

# Discerning Truth in a Post Christian Culture

## Lesson 1: The Bible as Absolute Truth

The study of epistemology is the philosophical study of how we know what we know. A few years back I would have said there were three basic answers to the epistemological question but in our present post Christian culture I will have to add a few. The three main answers and two sub points would be:

- A. **Revelation**—the answers to what is right and what is wrong comes by way of Divine revelation
- B. **Authoritarianism**—the answers come from experts who have advanced study and experience
- C. **Rationalism**—the answers come from within ourselves as we use logic and our own mind
  - 1. **Intuition**—a sense about what is right or wrong combined with rationalization
  - 2. **Relativism**—truth changes depending on circumstances, there are no absolutes

Of the three main points, only the Bible claims to have its origin from God Who is a Source outside of ourselves. Furthermore, we must realize that every one of these positions is a faith based solution: while there is evidence that may be considered (and the Bible fits the evidence the best), no one of these positions can be proven to be true beyond a shadow of doubt. To believe the Bible is simply to take God at His Word. What does the Bible say about itself?

### I. It Is Inspired

- A. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man [or woman] of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. (2Ti 3:16-17 NAU)
- B. But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. (2Pe 1:20-1 NAU)
- C. Inspired means "God-breathed"—the Holy Spirit moved men to write what God put in their heart and mind

### II. It Is Timeless and Eternal

- A. "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. (Mat 5:18 NAU)
- B. The sum of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting. (Psa 119:160 NAU)
- C. The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever. (NAU Isaiah 40:8)
- D. for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God. (NAU 1 Peter 1:23)

### III. It Is Absolute Truth

- A. "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. (Joh 17:17 NAU)
- B. The sum of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting. (Psa 119:160 NAU)
- C. Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a [worker] who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. (NAU 2 Timothy 2:15)

### IV. It Exposes Motives & Lights Our Path

- A. For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (Heb 4:12 NAU)
- B. The unfolding of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple. (Psa 119:130 NAU)
- C. Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path. (Psa 119:105 NAU)

## Questions for Thought and Discussion

1. What is epistemology?

---

---

---

2. What are the primary sources of knowledge?

---

---

---

3. What is the problem with rationalism? What is its deficiency?

---

---

---

4. What is the problem with authoritarianism?

---

---

---

5. Name three things that the Bible claims about itself.

---

---

---

6. What is the literal definition of inspiration?

---

---

---

7. According to 2 Peter 1:21, how did God inspire the Bible?

---

---

---

NOTES:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---