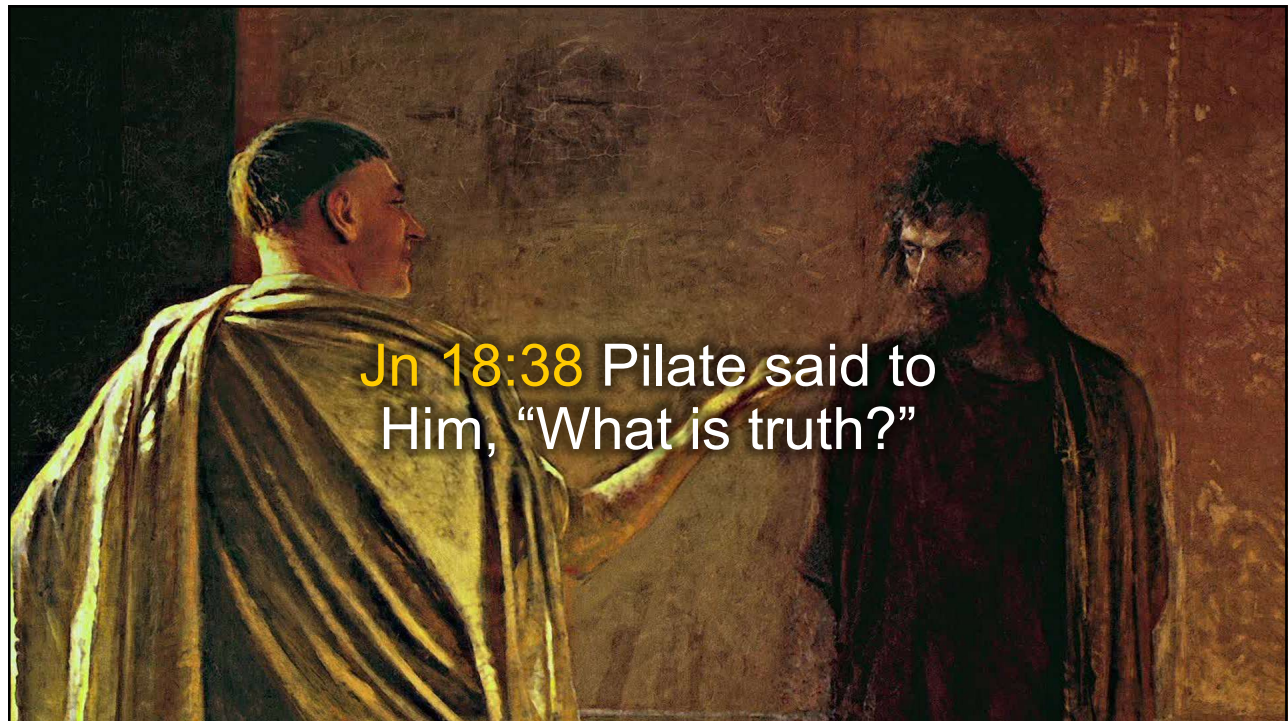


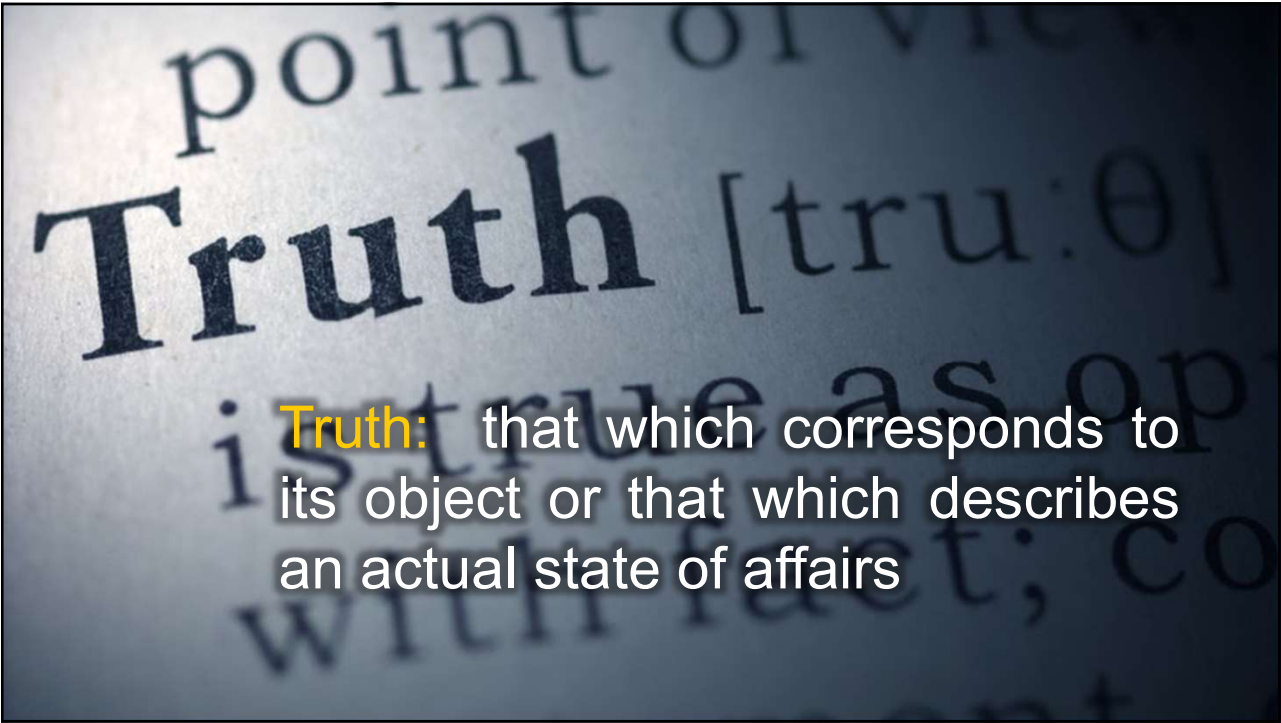
# TRUTH MATTERS

## Part 2: Why believe anything at all?

