible:

"Pile them, if you will, on the left side of your study table; but place your own Holy Bible on the right side - all by itself, all alone - and with a wide gap between them. For...there is a gulf between it and the so-called sacred books of the East which severs the one from the other utterly, hopelessly, and forever...a veritable gulf which cannot be bridged over by any science of religious thought."

The Bible is Unique: It is the book "different from all others." in the following ways (plus a multitude more): **UNIQUE IN ITS CONTINUITY.**

Here is a book:

1. Written over a 1,500 year span.
2. Written over 40 generations.
3. Written by over 40 authors from every walk of life including kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen, scholars, etc.

Bible Compared to Other Writings of Historical Figures

Many unbelievers rush to say that the New Testament and all that it says is false. There are many claims that there is no evidence to prove the truth of the New Testament or that there are any manuscripts.

Some claim that the New Testament was written after the events that are described so as to make it look real or like prophecy. There are no such claims about the historicity of Julius Caesar. Yet, there are far more manuscripts of the New Testament and the copies are far closer to the time of Christ than any documents about Caesar are to the time that he lived.

There are over 5,000 portions of the New Testament in Greek and over 19,000 in other languages. This is far more than any other ancient writing. That is 24,000 portions of the New Testament in existence. These are exact copies of the originals from ancient times. To give you an idea of how much this is, here is an example. Homers Iliad is second in the number of manuscripts, with 643. The first complete manuscript that is available is from 400 BC. Yet it was written in 800 BC. This is a 500 year difference.

Here are some other examples. Plato wrote between 427 and 347 BC, the earliest copy in existence is 900 AD. That is a 1200 year difference and there are only seven copies in existence. Aristotle wrote 384 to 320 BC. The earliest copy is 1100 AD that is a 1400 year difference. Julius Caesar wrote between 100 and 144 BC. The earliest copy is 900 AD. The time difference is 1,000 years. All of these authors and their writings are seen as legitimate yet the New Testament is seen as untrue simply because of the miracles mentioned and its use of Scripture in the Christian religion.

Another astounding fact is that the original manuscripts are found to be 99.5% consistent, with the .5% that have minor differences but do not affect the meaning. This is amazing, considering the number of manuscripts that exist.

The astounding number of manuscripts and the consistency of them does not prove them to be true. What all of this does do is to show that the New Testament needs to be given the same serious consideration and be criticized by the same criteria as other ancient documents because the sheer amount of manuscripts written are closer to the originals and far superior than any other ancient writing.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Although modern archaeology grew out of a desire to support evolution, the archaeologist's spade has been a friend and not a foe to the Bible. Middle Eastern archaeological digs repeatedly have uncovered artifacts that render support to the accuracy and historicity of the Bible.

- Discovery of the Nuzi Tablets (1925) – confirmed numerous Old Testament customs and practices.
- Discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls (1947) – confirmed the accuracy of the Hebrew text of Scripture.
- Discovery of the Ebla Tablets (1975) – confirmed various biblical events and names.
- Discovery of a silver amulet in Jerusalem with the name "YAHWEH" on it (1980) – first time the Tetragrammaton has been found in an archaeological excavation.

ATTACKS ON THE BIBLE

Attack #1: It Was Written By Fallible Men

The assumption is that it cannot be relied on or trusted because perfect God was not its true author. The Bible is divinely inspired.

2 Timothy 3:16 - All scripture is given by inspiration of God [God-breathed, "THEOPNEUSTOS", and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be complete, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Attack #2: It Contradicts Itself

This simply is not true. Any possible contradictions are dismissed with proper hermeneutical study.

Attack #3: It Is Full Of Errors

There were no errors in the original manuscripts of the Bible, and the margin of error that exists in most Bible translations today are negligible.

Attack #4: It Is No Longer Relevant

The Bible addresses the deepest needs and issues of every person of every generation of mankind.

Hebrews 4:12 - For the Word of God is alive and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a critic of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Attack #5: You Can't Take It Literally

People who say this usually don't believe in absolutes; to them everything is relative. This thinking is described in the following verses:

2 Peter 3:3-4 - Know this first of all, that in the last day's mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."

Attack #6: No One Can Know For Sure What The Bible Means

It can have any interpretation.

