



Lesson Guide

Lesson 1 - Veritology: What is Truth?

Introduction

In this initial episode, students receive a general introduction to the overall scope and purpose of *The Truth Project*. This series is designed to take participants on a guided *worldview tour*, following the points of the *worldview compass*, a tool designed to direct our thinking with regard to four fundamental issues: Truth, God, Man, and the Social Order. Along the way, we will attempt to build a logical, systematic framework of ideas by which to organize and evaluate the various truth claims to be encountered during the course of our tour. Our ultimate goal is not simply to gain knowledge, but to look upon the face of God – and to be *transformed* in the process.

Themes

Our destination in Lesson 1 lies due North. The focal point for this first hour of discussion is the concept of *Truth* itself. What is truth? Why is it important? What role does it play in the biblical view of the world, God's purpose for the cosmos, His will for mankind, His plan of salvation, and the way we live our personal lives? In his comments on this subject, Dr. Del Tackett will demonstrate how *truth* was fundamental to the mission of Jesus Christ in the world; how it forms the heart of the *Cosmic Battle* that has been raging since the beginning; how this battle has divided the world into two opposing camps or sides; how lies, the antithesis of Truth, take human hearts and minds captive by the power of deception; and how every man and woman now stands in the position of having to choose between God's truth claims and the opposing perspective of the world, the flesh, and the devil. To answer the question "what is truth?" Dr. Tackett consults the 1828 edition of Webster's Dictionary which defines truth as "Conformity to fact or reality..." We will also see how popular notions of truth (represented by man on the street interviews) contrast sharply with the biblical concept (as articulated by Ravi Zacharias, Os Guinness, and R. C. Sproul).

Points to Watch For

Dr. Tackett concludes that, in almost every case, the perspective of contemporary culture stands in direct opposition to the Truth-centered worldview presented in the Bible. In the process of making this case, he advances the bold claim that our culture is not only filled with lies but is actually heading in the direction of social insanity. As a result, he proposes that Pilate's query – "What is truth?" – is *the* most important question facing our society today. He ends Lesson 1 by challenging his audience with this all-important question: "*Do you really believe that what you believe is really real?*"

Discussion Questions (Pick 3 or 4 for your discussion time)

(Make these questions your own. That is, don't just "read" them, but become familiar with them so that they don't appear as simply an item to get through. Go through them yourself before your group meets and ponder them. This is where we are praying that God will bring your group together and that He will continue to speak to them and bring about the transformation that we all are trusting God to perform in your people.)

1) Opening Question: (this may be the only question you need to ask)

A. Ask your guests to list what they saw on the tour. Here are some of the key items: Isaiah's encounter with God; being exposed; seeing our culture exposed; the idea of a comprehensive and systematic biblical worldview; why Jesus said He was born; scriptural evidence of the importance of Truth; the cosmic battle; connection between sin, lies, and deceit; equating an idol to a lie; common insanity; Jesus dealing with worry; what is faith; faith like a child; our actions reflect what we believe to be really real; do you really believe that what you believe is really real. [Add your own]

B. Ask your guests to point out the ones that were particularly interesting or striking to them and why.

C. Ask if this particular area struck anyone else as well.

D. Ask if there were other items that they saw that stood out to them. (You may want to read back through the list if you need to.)

2) Jesus stated plainly that He had come into the world "to testify to the truth" (John 18:37). Exactly what did He mean by this, and how is this claim connected with those other aspects of Jesus' mission – for example, forgiveness, salvation, redemption, and healing – that we more naturally associate with the ultimate purpose of His advent?

(Jesus identified Himself as "The Way, the Truth, and the Life" [John 14:6]. In other words, He *is*, as the Eternal *Logos* and the Incarnate Word of God, the Definition and Embodiment of Ultimate Reality. 2 Thessalonians 2:13 states, "God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the spirit and the belief in truth." This scripture reveals that salvation is a result of a person's belief in God's truth claims.)

3) How does one's concept of *truth* affect or determine one's concept of *faith*?

(Genuine biblical faith has to have an *object*. It cannot be simply "faith in faith." Our faith is only as real and as strong as the *objective truth* upon which it is based.)

- 4) **What is the *key point of distinction* between the biblical concept of truth and popular cultural ideas about truth? How is this point related to the concept of *insanity*?**
(Here again we are referring to the definition of truth as "conformity to fact or reality" [Webster's 1828 Dictionary]. Truth has reference *not* to our subjective imagination but to that which *really exists* external to ourselves. *Insanity*, by definition, is the denial or loss of touch with objective reality.)
- 5) **Read 2 Timothy 2:24, 26 and Colossians 4:5, 6. Why does Paul advise believers to be "gentle" rather than "quarrelsome" in their dealings with outsiders? How does our understanding of the *Cosmic Battle* affect the way we relate to non-believers?**
(We deal gently with non-believers because we understand that, within the context of the *Cosmic Battle*, they have actually been taken *captive* by the deceptive power of lies. There is a supernatural dimension to the conflict in which we are engaged. Ultimately, we cannot free anyone from this captivity by argumentation, but by helping them come to a belief in God's truth claims - See Luke 4:16-21 and Isaiah 61:1-2.)
- 6) **Dr. Tackett poses the question, "Do you really believe that what you believe is really real?" How can we know what we *really* believe?**
(Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "To believe is to obey and to obey is to believe." Our actions and behavior are the most reliable index to our beliefs. If we are convinced that certain propositions are true, we will behave accordingly. You have a belief system, whether you realize it or not, and our lifestyle often contradicts the beliefs we claim to hold.)



