



HIGHER GROUND  
CALVARY CHAPEL

# SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

APOLOGETICS  
CLASS 02  
THE CASE FOR TRUTH

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What is truth?



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John 18:37:

“Pilate therefore said unto Him, ‘Are you a king then?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say 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 hears my voice.’”

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John 18:38:

“Pilate said unto Him, ‘What is truth?’ And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and said unto them, ‘I find in him no fault at all.’”

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“What is truth?”

This has been the question of the ages.

Why is it so important?

It's really very important...

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In order to make correct decisions, we need correct information

If our information is incorrect, we will come to the wrong conclusion

We will make the wrong decision

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This may be why the first  
casualty in any war is the truth  
In the Battle of Britain  
Germany sent their planes  
over London  
After each fight the different  
sides reported the results

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The Germans reported  
shooting down many planes  
with few losses  
The British reported shooting  
down many enemy planes with  
few losses  
Both could not be correct

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Finally, the German  
commander determined it was  
costing too much to take  
England  
He stopped the battles  
He pulled back

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When he did, the truth was that  
England only had a handful of  
planes left  
They had lied  
The enemy believed it  
They made the wrong decision  
England eventually won the war

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Make no mistake  
We are in a war  
We are in a spiritual war  
And the Enemy is a Liar  
He is the Father of Lies  
And so truth is very important  
to our cause

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I find it ironic that Pilate asked  
of Jesus: "What is truth?"  
John 14:6:  
"Jesus said unto him, 'I AM the  
Way, the Truth, and the Life.  
No man comes to the Father  
but by me.'"

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Pilate asked this question of the embodiment of Truth  
I want to take a few minutes to discuss the Bible's concept of truth...

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Jesus is God...  
John 10:30:  
"I and my Father are one."  
So what do we know about God?

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Hebrews 6:18:  
"That by two immutable things, in which it was IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD TO LIE, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: "

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Let me re-word this statement:  
It is impossible for God to:  
Misrepresent information  
To provide false information  
To mislead or misdirect  
someone

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Malachi 3:6:  
“For I am the Lord. I change  
not...”  
These two concepts tell us a  
great deal about God  
About Jesus  
About Truth

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Truth does not give incorrect  
information  
Truth does not change  
If it is true; it is always true no  
matter the date, time or  
location

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Information CAN change  
But not truth  
Information can be correct at  
one point, it can change; and  
become incorrect  
This is because it was  
information and not truth

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Jesus is God  
He has declared that He is the  
Truth  
It is impossible for Jesus to lie  
It is impossible for Jesus to  
give incorrect information

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What did Jesus say?  
John 17:17:  
“Sanctify them through Your  
truth: Your word is truth.”

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Jesus was speaking to God the Father at this point  
God's Word – or the Bible – is also certified by Jesus as being truth

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The Bible cannot provide incorrect information  
It cannot change

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This is what the Bible tells us about truth  
It does not/cannot provide incorrect information  
It cannot change  
We use this to test all other information concerning truth

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Now we have approached this Modular on Apologetics using the concept of evidence-based  
We will test what is said  
We will look for evidence that can be tested and confirmed to guide us in our search

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### THREE KINDS OF FAITH

1. Unreasonable Faith: believing in something in spite of the evidence
2. Blind Faith: believing in something without any evidence
3. Forensic Faith: believing in something because of the evidence

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We will be dealing with Forensic Faith throughout this Modular  
We will be looking for evidence and testing it  
We will be using the Biblical guidelines to test the truth

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“We hold a forensic belief when we believe something because it is the most reasonable inference from evidence even though we may still have some unanswered questions.”

(J. Warner Wallace, Forensic Faith, 60)

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## TWO TYPES OF EVIDENCE

1. Direct Evidence: Eye Witness Testimony  
Biblical Account  
The Four Gospels  
The Writings of the Apostles

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## TWO TYPES OF EVIDENCE

2. Indirect Evidence: Everything else that would corroborate the Eyewitness testimony.  
Physical evidence  
Test results  
Logic and reason

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BUILDING A CUMULATIVE CASE

“Cumulative case arguments are built on a number of pieces of evidence, each of which may be imperfect or insufficient in isolation, but when examined in totality, the case becomes strong and reasonable so that its conclusion makes more sense than any alternative hypothesis...”