The Bible has only ONE correct interpretation!

BUT, the Bible can have more than one application!

Because of who we are: We are finite and fallible ... and sinful. We can't see the future, we don't know ourselves very well, and we easily forget the past. Left to our own devices, we stumble, fall, and fail. We need help. We need direction. We need wisdom. We need encouragement. We need answers. *Isaiah 55:8-9, 11*

Because of the way the world is: Our world is fallen, filled with sin and sinful people and ruled by Satan. It is filled with temptations, questions, pressures, and pitfalls. God doesn't want to remove us from the world; he wants to use us to make a difference in the world. (*John 17:13-18*) God wants to work in us and through us to reach others. (*James 1:2-8*)

The Importance of Bible Doctrine

1. Doctrine finds its source in divine revelation. Revelation means - topside down [meaning]: it comes from God. (*John 7:14-16*)
2. Doctrine was the message of the early church. (*Acts 5:27-28*)
3. Doctrine must carefully be guarded against error. (*1 Timothy 1:3*) What is the point? Paul had taught them many doctrines (for two years). He realized if someone does not guard it - we will lose it. False teaching is always at the front door. Illustration: at Harvard University, the first rule of dismissal was the failure of the inerrancy of scripture - if you would have raised a question about scripture, you were ousted. What happened - someone did not guard the scripture.
4. True doctrine is the basis for moral conduct. (*1 Timothy 1:9-10*) If we cease to have any moral belief system - what happens to morality? It goes! We live within a society today that rejects the absolute truth! Even to the point that Christians are saying, "how do we know we are right?" We go to scripture and accept the authority of scripture - what we teach is right. What does that do to people who believe something different? It says to them, you are wrong. How has that been attacked? Someone might say, "Well yes that is true but, what if? Illustration - stealing: the Bible teaches that stealing is wrong, "he, who steals, let him steal no more - but, what if you have two children starving to death - would you steal food for them? Yes, but you know what it would be called? Stealing (sin no matter your circumstances). It does not change the moral quality of it. The result is the death of absolutes.
5. Doctrine will eventually become intolerable to man. (*2 Timothy 4:2-4*)
6. Doctrine is the test of fellowship. (*2 John 1:9-11*)



7. Doctrine exemplifies true Christianity. (*1 Timothy 3:15-16*) The function of church is the support of truth.
8. Doctrine, learned under the faith principle of applied teaching, produces confidence during the believer's lifetime. (*2 Corinthians 5:6-8*)
9. The Bible is the only source of God's viewpoint. (*Isaiah 55:7-9*)
10. Doctrine is the basis for orientation to God's plan during the believer's lifetime. (*Isaiah 26:3-4*)
11. Bible knowledge produces sanity and stability of mind. (*James 1:8*)
12. Doctrine is the basis for divine guidance. (*Romans 12:1-2*)
13. Without the word of God, the believer's mind will be corrupted by Satan and will become a respiratory of world-viewpoint and false teaching. (*2 Corinthians 11:3*)

Commitment and Obedience

John 14:21 (NASB) ²¹ "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

"He" - all believers.

"who has My commandments"- the written Word of God, studied and applied.

"and keeps them" - God expects us to obey His commands, His teachings, His instructions – not just a hearer only but a doer.

"is the one who loves Me" - our obedience to the commands of the Lord is our demonstration of our unconditional love for Him – unconditional love has no strings attached – we do not obey the Lord because we'll get something out of it.

"and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father" - God the Father knows without conditions those who unconditionally obey God the Son – there is nothing the Father will not do for the Son, and there is nothing the Father will not do for those who obeyed the Son.

"and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him" - this means that the Lord Jesus Christ promises to reveal Himself to the person who obeys Him.

John 14:23 (NASB) ²³ *Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.*

"If" - a third class condition in the Greek and means maybe it will or maybe it will not (happen).

"anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word" - we cannot love the Lord Jesus Christ and be disobedient to Him (His teachings). Our obedience is the demonstration to others that we love the Lord. ***1 John 1:6, 1 John 2:4-5, 1 John 4:20-21, 1 John 5:2-3.***

"and My Father will love him, and We (the Father and the son) will come to him and make Our abode with him. A promise of eternal security and blessing and fellowship with the Father and the Son.

