

In a nutshell, postmodernism holds that truth is not determined by its connection with objective reality, but by various social constructions devised for different purposes . . . various cultures have their own “language games,” which describe reality very differently. However, we cannot adjudicate which language game or which linguistic “map” correlates more correctly with reality, since we cannot get beyond our own cultural conditioning.

Douglas Groothuis, commenting on the postmodern reduction of truth

Which for me raises one huge question: *Is the Bible the best God can do?*

Rob Bell, postmodern pastor

In addition to these helpful postures, we refer to the Bible as a member of our community of faith – an essential member that must be listened to on all matters on which it speaks . . . We believe the Bible because our hopes, ideas, experiences, and community of faith allow and require us to believe.

Doug Pagitt, postmodern pastor

The search for truth then becomes all-pervasive, drawing implications for the essence and destiny of life itself. Even if not overtly admitted, the search for truth is nevertheless hauntingly present, propelled by the need for incontrovertible answers to four inescapable questions, those dealing with origin, meaning, morality, and destiny – connecting the what with the why. No thinking person can avoid this search, and it can only end when one is convinced that the answers espoused are true. Aristotle was right when he said that all philosophy begins with wonder; but the journey, I suggest, can only progress with truth.

Ravi Zacharias

Not to care about truth is not to care about God. To love God passionately is to love truth passionately. Being God-centered in life means being truth-driven in ministry. What is not true is not of God. What is false is anti-God. Indifference to the truth is indifference to the mind of God. Pretense is rebellion against reality and what makes reality is God. Our concern with truth is simply an echo of our concern with God.

John Piper

### ***Learning Matters***

Preserving the Truth of Truth  
2 Timothy 4:1-5

**Introduction:** Today, truth is on trial. Many are suggesting that no such thing as absolute truth exists. Still others are declaring that, even if it does exist, we can't possibly know anything perfectly enough to say it is true. All of this strikes at the heart of our worldview as those who believe God has revealed Himself in propositional truth that is sure, knowable, and authoritative. What do we do?

#### **Paul's World**

Paul's perspective on truth and error in Ephesus  
Paul's directive on truth and learning in the church

#### **Our World**

Redefining truth  
Recognizing the danger  
Loving God with our minds

#### **Paul's Inspired Response**

Pastor and people  
*Take it seriously*  
*Be intentional*  
*Never underestimate the risk of doing nothing*  
*Get going, and keep going*

#### **What difference does this make to me?**

Two penetrating questions:

*Am I satisfied with the effort I am putting into growing in my knowledge of Christ, His Word, and His Ways?*

*If not, what am I going to do about it?*

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*Take it seriously*

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- Be Sober:
- Expect Opposition:
- Concentrate on rescue
- Work for "well-done"

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# Kids Notes

## Learning Matters

### The Questions

Answer the following questions. The answers are on the back.

1. *Paul warned Timothy about people who would:*

- A. turn away from lies to believe the truth.
- B. turn away from lies to believe lies.
- C. turn away from the truth to believe lies.
- D. all of the above.

2. *Paul told Timothy that he should teach:*

- A. with great patience.
- B. God's Word .
- C. knowing that God was watching him do it.
- D. all of the above.

3. *The greatest purpose you can find in life:*

- A. is to follow Jesus, and obey him joyfully.
- B. is to be a professional athlete.
- C. is to become rich and famous.
- D. all of the above

For Family Discussion: How does your family encourage one another to keep growing in what you know about God?

Space to Doodle

## Did You Hear It?

Mark the times you hear these key words:

TRUTH _____	TOTAL: _____
MYTHS _____	_____
LEARNING _____	_____
INTENTIONAL _____	_____
KNOWLEDGE _____	_____
FULFILL _____	_____

## Word Search

Find the following words in the scramble below. Letters are sometimes used twice, and words may go around corners.

TRUTH MYTHS LEARNING INTENTIONAL KNOWLEDGE FULFILL  
 BIBLE WORD PAUL WORLD TIMOTHY TEACHERS PASTOR PEOPLE  
 SOBER OPPOSITION GOING START MIND LOVE GOD JESUS CHRIST  
 CHURCH PILLAR SUPPORT THEORY CORRESPONDENCE REAL

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A P D O G R Y K Z W W S L W O P H
H H A P H H A W C Y O U O A P E M
B U U S T U B L T H R S V S P O Y
U S X O T C F I L C L E E D O P Q
B I M L I O B H B I D J O E S L S
Y I G N I N R A E L P T H H I E N
T M S Z Z C T Q A K E E I V T Q U
G W G R H X D E N G N I O G I Z G
C O R R E S P O N D E N C E O L H
F N I D H H W T N T R M S C N L Y
L S R T Z L C S R E I O I A L I R
T O U A E Z L A A A B O N N U F O
W R T D P A U L E E T B N I D L E
T U G S U P P O R T R S M A L U H
P E H C R U H C M Y T H S F L F T
    
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