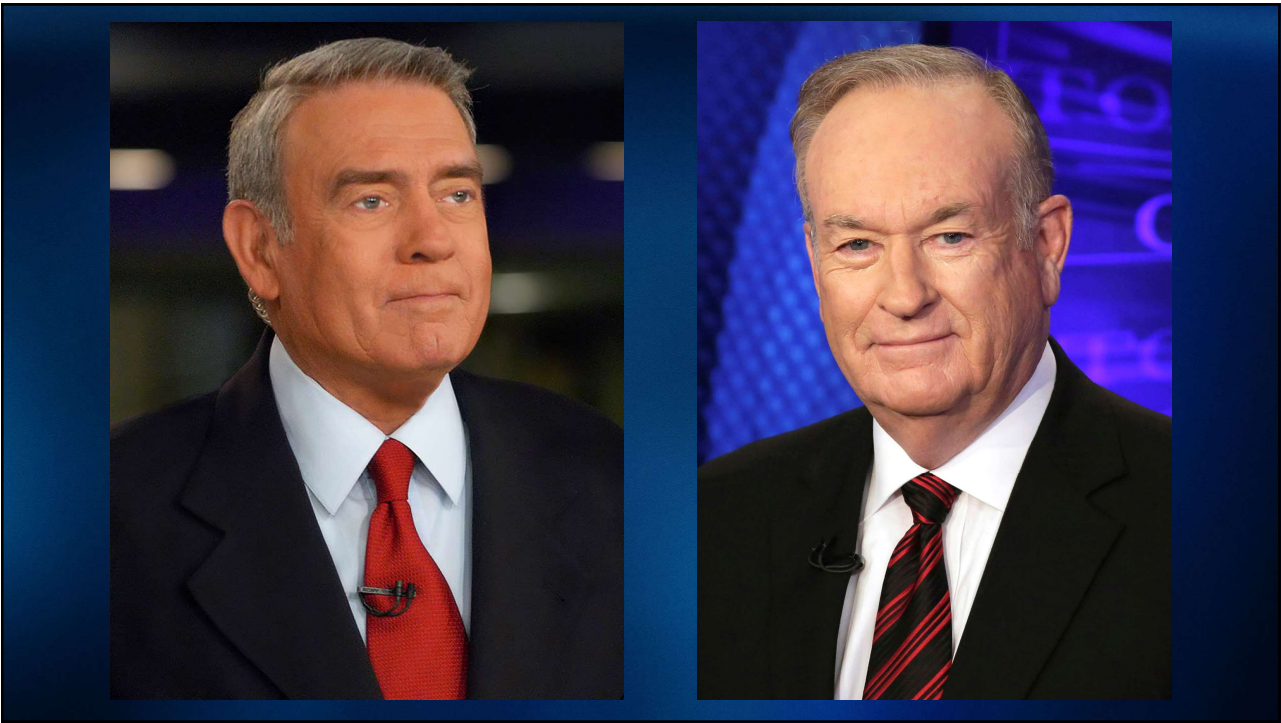
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## 1. Jesus and the truth