Tour Guide Notes: Veritology

Lesson 1 – Veritology: What is Truth?

Those of you who are very astute will recognize that “*veritology*” does not exist in the dictionary. The reason for that is simple: I made this word up.

I was in need of a word for “the study of truth” or “the truth about truth”.

Obviously, the suffix “*ology*” was a prime candidate, which means “the study of”. It is derived from the Greek word “*logos*”, which means “word”. When combined with other words, such as “*bio*”, meaning “life”, we get the word “*biology*” which means the “study of living things”. When it is combined with “*theos*”, the Greek word for “god”, we get “*theology*”, or the “study of God”. You are familiar with a bunch of them: psychology, geology, sociology, anthropology...on and on it goes.

So, I decided I would do some combining as well. I took the Latin term for truth, “*veritas*” and combined it with the derivation of the Greek suffix, “*logos*” and the merger resulted in “*Veritology*”, the “study of truth”.

This is a great word. If there is anything our culture needs, it’s a good dose of sound veritology. Feel free to use it in your everyday conversations!



**Tour Guide Notes: Why Did Jesus Come?
Lesson 1 – Veritology: What is Truth?**

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.” Gal 4:4

For years, I have been asking my students the question: “Why was Jesus born? For what reason did He come into the world?” My first objective is to get people to think, which we unfortunately don’t engage in much today. I have been amazed to see the look on people’s faces when this question first confronts them. I can see they haven’t really thought about it before. The second reason is that it affords the opportunity to ponder one of the most astounding events in all of history. Paul, in 1 Timothy 3, spoke of it this way:

¹⁶*And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:*

*God was manifested in the flesh,
Justified in the Spirit,
Seen by angels,
Preached among the Gentiles,
Believed on in the world,
Received up in glory.*

John, in John 1, spoke of it this way:

¹⁴*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

I don’t suppose we can properly grasp the full essence of what it meant for the infinite, holy, omnipotent God of the universe to put on the form of finite man and dwell among the living dead. The reasons for Him doing this are probably deeper than we could possibly contemplate. However, it is not as if we have to guess about this thing. God has given us clear testimony in His Word concerning the reasons why He humbled Himself and “*made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.*” (Philippians 2:7)

Here are a few of them:

- *Matt 5:17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.*
- *Matt 10:34 “Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn “a man against his*

father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law--a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.'

- *Luke 12:51 Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division.*
- *Luke 12:49 "I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!"*
- *Matt 20:28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*
- *Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*
- *Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."*
- *John 12:47 "As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it.*
- *1 Tim 1:15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst.*
- *1 John 3:5 But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin.*
- *Mark 1:38 Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else--to the nearby villages--so I can preach there also. That is why I have come."*
- *John 9:39 Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."*
- *John 12:46 I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.*
- *Luke 5:32 I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."*
- *Matt 9:13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."*
- *Mark 2:17 On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."*
- *John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*
- *John 6:38 For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.*
- *Heb 10:7 Then I said, 'Here I am--it is written about me in the scroll-- I have come to do your will, O God.'"*
- *John 12:27 "Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour.*
- *John 15:22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now, however, they have no excuse for their sin.*
- *1 John 3:5 But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins.*
- *1 John 3:8 He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.*
- *1 John 4:10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

- *1 John 5:20 We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true—even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.*

But the final reason I ask this question is to focus on the very specific words of Jesus as He was giving the “good confession” before Pilate (1 Timothy 6:13):

John 18:37 “You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

Here is one of the clearest and most objective statements that Jesus made about the reason He came into the world. This statement doesn’t override the others, in fact, I think it helps to clarify many of them. For example, in 1 John 3:8, we are told that Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. What is the devil? A liar. When Jesus said that He didn’t come to bring peace, but a sword, we understand that it is not a worldly sword that He is referring to. The Scripture makes reference over and over again to the sword being the Word of God (Eph 6:17), which in Hebrews 4:12 reiterates that it divides (“*For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*”) This reinforces what Jesus said about coming for judgment that the blind should see (John 9:39), coming as a light (John 12:46), came to preach (Mark 1:38), came to give us understanding so that we would know him who is true (1 John 5:20), and so on.

Now, so there be no misunderstanding. This does not, in any way, diminish the great, grand and glorious purpose of Jesus to give His life as a ransom (Matt 20:28), that he appeared to take away our sins (1 John 3:5), that He came to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins (1 John 4:10). That is another of those astounding things that are beyond comprehension—that God would, Himself, take the penalty and wrath that was due us. Absolutely breathtaking.