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In my 40+ years career of investigations, litigation and negotiations our laws set the standard for us

It was not who had the most witnesses

It was the party that had the most convincing evidence

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It was essential that the evidence was admissible  
That the evidence was credible  
That the evidence was convincing  
It had to be all of these  
And more convincing than the other party's evidence

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Our modular is going to be a Cumulative Case Argument:  
It will build throughout the Modular  
We will present individual arguments and submit evidence to prove our point

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- We will do this for:
1. The Case for Truth
  2. The Case for the Bible
  3. The Case for God
  4. The Case for Creation
  5. The Case for Christ

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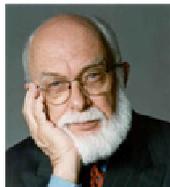
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Dealing with the World's "truth"



"That may be true for you, but it's not true for me."

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Here is the danger...  
If you accept the other person's  
premise  
Then you are obligated to  
accept their conclusion  
Make the other side prove each  
point that they are making

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“Give me an example where  
something is true for me; but it  
is not true for you”  
Is that really a truth?  
It is just an opinion?  
Hold them to the standard  
“Prove your point!”

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“All truth is personal...  
You've got yours  
and I've got mine...”



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Again, this is an opinion  
Give me examples  
Truth is truth  
It does not change  
It applies to all

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“You’re just a hater if you  
say you have THE Truth!  
Get real!!”



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This is not an argument  
This is a personal attack  
This is intimidation  
This is what the other side  
does when it does not have a  
valid response or defense  
They make it personal

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“Look! Don’t tell me Jesus is the ONLY way to God. That’s intolerant hate speech.”



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This is not an argument  
It is a generalization  
It is an attack  
They are making it personal to intimidate you  
Define Hate Speech  
How is this Hate Speech?

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“There’s no such thing as absolute truth!”



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They have just made an affirmative statement  
They now have the Burden of Proof  
This is an opinion and nothing more  
Can they prove it?

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All of these are statements that people hide behind – nothing more  
They cannot prove them  
They do not know where they came from  
They use them to try and shut down conversation and the exchange of information

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**Results of a Barna Poll  
(Dated May 2016)**

“Three-quarters of Millennials polled (74%) agree strongly or somewhat with the statement: “Whatever is right for your life or works best for you is the only truth that you can know.”

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Results of a Barna Poll  
(Dated May 2016)

“Two-thirds of American adults either believe moral truth is relative to circumstances (44%) or have not given it much thought (21%).”

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These are Polls  
What are Polls?  
They are opinions  
People believe this  
It does not mean that they are right  
Where is the proof?

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Truth is not what is popular  
Truth is not the majority opinion  
They are trying to make you think it is  
This is misdirection  
Truth is truth because it is not based upon what we believe

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I want to point out before going on, that the World's definition and understanding of truth is based upon personal opinion  
In an evidence-based process, personal opinion does not carry any weight

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These statements and polls show what we are up against  
We need to shift Truth from a subjective concept to an evidence-based concept.

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There are two ways to look at Truth:

1. Subjective: Based upon personal feelings and not evidence
2. Objective: Independent of what we think or feel. True whether we believe it or not

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Truth Defined

TRUTH is...

A thought or statement about Reality which AGREES with Reality (that which is or which exists)

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In other words...

Truth is OBJECTIVE

It is based in the EXTERNAL world

And not in our mind or preferences

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THE TRUTH ABOUT TRUTH

1. Truth is discovered; not invented
2. Truth is true for all people, in all times; and in all places
3. Truth is unchanging, though our beliefs about what is true may.

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4. BELIEFS cannot change a FACT, no matter how sincerely those beliefs are held.

5. Contrary BELIEFS are possible; contrary TRUTHS are not

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6. All TRUTHS are ABSOLUTE TRUTHS

7. History is objective and knowable

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What we are up against is an educational system and intellectual thought that has chosen to redefine truth to meet their needs

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POSTMODERNISM:

This was a philosophical and artist movement of the 1970's

It rejects the notion that an OBJECTIVE Reality exists

It teaches that our perception creates reality

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My response would be:

“Where is the proof?”