- Jesus is full of grace & truth
- Jesus brought grace & truth
- Jesus is the truth
- Jesus called the Holy Spirit the Spirit of truth
- Jesus said God's Word is truth
- Jesus said the truth will make us free

6

## 2. Man and the truth

- We should rejoice in the truth
- We should speak the truth
- We should be defenders of the truth

7

## 3. The wicked and the truth

- The wicked do not love the truth
- The ungodly suppress the truth & exchange the truth for a lie
- False spiritual teachers blaspheme the truth

8



## 4. Some truths about truth

9

- All truth claims are absolute, narrow, and exclusive & therefore exclude their opposites
- Truth is discovered, not invented
- Truth is transcultural
- Truth is unchanging even though our beliefs about truth change
- Beliefs cannot change a fact, no matter how sincerely they are held
- Truth is unaffected by the attitude of the one professing it
- Truths that appear to be relative are really absolute

10

## 5. Contrary beliefs are possible but contrary truths are not possible.

- While most religions have some beliefs that are true, not all religious beliefs can be true because they are mutually exclusive.
- A self-defeating statement is one that fails to meet its own standard.

11

6. We can believe everything is true, but we cannot make everything true.

12



## 7. Ideas have consequences

- False ideas about truth lead to false ideas about life
- If Christianity is true, then it's dangerous to your eternal destiny not to be a Christian
- The same is true if Islam is true

13

## 8. Can truth and tolerance co-exist?

14

- **Tolerance** (historically): recognition and respect for views, beliefs, practices, etc. different from one's own
- **Tolerance** (modern): acceptance of every belief as true

15

## 9. What is intellectual/religious pluralism?

16



- A belief that contrasting beliefs about truth are both true
- Pluralists think all non-pluralist beliefs are wrong. So pluralists are just as dogmatic & closed-minded as those who believe in absolute truth
- Are pluralists ready to accept the religious beliefs of extreme Muslim terrorists?
- The Bible commands Christians to question religious beliefs.