So, our focus upon the words of Jesus to Pilate that He was born and came into the world to testify to the truth, should not be seen as diminishing the work of Christ upon the cross nor the power of the resurrection. But, it is evident that the life of Jesus was dedicated to this task of testifying to the truth. And, in a world that is dead set against truth, it is time for us to elevate it to its proper place. And, as we briefly mentioned in Tour 1, there is a great Scriptural link between the issue of truth and salvation.

Amen and Amen.



Tour Guide Notes: Gazing on the Face of God

Lesson 1 – Veritology: What is Truth?

Every once in a while one of my seminary students will raise the question: "Can we actually 'gaze' upon the face of God?" After all, don't we remember the Scripture saying somewhere that no man has seen God? And isn't God a Spirit? So how can anyone actually "see" Him?

Good questions. Let's attempt to answer them.

But first, let me give the short answer. When we are talking about gazing upon the face of God, we are not talking about physically "seeing" Him. We are talking about looking at the glory of His attributes, His character, His nature. These are the primary "jewels" that we will gaze upon during our tours. In our first tour, for example, we explore the idea that He is Truth and the ultimate source of all Truth. In our second tour, we will ponder His very nature and character as the basis of all ethics. Later, we will look at His goodness and kindness, His sovereignty and His providence. Every tour will bring us face to face with the reality of who He really is. "Gazing upon the face of God," then, is a call for us to "look" at Who He is. It is the essential part of "knowing Him" that should be our number one objective in life. In other words, it is important to remember that when we speak of "gazing" upon His face, we are only speaking figuratively.

With that in mind, let's proceed to take a closer look at what *might* seem to be a contradiction in Scripture and try to clear away any remaining confusion.

Scripture does in fact say that no one can "see" God and live. This assertion is initially found in Exodus 33:20. Let me quote the passage from my Hebrew Interlinear:

¹⁸And he [Moses] said, I pray, let me see Your glory.

¹⁹And He said, I will cause all My goodness to pass before your face, and I will proclaim by the name of Jehovah before you; and I will show favor to whom I will show favor, will have mercy on whom I will have mercy. ²⁰And He said, You are not able to see My face; for no man can see Me and live.

So, Moses asked to see God's glory and God told him that he was "unable" to see his face – that, as a matter of fact, no one could see Him and live.

However, in Genesis 32, Jacob states, after having wrestled with God, that he "saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared." Jacob even named the place "Peniel" which means "face of God."

In John Chapter 1, John says:

¹⁸*No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known. [ESV]*

Jesus Himself speaks of this idea of not "seeing" God, but qualifies His meaning by restricting the concept specifically to the Father:

⁴⁶*No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. [NIV]*

Both of these passages use the Greek word "horao." When Paul gives an intervening benediction in 1 Timothy 1:17, he says:

To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. [ESV]

Here, Paul uses the same word, 'horao' but negates it with the prefix "a," just as we do in English when we speak of an "a-theist." Paul is saying that God is "not-seeable." We translate that as *invisible*.

And yet we still have the powerful passage in Isaiah, where the prophet states that his eyes have "seen" the King, the Lord of hosts (Isaiah 6:5).

How do we resolve this? God tells Moses that he is unable to see his face, but Jacob says that he saw God face to face. God tells Moses that no one can see him and live and Jesus says that no one has ever seen the Father, yet Isaiah claims that his eyes have seen the King. Do we have an irreconcilable problem here? After all, Philip was told that if he had seen Jesus, he had "seen" the Father. Moses spoke with God "face to face" (Exodus 33:11). In Exodus 24:9-10, we read that Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu and seventy elders of Israel "went up and they saw the God of Israel ... they beheld God, and ate and drank." Similarly, Job, in the midst of his suffering, consoles himself with the thought that one day he will "see God" in the flesh (Job 19:26). And this is only a sampling of the many scriptural passages that describe men and women as actually *beholding* the One who truly does reveal himself to man – a theme which may be said to culminate in the awe-inspiring declaration of Christ: "Blessed are the pure in heart, *for they shall see God*" (Matthew 5:8).

So the answer is *no*. There is no contradiction here.

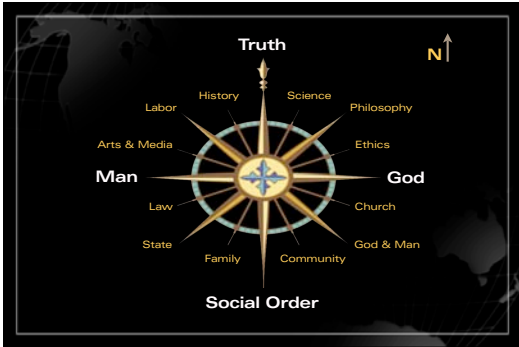
In one case, we are being told that it is impossible for us to "see" the "unseeable" God in the fullness of His glory, and that even if we were able to, that sight would be too much for mortal man to bear. Yet God has graciously given us glimpses of Himself, as He did with Moses, and as He has done with Isaiah and others. Through the incarnation, He has allowed man to see the glory of God revealed in the flesh – indeed, it is possible to argue that it is only through Jesus Christ that man can behold the Father and live. In the midst of this, we must contend with the glorious mystery of the Trinity: one God, single in essence, yet existing in three persons.