“What evidence is presented to support this philosophy?”

There is none...

It is an opinion and nothing more!

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If you want reality...

Smash your thumb with a hammer and tell me that it is not hurting

Reality has a way of forcing itself upon us whether we believe it or not

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SKEPTICISM:

Attributed to David Hume  
(1711 – 1776)

He questioned our ability to be  
certain of our knowledge

He made the argument that  
everything must be verified by  
our senses

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We can see that a triangle has  
three sides

We can verify things that are  
physical

However, anything beyond our  
five senses cannot be verified,  
and, therefore does not exist

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He failed to consider the eye  
witness accounts of the Bible

He failed to consider evidence  
that did not support his  
position

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Example: Jesus spoke of  
Heaven and Hell  
Jesus was God  
Jesus knew this to be true  
Jesus was an eye witness  
Hume would not consider this  
evidence

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Example: God recorded  
prophecies in the Old  
Testament that came true  
The math was available to  
calculate the odds of these  
things happening in this detail  
on their own  
This would prove God

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Hume deliberately limited  
arguments and evidence to  
only those things that would  
support his philosophy  
This qualifies as intellectual  
dishonesty  
We cannot accept dishonesty  
when dealing with truth

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AGNOSTICISM:

Literally is means “to not know”

Attributed to Immanuel Kant

(1724 – 1804)

Basically, our minds shape the data we are receiving

It rejects reality

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Kant taught that all data we are receiving cannot be trusted

In reality, he is refusing to look at evidence or even consider evidence

Therefore, he is refusing the process of deductive reasoning

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He has chosen to not participate in the thinking process

He chooses instead to denounce everything

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Again, he is denouncing everything without any evidence to support his position  
His position is nothing more than his personal opinion

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So question...  
Why should we believe him?  
Why should we listen to him?  
Answer:  
We should not!

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For all his “flowery” eloquence,  
When we boil his position down  
He is just refusing to consider any evidence contrary to his opinion

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As the label of his philosophy  
so clearly states:

Agnostic – to not know

“I am ignorant!”

He is choosing to be willfully  
ignorant and not participate in  
the intellectual process

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So there is no basis to give his  
position any serious credibility  
or consideration.

I like how Dave responded to  
all of this in his presentation...

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**HUM BUG!**



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RELATIVISM:

Morals are subjective and relative to the individual  
Each point of view has its own "truth" based upon whatever societal or cultural context in which it appears.

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Really...?

And what if you found yourself in the concentration camps of Germany during World War II and you were a Jew?  
The society and culture declares you have no rights

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Are you going to sit back and let them torture you to death?  
That is what the society and culture says it can do

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Let's be honest...  
All these philosophical  
ideologies only work in a  
vacuum  
A vacuum absent of reality

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When you are in pain and  
suffering...  
When you are in danger...  
When your life and livelihood  
are threatened  
Reality pushes past all your  
beliefs

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If it is not real...  
If it is not truth...  
It will no longer matter to you

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We are going to hold to our working definition of truth  
“It does not involve misinformation”  
“It does not change”

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What we are going to do for the rest of this Modular is put this to the test  
Is the Bible God’s revealing of Himself to us?  
Does God exist?  
Are we created or did we evolve

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Dealing with these issues will give us a basis for truth  
What is the reality of our world?  
What is the reality of our universe?  
How does this affect us?

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We will wrap up with a discussion of Jesus...  
Is He God in human form?  
Is there sin in the world?  
What does sin do to us?  
What is our eternal destiny?

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The way to understand truth is to put it to the test  
Place it in the midst of reality  
Does it still function?  
Does it still make sense?  
Does it work within the framework?

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We have one basic goal for this Modular:  
“You shall know the Truth...  
...And the Truth shall make you free!”

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Isaiah 5:20:

“Woe unto those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”

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I just want to close with one more verse

This verse should be our battle cry

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I Thessalonians 5:21:

“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. ”

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Let me paraphrase this advice  
to meet our present situation  
“Put everything to the test,  
hold fast to what is proven to  
be true.”

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## QUESTIONS



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