17

**Deut 13:1-5** not everyone who claims to be a prophet is, they must be 100% accurate

**2 Cor 11:13** For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.

**Acts 17:11** These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

**1 Jn 4:1** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

**Gal 1:8** But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

18

## Part 2: Why believe anything at all?

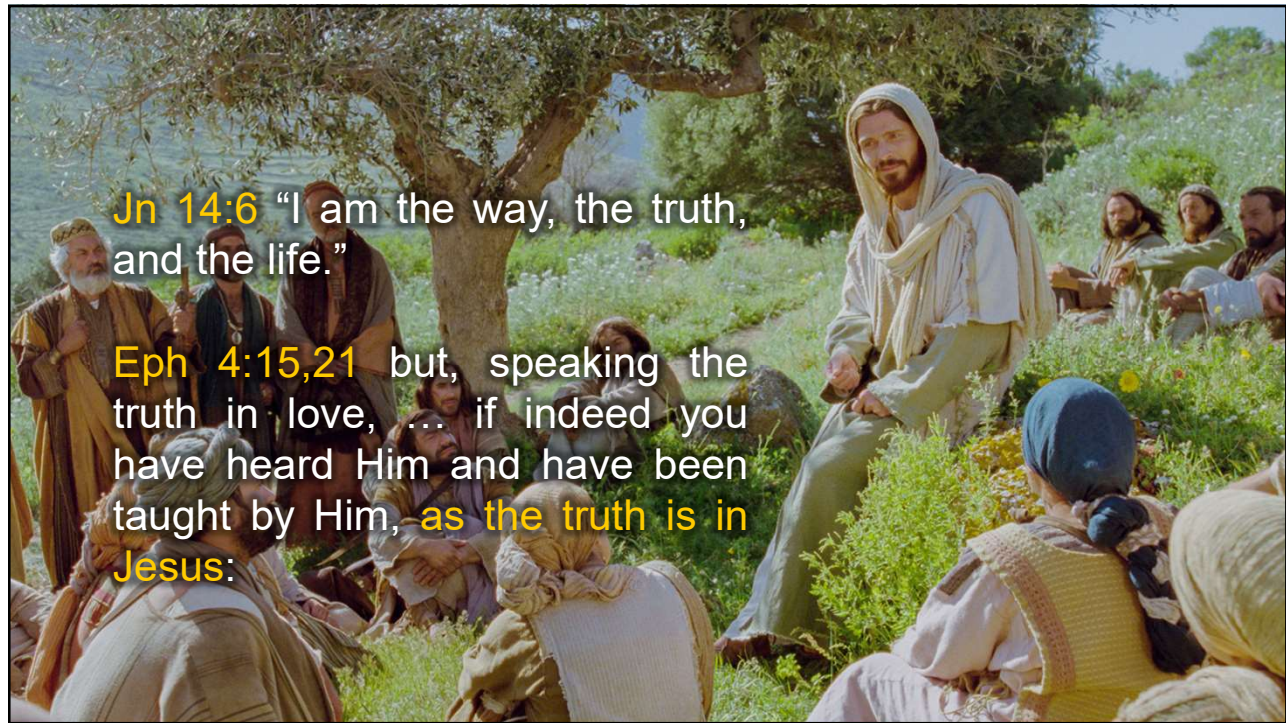
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“The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully.”

Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*

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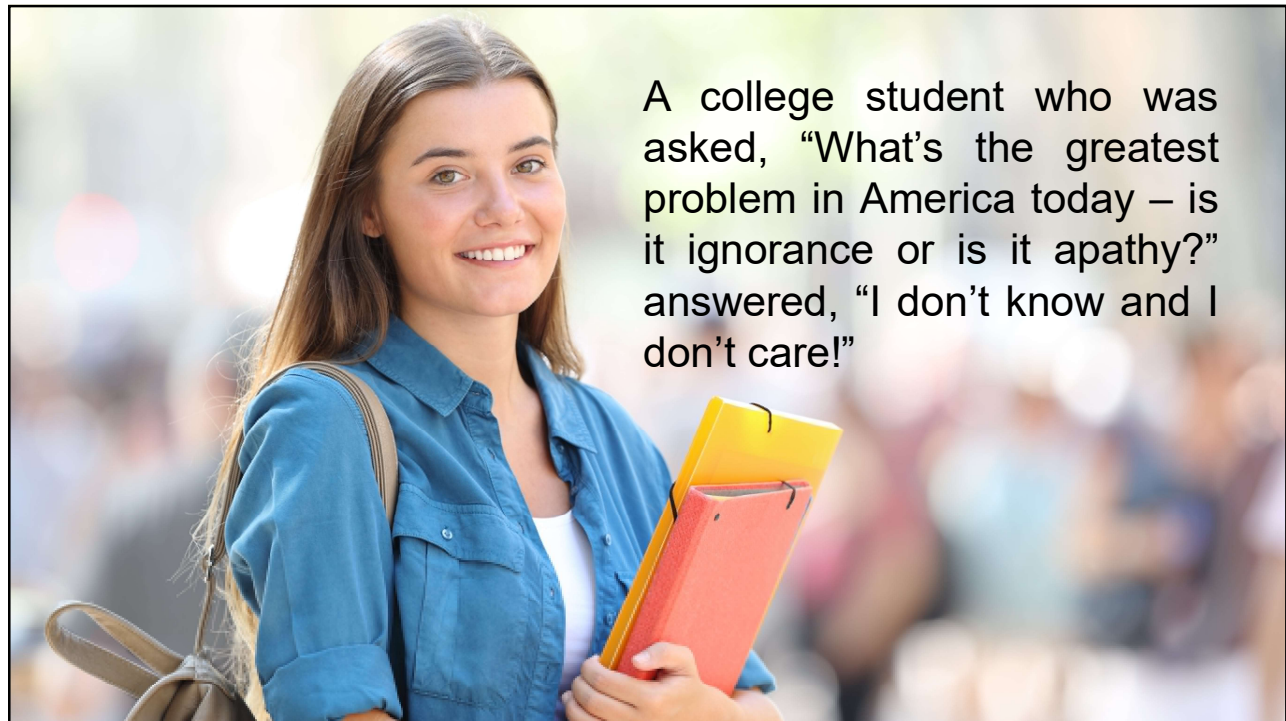




21

# 1. Why should we care about truth?

22



A college student who was asked, “What’s the greatest problem in America today – is it ignorance or is it apathy?” answered, “I don’t know and I don’t care!”

23

- Truth in morality matters

**First**, even though people may claim that truth in morality doesn’t matter, they don’t really believe that when someone treats them immorally.

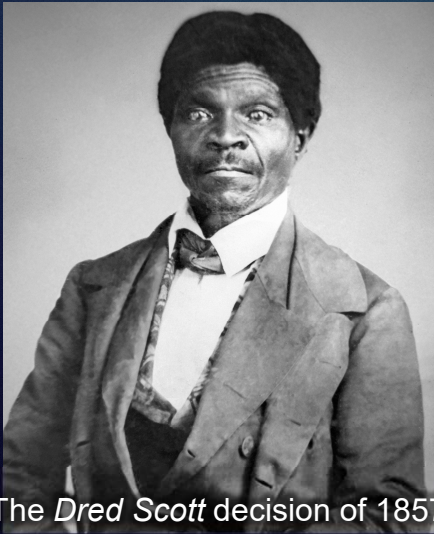
**Second**, truth in morality matters because success in life is often dependent on the moral choices we make.

**Third**, all laws are based upon perceived truth and are designed to legislate that truth/morality.

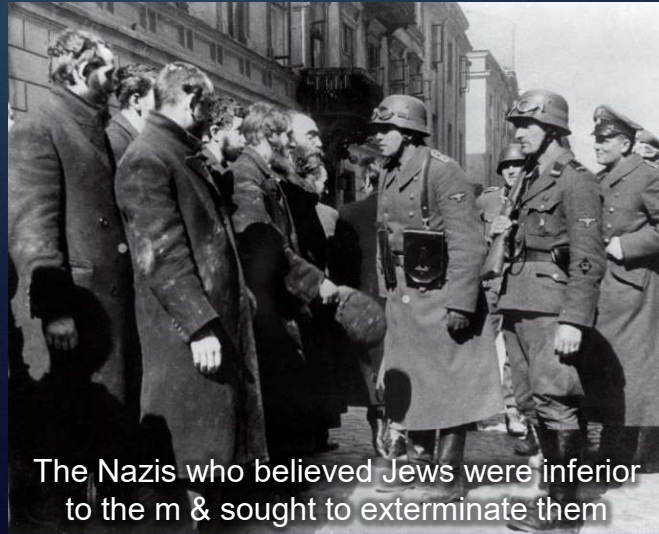
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The only question is, "Whose morality will be legislated?"