Obviously, a more lengthy discussion is required; one in which we could dissect the relevant words and speak of the various "theophanies" narrated in the Bible. Hopefully, some day, we will post that discourse in the Library of Worldview Thought.

But, for our purpose here, it is vital to understand that our call to "gaze upon the face of God" does not amount to some wild claim that we are physically going to "see" the "eternal, invisible" God of all creation. Again, we are only using this phrase in a *figurative* sense.



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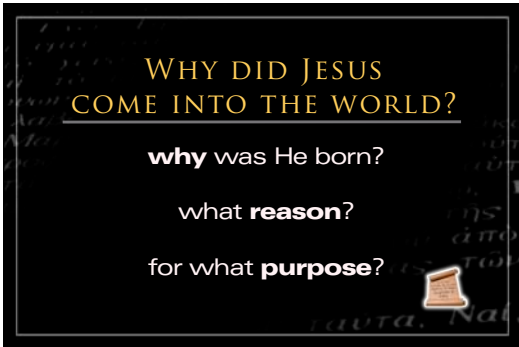


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
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This slide was omitted from the DVD but is discussed in the introduction to Lesson one. Gazing upon the face of God is the goal for each and every tour.



5

JESUS:
“...FOR THIS REASON I WAS
BORN, AND FOR THIS I CAME
INTO THE WORLD, TO
_____.”



6

JOHN 18:33-38

Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

“Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?”

7

JOHN 18:33-38

“Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What is it you have done?”

Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

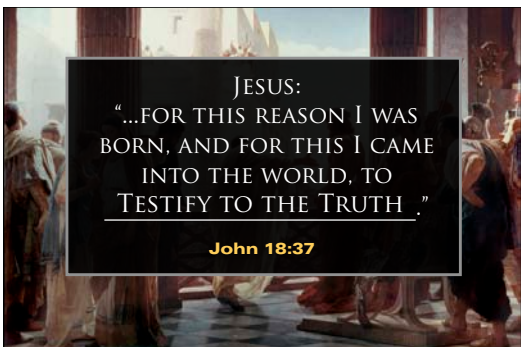
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JOHN 18:33-38

“You are a king, then!” said Pilate.

Jesus answered, “You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world...”

9



JESUS:
“...FOR THIS REASON I WAS
BORN, AND FOR THIS I CAME
INTO THE WORLD, TO
TESTIFY TO THE TRUTH.”

John 18:37

10

JESUS ON THE WITNESS STAND

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Mat 5:18 | I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear... |
| Mat 10:15 | I tell you the truth, it will be more bearable for... |
| Mat 13:17 | I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous... |
| Mat 16:28 | I tell you the truth, some who are standing here... |
| Mat 17:20 | I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small... |
| Mat 18:3 | I tell you the truth, unless you change... |
| Mat 18:18 | I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth... |
| Mat 19:23 | I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man... |
| Mat 21:21 | I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt... |
| Mat 23:36 | I tell you the truth, all this will come upon this generation... |
| Mat 24:2 | I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another... |
| Mat 25:40 | I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the... |
| Mat 26:21 | I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me... |
| Mat 26:34 | I tell you the truth, Jesus answered, this very night... |

11

JESUS ON THE WITNESS STAND

| | |
|-----------|--|
| John 3:3 | Truly, truly, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again... |
| John 3:5 | Truly, truly, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water... |
| John 3:11 | Truly, truly, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know... |
| John 5:19 | Truly, truly, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself... |
| John 5:34 | Truly, truly, I say unto you, He that heareth my word... |
| John 5:25 | Truly, truly, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now... |
| John 6:26 | Truly, truly, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw... |
| John 6:32 | Truly, truly, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from... |
| John 6:47 | Truly, truly, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath... |
| John 6:53 | Truly, truly, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man... |
| John 8:34 | Truly, truly, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin... |
| John 8:51 | Truly, truly, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall... |
| John 8:58 | Truly, truly, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am... |

12

JOHN 1:17

For the law was given through Moses; **grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**

JOHN 14:6

Jesus answered, **"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."**

13

JOHN 17:17

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

JOHN 4:24

God is spirit, and his worshipers must **worship in spirit and in truth.**

14

JOHN 8:32

Then you will know the truth, and **the truth will set you free.**

setting the captives free!



15

JOHN 14:16-17
And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the **Spirit of truth**.

JOHN 16:13
But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, **he will guide you into all truth**.

16

1 TIMOTHY 2:3-4
This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be **saved** and to come to a **knowledge of the truth**.