The Christian Covenant

We covenant and agree to take the BIBLE as the only guide of our faith and practice, striving to fashion our lives according to its Holy precepts.

We take it as essential to read and seek to understand the Bible, the inspired Word of God, and to follow its teachings. We accept it as the final authority in matters of faith and conduct, and Jesus Christ, the Living Word, as the supreme interpretation.

We believe that the writers of the Bible were inspired of God to write, as set forth in ***2Timothy 3:16-17.***

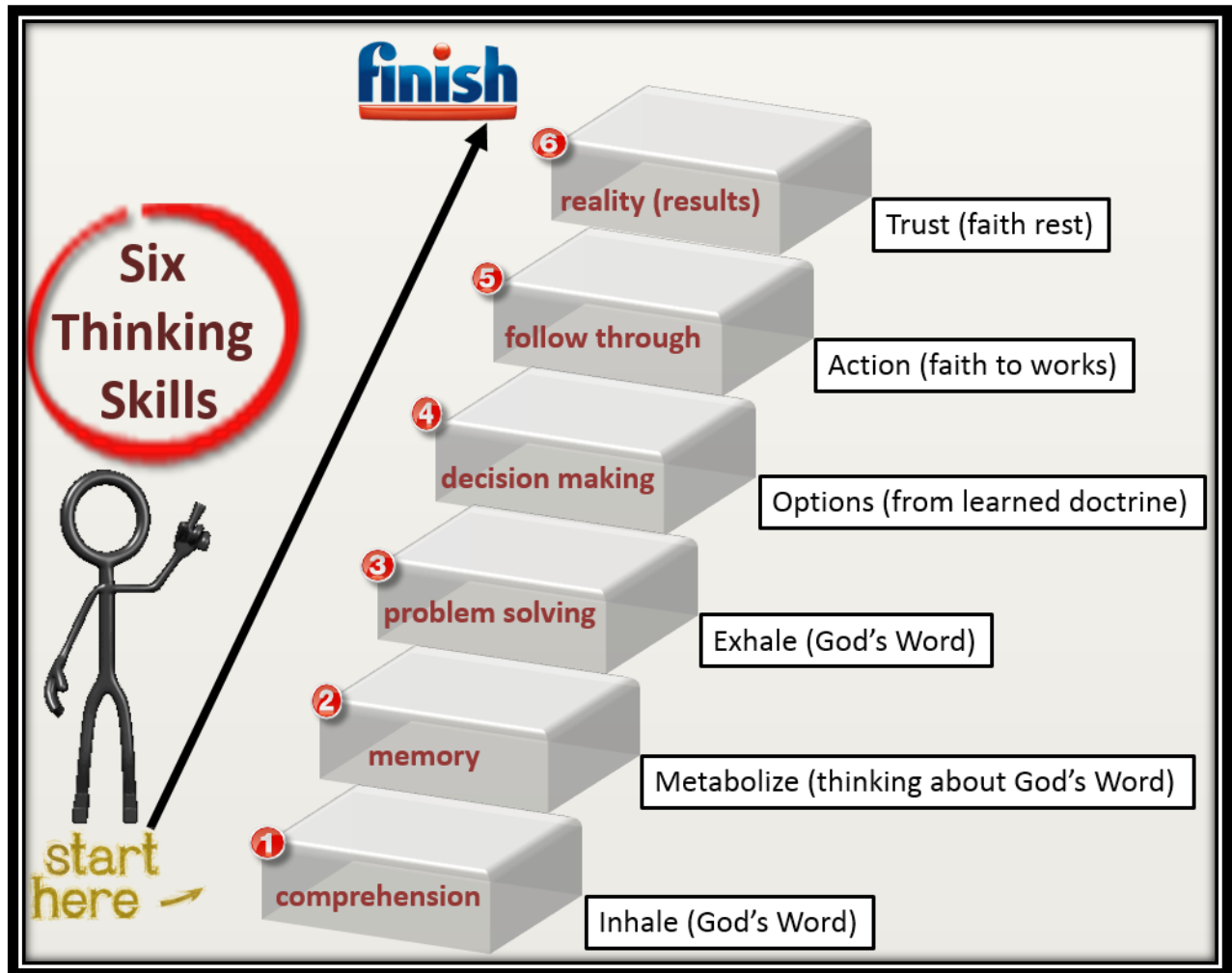
PROBLEM: To follow a creed is a simple task requiring only a little study and less intellect. To follow the Bible requires an honest, open dedication to study - both individual and corporate. It is essential that one be filled with the Spirit to understand what the Spirit has inspired to be written.

