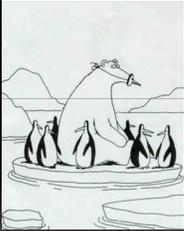


THE TRUTH 



John 8:32 – “you will know the truth and the truth will make you free.”
 John 17:17 – “sanctify them in the truth; Your word (*logos*) is truth.”
 John 14:6 – “I am the truth (*logos*)”
 Matthew 7:13-20 – “for the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

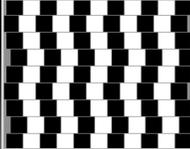
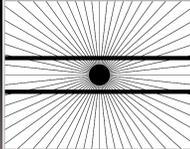
“And now Edgar's gone....
 Something's going on around here.”

THE TRUTH 

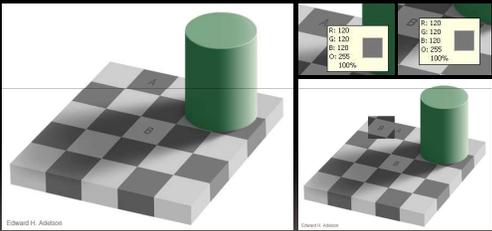
Ephesians 6:10-14 – “having girded your loins with truth”

- Girding ones loins is a metaphor for being in a readied position to fight.

1. Truth – why start here?

THE TRUTH 



Edward H. Gibson

THE TRUTH 

1. Truth – why start here?

- If there is no such thing as Truth, then all is relative *and therefore unknowable (and ultimately meaningless)*
- If there is Truth, then a sincere search for it will lead to an accurate understanding of reality and ones reasoning will have grounds on which to validate various truth claims.
- Colossians 2:8 – “See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception...”
- Is Paul against philosophy?
 - Absolutely not.
 - Philosophy – “love of wisdom” is riddled throughout the OT.
 - Proverbs 1:7; 2:6; 3:5,6; 3:19,20
- He just demands that we start at the right place: In the beginning, God! (Romans 1:18-23)

THE TRUTH 

2. Truth – what is it?

- Conformity to fact or actuality; fidelity to an original or standard; reality; actuality; a statement proven to be or accepted as true; sincerity; integrity; God.
- Truth by its very nature is:
 - Noncontradictory** – it does not violate the basic laws of logic (the laws of thought):
 - The law of identity (LID: A is A)
 - The law of no contradiction (LNC: A is not –A (Parmenides, Plato, Aristotle))
 - The law of excluded middle (LEM: A or –A, but not both (Plato and Aristotle))

THE TRUTH 

- Truth by its very nature is:
 - Kant's hard agnosticism: (although we know *that* reality exists, *what* reality is in itself (its essence) cannot be known by human reason).
 - he claimed to have knowledge of what he declared to be unknowable – “I know that reality is *unknowable*.”
- Absolute** – it does not depend upon time, place, or conditions.
- Claims against absolute truth are self defeating (violate the LNC): *there is absolutely no absolute truth.*
- Discovered**, not determined
 - It exists independently of our minds (mathematics, gravity)
 - We do not create it (it is not relative in nature, but absolute)



- Truth by its very nature is:
 4. Descriptive
 - It is the agreement of the mind with reality.
 - It corresponds with the way things really are.
 - Uses both a *priori* and a *posteriori* episteme.
 5. Unchanging
 - It is the firm standard by which philosophical claims are measured.
 - If a philosophy is inconsistent with reality (truth), it fails.
 - Example:
 - People are really good at the core, it's just their environment, education, or government that causes them to behave the way they do.



3. Truth – what has happened to it?
 - “Truth is so obscured nowadays and lies [are] so well established that unless we love the truth we shall never recognize it.” Blaise Pascal (1623-1662)
 - *Seven Men Who Rule the World From the Grave* (David Breese, Moody Press, 1990):
 1. Charles Darwin – everything is in a constant state of change
 2. Carl Marx – working class with help from big government can overthrow their oppressors
 3. Julius Wellhausen – higher criticism and religious liberalism
 4. Sigmund Freud – truth is found by looking within man
 5. John Dewey – man needs to be educated, not regenerated
 6. John Maynard Keynes – the government is God
 7. Soren Kierkegaard – confusion is everywhere; truth is subjective



3. Truth – what has happened to it?
 - Julius Wellhausen – higher criticism and religious liberalism.
 - Historically, The Bible was held to be God’s revelation of His will for mankind: *revelation over reason*
 - Human reason was admitted to be fallible, the Bible was held to be infallible.
 - Currently, religious liberalism – *reason over revelation*.
 - Man’s reasoning ability was not affected by the fall and thus man, using his reason, could answer the philosophical questions of life without help from revelation
 - The Bible was reduced to more of a product of the original authors, with helpful information concerning “good” living, but not direct words from the Divine.

Absolute Truth	
General Truth (Rom 1:18-21)	Revealed Truth (John 17:17-19)



4. Truth – the importance of it.
 - Truth enables the construction of an objective, concrete, unchanging foundation.
 - John 14:6 – Truth and God never change (immutable).
 - Malachi 3:6 – “For I, the Lord, do not change”
 - Hebrews 13:7-9a – “Jesus Christ is the same”
 - James 1:17 – “with whom there is no variation”
 - 1 Samuel 15:29 – “He is not a man that He should change His mind”
 - Psalm 102:27 – “But Thou are the same”



4. Truth – the importance of it.

“... God is immutable in His attributes. Whatever the attributes of God were before the universe was called into existence, they are precisely the same now, and will remain so forever. Necessarily so; for they are the very perfections, the essential qualities of His being. Semper idem (always the same) is written across every one of them. His power is unabated, His wisdom undiminished, His holiness unsullied. The attributes of God can no more change than deity can cease to be. His veracity is immutable, for His Word is ‘forever settled in heaven’ (Ps 119:89). His love is eternal: ‘I have loved thee with an everlasting love’ (Jer 31:3) and, ‘Having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end’ (Jn 13:1). His mercy ceases not, for it is ‘everlasting’ (Ps 100:5).” (Arthur W. Pink, *Gleanings in the Godhead*)



4. Truth – the importance of it.
 - But, but, but... what about where God “repents”?
 - Genesis 6:6, Exodus 32:14, Jonah 3:10, Samuel 24:16
 - 2. God is immutable with regard to His character (or attributes)
 - When Jonah protested against God’s dealings with the Ninevites, he made it clear God was not acting inconsistently with His character but rather He was acting predictably: Jonah 4:1-2
 - When God “relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon” the Ninevites, God was not only acting consistently with His character; He was acting consistently with His Word: Jeremiah 18:7-8



4. Truth – the importance of it.

- Conclusion:
 - Because He never changes, He is knowable.
 - Because He never changes, I can rest my life on Him and His promises.
 - Because He never changes, my reason can be grounded in reality and I can be set free from the myopia that plagues humanity ([John 8:31,32](#))
 - Because He never changes, I have hope!



4. Truth – the importance of it.

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