EPHESIANS 6:14
Stand firm then, with the **belt of truth** buckled around your waist...

17

THE PROPHET'S LAMENT
“...truth has stumbled in the streets...”
Isaiah 59:14
“Truth has perished; it has vanished from their lips.”
Jeremiah 7:28
“Truth is nowhere to be found...”
Isaiah 59:15

18

THE GOOD CONFESSION
...Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate **made the good confession...**
1 Timothy 6:13


19

VERITOLOGY
how does mankind React to Truth?

20

2 TIMOTHY 4:3-4

...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.



21

Romans 1:18 The wrath of God is being revealed...of men who **suppress the truth**

Acts 20:30 Even from your own number men will arise and **distort the truth**

Romans 2:8 But for those who are self-seeking and who **reject the truth and follow evil**, there will be wrath and anger.

Romans 1:25 They **exchanged the truth of God for a lie**, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator

22

THE REAL TRIAL

Truth vs Lie

Jesus:
 "...for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to **testify to the truth.**"

"Everyone on the **side of truth** listens to me."

John 18:37

23

"Everyone on the **side of truth** listens to me."

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| SPIRIT OF TRUTH | SPIRIT OF LIES (FALSEHOOD) |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|

1 John 4:6

We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us.

This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

24

THE COSMIC BATTLE





25

2 THESSALONIANS 2:9-13

The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of **counterfeit** miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that **deceives** those who are perishing. They perish because **they refused to love the truth** and so be saved...

26

2 THESSALONIANS 2:9-13

For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness. But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you **to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.**

27

TWO FATHERS

(John 8:34-47)

Jews: "Abraham is our father" (vs 39)

Jesus: No, you have another father (vs 39-41)

Jews: Well, God is our father (vs 41)

Jesus: No, God is not your father (vs 42)

28

JOHN 8:44-47

"You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for **there is no truth in him.** When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies..."

29

JOHN 8:44-47

"...Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me!...If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."

30

CONNECTING SIN, LIES & DECEIT

Romans 7:11 "sin...deceived me..."

2 Thessalonians 2:10 "...every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing."

Ephesians 4:22 "...put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires..."

Hebrews 3:13 "...so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness."

31

THE COSMIC BATTLE

Truth
Reality

"This is how we know who the children of God are and..."

VS

1 John 3:10

Lie
Illusion

"...who the children of the devil are..."

32

CAPTIVES

The Lord's servant must gently instruct his opponents..."in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the **truth**, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them **captive** to do his will."

2 Timothy 2:24-26

33

DEALING WITH OUTSIDERS

"Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned as it were, with salt, so that you may know how you should respond to each person."

Colossians 4:5-6 (NAS)

34

ANTITHESIS

Unity --Vs.-- Division
Diversity --Vs.-- Unification

Battle of Worldviews

Delegation --Vs.-- Tyranny
Freedom --Vs.-- Bondage

Example: Who is man?

35

how does **today's world** answer Pilate's question?

WHAT IS TRUTH?


this question could well be the most **important** question that **we** and our **culture** must answer




36



RAVI ZACHARIAS



OS GUINNESS




RC SPROUL

37

SO...WHAT IS TRUTH?

Noah Webster, 1828:

"Conformity to fact or **reality**; exact accordance with that which is, or has been, or shall be... We rely upon the **truth** of the scriptural prophecies."



38

Webster, Noah (1828). *American Dictionary of the English Language*. San Francisco, CA: Foundation For American Christian Education (Rosalie Slater, Ed., 1967).


ISAIAH 44:18-19

They know nothing, they understand nothing; their eyes are plastered over so they cannot see, and their minds closed so they cannot understand. No one stops to think, no one has the knowledge or understanding to say, "Half of it I used for fuel; I even baked bread over its coals, I roasted meat and I ate. Shall I make a detestable thing from what is left? Shall I bow down to a block of wood?"

39

ISAIAH 44:20

He feeds on ashes, a deluded heart misleads him; he cannot save himself, or say, "Is not this thing in my right hand **a lie?**"



40

ISAIAH 44:20

He feeds on ashes,
a deluded heart misleads him;
 he cannot save himself, or say,
 "Is not this thing in my right hand
 a lie?"



41

ISAIAH 44:17

He bows down to it and worships. He
 prays to it and says,
 "Save me; you are my god."

How foolish is this?




42

WHAT IS INSANITY?

losing touch with **Reality**...
 believing the **lie** is **Real**...


our **actions reflect** what we
believe to be **really real**



43

"...Christ Himself, in whom
 are hidden all the treasures
 of wisdom and knowledge. I
 say this in order that no one
 my delude you with
 persuasive argument."