The best way to prove the truth of the Bible is to study it. As the Living Word Himself proves His Deity, so the Written Word itself evidences its Divinity.

How Are You Responding to the Absolute Truth?

1. Have you believed in Jesus Christ alone – the Truth that has come down – as the only One Who can give you eternal life? Do you accept His offer of eternal life as Truth? If not, why not? If you are a believer, are you sharing the Word of Truth – the Message of Life in evangelism? If not, why not?
2. What is your attitude toward the Bible, the Word of Truth that is written down? Do you accept its Message of Life as Truth? If you are a believer, are you committed to the learning Word of Truth? If not, why not?
3. How are you responding to the Church as the place where Truth is taught and supported? Are you faithful in attendance? Are you supporting it with your prayers and finances? If not, why not?
4. Are you walking in Truth? Are you staying in fellowship with the Holy Spirit so that you can, with His strength, put the Word into operation in your life? Are you being transformed? If not, why not?

Remember



- ✓ **HUMAN SINCERITY DOES NOT PLEASE GOD**
- ✓ **GOD IS NOT LOOKING FOR PERFECTION (BUT OBEDIENCE DOES)**
- ✓ **THINKING HIS THOUGHTS AND THEN APPLYING THEM TO EVERYDAY LIFE**

When a nation fails to abide by the Truth of God's Word, then that nation is on the road to disaster.

Amos 8:11 (NASB)

¹¹ "Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord GOD, "When I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine for bread or a thirst for water, But rather for hearing the words of the LORD.

Hosea 4:6 (NASB)

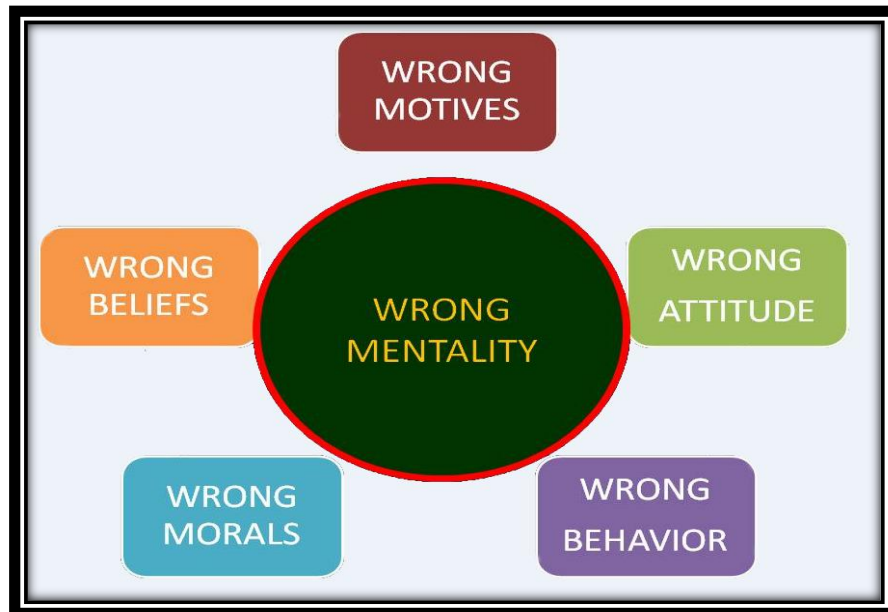
⁶ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

1 Timothy 4:1-2 (NASB)

¹ But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,

² by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron,

When This Happens You Develop



Success is

TRUTH LIVED OUT!



Ephesians 5:1 - Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;
² and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up
for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.