The *Dred Scott* decision of 1857



The Nazis who believed Jews were inferior to the m & sought to exterminate them

25

- Truth in religion matters

If the Bible is true, those who don't believe it are in big trouble.

If the Koran is true, those who don't believe it are in big trouble.

In Saudia Arabia, some schoolchildren are taught that Jews are pigs and non-Muslims (infidels) should be killed.

In America, public schools teach children (through Darwinism) there's really no difference between humans and pigs.

26

All religions cannot be true because they disagree on virtually every major issue: the nature of God, the nature of man, sin, salvation, heaven, hell, and creation.

27

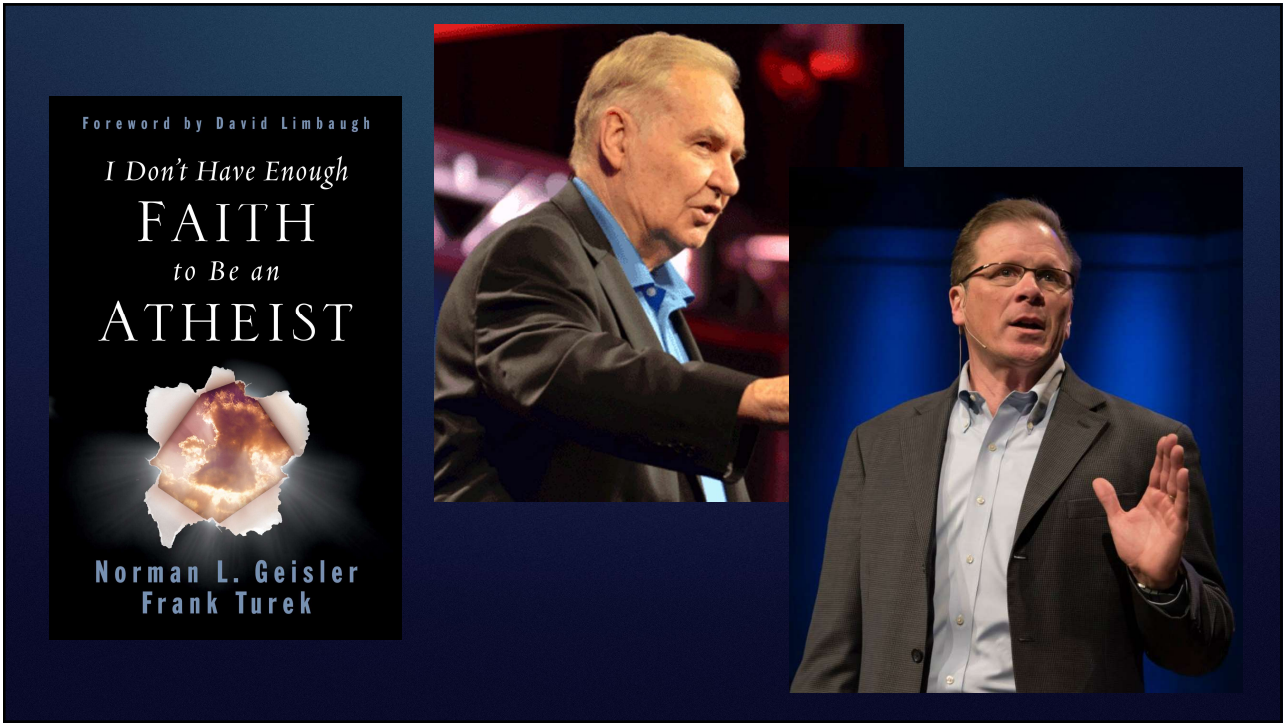
2. Why do people believe what they do?