Colossians 2:2-4 (NAS)



44

COMMON INSANITY

Matthew 6:25-34
 Jesus on "Worry & Anxiety"

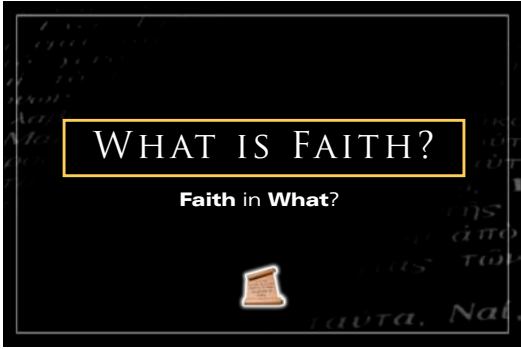
What is Jesus trying to
 get us to believe?

The ultimate source of truth...
 Pointing us to what is really, really real.

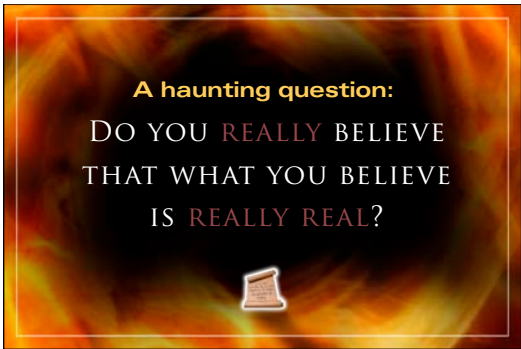
"Will He not care for you,
 O you of little faith?"

What is Jesus getting at?

45



46



47



48



Outline

Lesson 1 - Veritology: What is Truth?

- I. Introduction – A Worldview Tour
 - A. Comprehensive – The worldview compass directs us to God's design in all areas of life
 - B. Systematic – Temple structure explains the foundations and framework of course topics
 - C. Purpose of tour – To gaze upon the face of God
- II. Why was Jesus Born? Why did He come into the World?
 - A. To testify to the Truth – John 18:37
 - B. Scriptural emphasis on Truth – Sanctification and salvation connection to Truth
 - C. Man's sinful nature will suppress, distort, reject, and exchange God's truth for lies
- III. The Cosmic Battle – Spirit of Truth vs. Spirit of Falsehood – Reality vs. Illusion
 - A. Scene in heaven between God and Satan - Job 1 & 2 - "Did God really say?"
 - B. Link between salvation and truth - 2 Thessalonians 2 - "...God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the spirit and the belief in the truth."
 - C. Two Fathers – John 8:44 – "You belong to your father, the devil"
 - D. Connection between sin, lies and deceit – Every sin that besets us can be traced to a belief in a lie – Our sins take us captive to the lies of the world
 - E. Dealing with outsiders - 2 Timothy 2 and Colossians 4:5-6 – They have been taken captive and we must "gently instruct them" and let our "speech be seasoned with salt"
 - F. Battle of Worldviews – Opposition between God's truth claims and the lies of the world, the flesh, and the devil
- IV. What is Truth? - Truth as it relates to Reality
 - A. Webster's 1828 definition – "Conformity to fact or reality"

- B. Equating an idol to a lie - Isaiah 44 – Lies are powerful and lead us to insane notions
- C. What is Insanity? – We all suffer from "Common Insanity" - losing touch with reality
 - 1. Our actions reflect what we believe to be *really real*: Jesus' example in Matthew 6 asking "Why do you worry?...will He not care for you, O you of little faith?"
 - 2. Connecting faith with our actions and emotions: God is the object of our faith and our hope – Our actions are the most reliable indicator of our beliefs
- D. God is the ultimate source of Truth – Colossians 2:2-3
- V. Conclusion – "Do you *really* believe, that what you believe is *really real*?"



Key Terms

Lesson 1 - Veritology: What is Truth?

Antithesis: The complete or exact opposite of something. The truth claims of God in direct opposition to the lies of the world, the flesh and the devil.

Bifurcation: To divide or separate into two parts; to split or branch off into two parts

Common Insanity: A sickness we all suffer from. We have bought into the lies of the world, the flesh, and the devil and therefore we live as if the lie is true, denying reality.

Compass illustration: looking at life from a 360 degree perspective. A graphic means to illustrate that there is no area in life that God has not spoken.

Comprehensive: Covering a wide area, all inclusive, large in scope.

Cosmic Battle: Battle between God's Truth and the lies and illusions of the world, the flesh and the devil. The arguments and pretensions that set themselves up against the knowledge of God, against His nature and His word.

Delude: To lead from God's truth into false beliefs; persuade somebody to believe in something that is untrue or unreal.

Idol: A false source of salvation, sustenance, or power. Isaiah 44 equates an idol to a lie. These lies lead us into insane notions.

Insanity: Losing touch with reality; believing the lie is real. Extreme foolishness or an act that demonstrates it.

Jewels in the Cave: Dr. Tackett often refers to specific topics or truth claims that are of particular interest as "jewels in the cave."

Pathology: Any condition that is a departure or deviation from the true design. Dr. Tackett uses "pathology" to describe areas of distortion within the social spheres.

Pell-mell: In a disorderly frantic rush; confused, jumbled or messy manner.

