

### 3. What is truth?

How would you define truth? Simply put, truth is that which actually is. It corresponds to reality. A lie is that which distorts reality. Do you like it when someone lies to you? Why not? Because you assume (by faith) that truth exists and should be followed. In order to discern truth from a lie you need a reference point, or fixed standard. Whenever you lack a standard for truth you quickly become lost and deceived. God, who cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18), has revealed that fixed standard in His Word. "The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever." (Psalm 119:160) "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." (James 1:22) The Bible reveals absolute truth concerning the nature of reality. Because God is perfect, his perspective of truth is always completely accurate. He has revealed that perfect perspective propositionally (with words) in Scripture. Truth is reality as defined by God. God's perspective of reality is always true, so it will never change or be destroyed. God's ultimate communication of truth is found in the giving of his Son (Hebrews 1:1-2). Jesus said, "For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." (John 18:37) Even if the majority rejects God's truth for a season, his truth endures forever. "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever." (Isaiah 40:8) Truth is the only thing that will grant you freedom (John 8:31-32). God knows men "exchanged the truth about God for a lie." (Romans 1:25) But he still "desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:4) Will you seek His truth? "Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar." (Proverbs 30:5-6)

Bible passages to read: John 8:31-47, 18:36-38; 2 Timothy 2:24-26

Questions to ponder:

1. What is truth?
2. Can you have truth without a fixed standard? Why / why not?
3. Is truth the same for everyone?
4. What do you believe is really real?
5. Do you believe in absolute truth? How can you be certain about this?