28

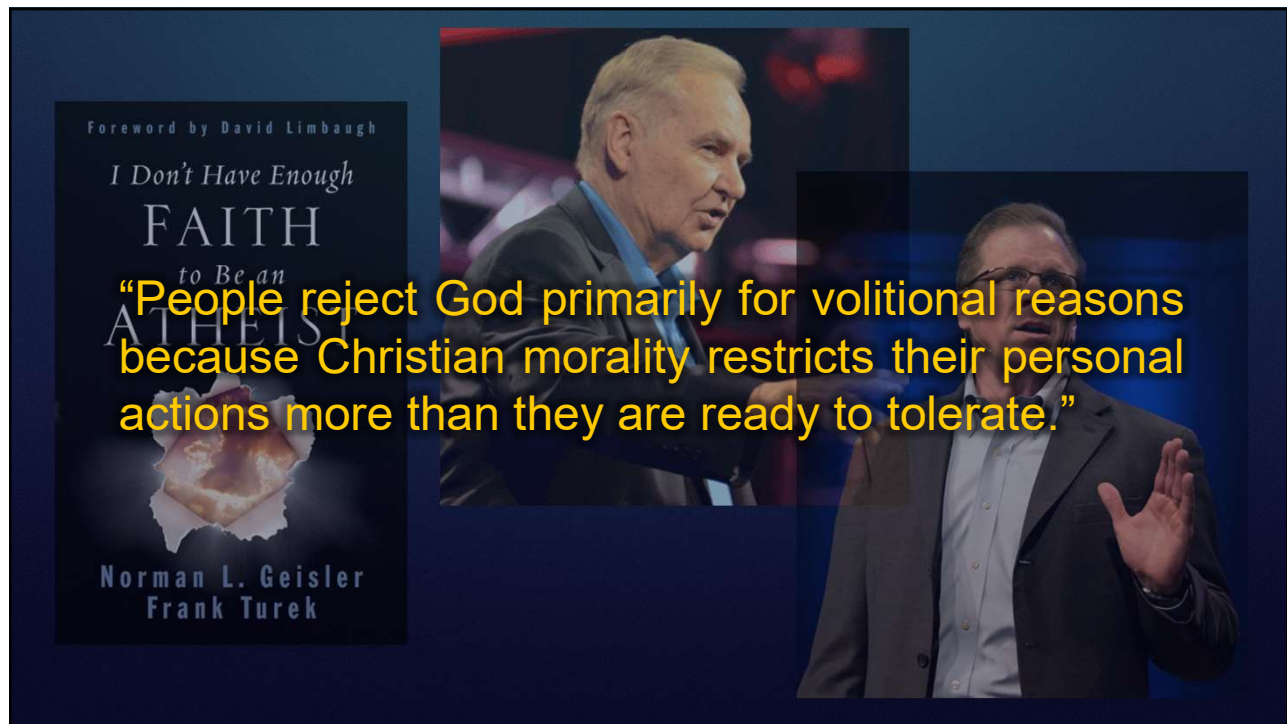




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31

**Reasons for peoples' beliefs:**

**Sociological reasons** = parents, friends, culture

**Psychological reasons** = comfort, peace of mind, purpose, hope

**Religious reasons** = Scripture, pastor, rabbi, church

**Philosophical reasons** = consistency, coherence, completeness

32



This is why apologetics is so important.

An apologist is one who shows how good reason and evidence support or contradict a particular belief.