Pernicious Lie: The lie that man is basically good and that his greatest need is to self-actualize and get in touch with his inner desires.

Spheres: Social institutions or systems that we live and interact in (family, church, state, labor, community, and the intimate relationship between God and man). Each sphere has distinct members with unique roles and responsibilities.

Systematic: Carried out in a methodical and organized manner; deliberate and regular system of organization.

Tour: Dr. Tackett likes to refer to each lesson as a tour in which he is our guide.

Truth temple illustration: a logical and graphic framework to organize Truth Project topics.

Truth: Correspondence to reality. Truth is that which is really real. Our actions reflect what we believe to be really real.

Veritology: The study of Truth; particularly the study of God's character and His Word as it relates to reality.

Worldview: A comprehensive set of truth claims that purports to paint a picture of reality; the framework from which we view reality and make sense of life and the world.



Scripture References
Lesson 1 – Veritology: What is Truth?

| | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Isaiah 6:1-8 | John 18:33-38 | Matt 5:18 | Matt 10:15 |
| Matt 13:17 | Matt 16:28 | Matt 17:20 | Matt 18:3, 18 |
| Matt 19:23 | Matt 21:21 | Matt 23:36 | Matt 24:2 |
| Matt 25:40 | Matt 26:21 | Matt 26:34 | John 3:3 |
| John 3:5 | John 3:11 | John 5:19, 24, 25 | John 1:17 |
| John 14:6 | John 6:26, 32, 47, 53 | John 8:34, 51, 58 | John 17:17 |
| John 4:24 | John 8:32 | John 14:16-17 | John 16:13 |
| 1 Tim 2:3-4 | Eph 6:14 | Isaiah 59:4 | Jer 7:28 |
| Isaiah 59:15 | 1 Tim 6:13 | 2 Tim 4:3-4 | Rom 1:18 |
| Acts 20:30 | Rom 2:8 | Rom 1:25 | 1 John 4:6 |
| Job 1 & 2 | 2 Thess 2:9-13 | John 8:34-47 | Rom 7:11 |
| 2 Thess 2:10 | Eph 4:22 | Heb 3:13 | 1 John 3:10 |
| 2 Tim 2:24-26 | Col 4:5-6 | Isaiah 44:18-20 | Isaiah 44:17 |
| Matt 6:25-34 | Col 2:2-4 | | |



Recommended Reading

Lesson 1 - Veritology: What is Truth?

Please note that not everything in these suggested resources should be considered endorsed by Focus on the Family. Nevertheless, Dr. Tackett has found this material helpful. Scripture should be your first and primary resource.

- Harry Blamires, *The Christian Mind: How Should a Christian Think?* (Ann Arbor, MI: Servant Books, 1963; reprinted 1978)
- Os Guinness, *Time for Truth* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000)
- Tim LaHaye and David A. Noebel, *Mind Siege* (Nashville, TN: Word Publishing, 2000)
- Nancy Pearcey, *Total Truth* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2004)
- Francis A. Schaeffer, *The Great Evangelical Disaster* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1984)



Expert Biography: Os Guinness

Dr. Os Guinness is a writer and speaker living in Northern Virginia.

In endorsing Focus on the Family's The Truth Project, Dr. Guinness said, "Of all the issues today ... truth would be major because the crisis of truth strikes at the heart of faith, it strikes at the heart of freedom and it strikes at the heart of humanity. Without truth we have no biblical faith."

Born in China during World War II where his parents were medical missionaries, Guinness remained there until 1951 when the communists forced most foreigners to leave. Since then he has lived mostly in England, Switzerland, and the United States.

Educated in England, he did undergraduate studies at the University of London, and postgraduate studies at University of Oxford where he graduated with a D.Phil in the social sciences from Oriel College.

Since 1984, he has lived in the Washington, D.C. area. He was a Guest Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Studies and then a Guest Scholar and Visiting Fellow at the Brookings Institution. From 1986-1989 he was the Executive Director of the Williamsburg Charter Foundation, one of the drafters of the Williamsburg Charter, and coauthor of the public school curriculum *Living With Our Deepest Differences*. He is currently the Senior Fellow of the Trinity Forum, a seminar-style forum for senior executives and political leaders that engages the leading ideas of our day in the context of faith. He is a member of The Falls Church, Episcopal, in Falls Church, Virginia.

His deep concern is to bridge the chasm between academic knowledge and popular knowledge, taking things that are academically important and making them intelligible and practicable to a wider audience.

Recommended Resources*

- *The Dust of Death: The Sixties Counterculture and How It Changed America*
- *The American Hour: A Time of Reckoning and the Once and Future Role of Faith*
- *Fit Bodies, Fat Minds: Why Evangelicals Don't Think and What to Do About It*
- *The Call: Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life*
- *Time for Truth: Living Free in a World of Lies, Hype and Spin*
- *Prophetic Untimeliness: A Challenge to the Idol of Relevance*
- *Long Journey Home: A Guide to Your Search for the Meaning of Life*
- *Unspeakable: Facing Up to Evil in an Age of Genocide and Terror*

Sources+

The Trinity Forum

<http://www.ttf.org/index/about/guinness/>

Ambassador Agency Biography

http://osguinness.ambassadoragency.com/client_profile.cfm/cid/135

* Inclusion of an item in the Recommended Resources section does not constitute an endorsement of all the content in a resource.