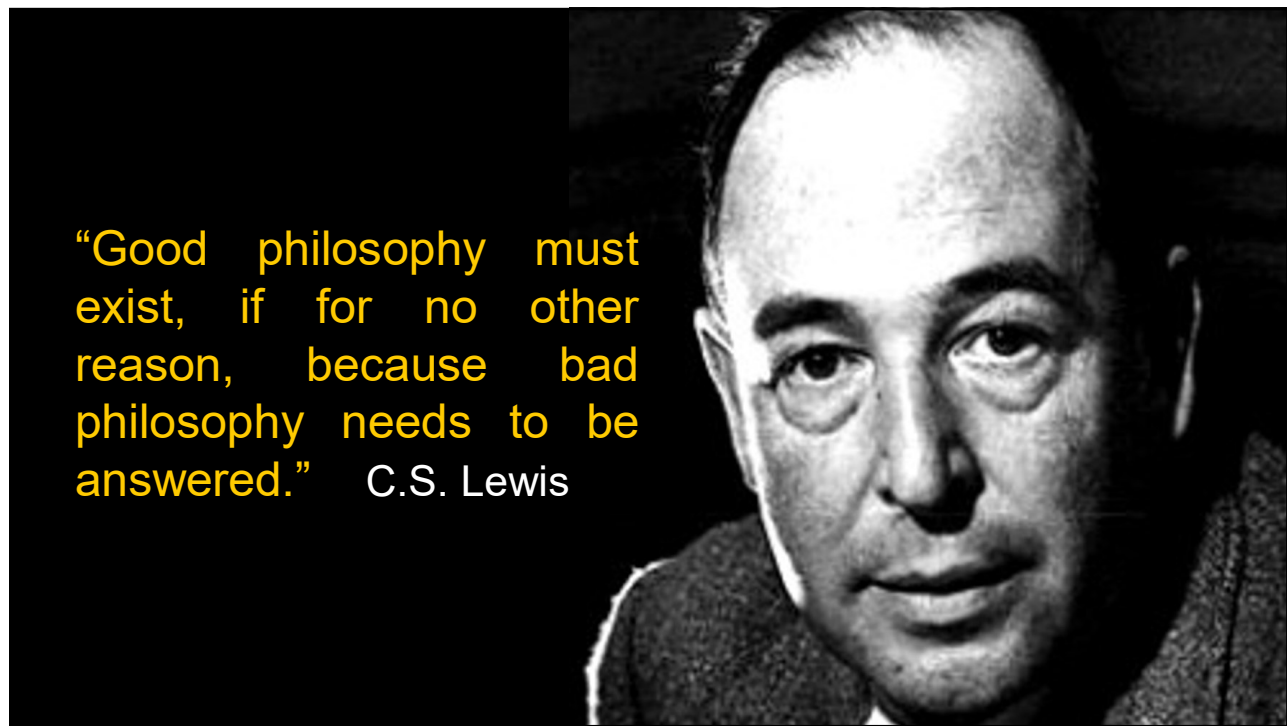
Any teaching, religious or otherwise, is worth trusting only if it points to the truth.

In order to find the truth one must be willing to give up subjective preferences in favor of objective facts.

33

### 3. How is truth known?

34



35

- The process of discovering truth begins with the self-evident laws of logic called first principles.
- **First Principles:** the tools used to discover all other truths. They are to learning what eyes are to seeing.
- **The Law of Non-contradiction:** contradictory claims cannot both be true at the same time in the same sense – the opposite of true is false.

36



- **The Law of the Excluded Middle:** establishes if something *is* or *is not*.

Example:

1. All men are mortal.
2. Spencer is a man.
3. Spencer is mortal.

- The method of drawing general conclusions from specific observations is called **induction**.
- The process of lining up premises in an argument and arriving at a valid conclusion is called **deduction**.

37

- **Invalid induction leads to an invalid deduction**

1. All men are four-legged reptiles.
2. Zachary is a man.
3. Zachary is a four-legged reptile.

38

- Logic can tell us that an argument is false, but it cannot tell us by itself which premises are true.
- Most conclusions based on induction cannot be considered absolutely certain, but only highly probable.
- Logic is the same worldwide.

39

#### 4. Apart from Scripture, how are truths known about God?

40



- We use induction to investigate God the same way we use it to investigate other things we can't see – by observing their effects.
- There are effects we can observe that point to God's existence – one of which is creation.
- The truth concerning God greatly affects our lives and perhaps, our eternities.