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Expert Biography: R.C. Sproul

Dr. R.C. Sproul is the founder and chairman of Ligonier Ministries—an organization that provides biblical and theological training for laypeople—and can be heard teaching daily on the "Renewing Your Mind" radio broadcast on more than 300 radio outlets in the United States and throughout 60 countries.

In his endorsement of Focus on the Family's The Truth Project, Sproul says, "My deepest longing for the church in our day is to find out who God is—not that He is, but who He is—to once again put our focus on His character and on His nature. We don't know who we are until we understand who God is."

Of particular relevance to The Truth Project, R.C.'s vision is for Christians to apply truth to every sphere of their lives. "I dream of a new reformation," he says, "a reformation that is not simply a renewal of life but a new vision of life: a vision that yields new forms and structures in society and culture. As long as Christians restrict their Christianity to a religion, a faith that is compartmentalized and isolated from life, they can have revival but never, ever reformation. We need to hear and do the Word of God in all of our lives."

Dr. Sproul has written more than 60 books and has authored scores of magazine articles for evangelical publications as well as being editor of the Reformation Study Bible.

Currently, Dr. Sproul serves as Senior Minister of Preaching and Teaching at Saint Andrew's Chapel in Sanford, Florida. Dr. Sproul's passion has always been lay education—specifically, the kind of in-depth educational resources Christian laypeople desperately need but often can't find.

Sproul holds degrees from Westminster College, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, the Free University of Amsterdam and Whitefield Theological Seminary. Dr. Sproul has served as a professor at Reformed Theological Seminary, Knox Seminary, Westminster Seminary/California, and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

Recommended Resources*

- *The Holiness of God*
- *Knowing Scripture*
- *One Holy Passion: The Consuming Thirst to Know God*
- *Renewing Your Mind: Basic Christian Beliefs You Need to Know*
- *The Consequences of Ideas: Understanding the Concepts That Shaped Our World*
- *Defending Your Faith: An Introduction to Apologetics*
- *Not a Chance: The Myth of Chance in Modern Science and Cosmology*

Links+

Ligonier Ministries

<http://www.ligonier.org/>

Saint Andrew's Chapel

<http://www.saintandrewschapel.org/>

Reformation Study Bible

<http://www.reformationstudybible.com/>

Sources

<http://www.ligonier.org/history.php>

<http://www.saintandrewschapel.org/staff/rcsproul.php>

<http://www.nelsonministryservices.com/nms/bio.asp?cid=606>

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Expert Biography: Ravi Zacharias

Founder of Ravi Zacharias International Ministries, for more than three decades Ravi Zacharias has spoken all over the world. Born in India in 1946, Zacharias immigrated to Canada with his family twenty years later. He received his Masters of Divinity from Trinity International University in Deerfield, Illinois.

In discussing the relevance and value of Focus on the Family's The Truth Project, Zacharias remarked, "The single most important question any human being can ask is the question, 'What is truth?' ... The question of truth, and training minds in how to approach truth, is of importance that cannot be gainsaid." Underscoring the confusion in popular culture regarding truth, Zacharias continued, "The world is reeling with uncertainty, it's almost like it's in the air."

A prolific author, Zacharias has been a visiting scholar at Cambridge University, where he studied moralist philosophers and literature of the Romantic era. While at Cambridge he authored his first book, *A Shattered Visage: The Real Face of Atheism* (Baker). His second book, *Can Man Live without God* (Word Publishing, 1994), was awarded a Gold Medallion. *Jesus Among Other Gods* (Word, 2000) compares Jesus with the founders of Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. Zacharias also served as general editor of a revised edition of Walter Martin's book *The Kingdom of the Cults* (Bethany House, 2003). In 2006 he coauthored *Walking From East to West: God in the Shadows* (Zondervan).

His weekly radio program, "Let My People Think," is broadcast over 1500 stations worldwide. Ravi and his wife, Margie, have three grown children: Sarah, Naomi and Nathan.

Recommended Resources*

- *Jesus Among Other Gods*
- *Can Man Live Without God*
- *Deliver Us From Evil: Restoring the Soul in a Disintegrating Culture*
- *The Lotus and the Cross: Jesus Talks with Buddha*
- *The Lamb and the Fuhrer: Jesus Talks with Hitler*
- *Walking From East to West: God in the Shadows*

Links+

Ravi Zacharias International Ministries
<http://www.rzim.org/>

"Let My People Think" radio program

http://www.oneplace.com/ministries/Let_My_People_Think/

Sources

<http://www.rzim.org/ravi.php>

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