

*“Always be ready to give a defense  
to everyone who asks you a reason  
for the hope that is in you”  
—1 Peter 3:14-15*

We must be able to “give an answer” as to why we believe God’s Word is true.

1 Peter 3:14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed. “And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.”[a] 15 But sanctify the Lord God[b] in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

*Jesus said, "I am the way,  
the truth, and the life."*

—John 14:6

# What is TRUTH?

*Culture demands ... and deserves an answer*



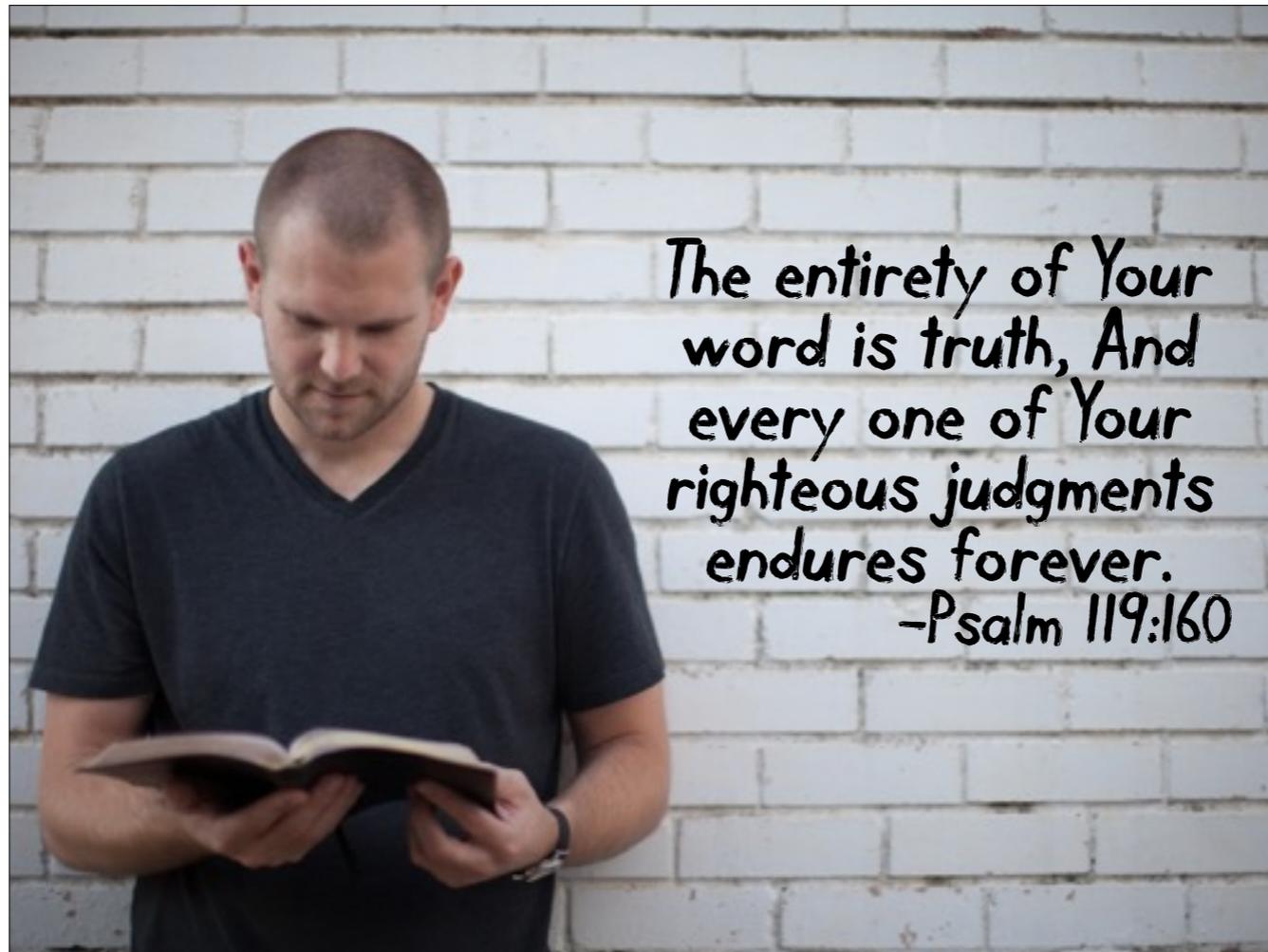
May 6, 2015  
The Wednesday BibleLife Series  
Terry R Baughman, Lead Pastor

What is Truth?

Culture demands an answer ... and Culture deserves an answer.

— I plan to teach several lessons in this series.

- First of all we will establish a foundation for the Word of God as being truth.
- We will establish core doctrines of our faith in Jesus Christ and who He is
- Then we will approach some topics of apologetics — defending truth in an unbelieving culture.



Psalm 119:160 "The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever."



Introduction - A Revelation  
Not — the book of “revelations”



Introduction - A Revelation

“I Got a New Revelation”

“A word from the Lord”

“Thus saith the Lord”



General Revelation

—or Universal Revelation

The witness of God in Nature

—Beauty and majesty of creation. Vastness of space [Helix Nebula]. Intricacies of the microscopic world, the unique patterns of DNA and the building blocks of molecular structure.

# General Revelation

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,  
what is mankind that you are mindful of them,  
human beings that you care for them?

PSALM 8:3-4

## General Revelation

NKJ Psalm 8:1 O Lord, our Lord,

How excellent is Your name in all the earth,

Who have set Your glory above the heavens!

2 Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants

You have ordained strength,

Because of Your enemies,

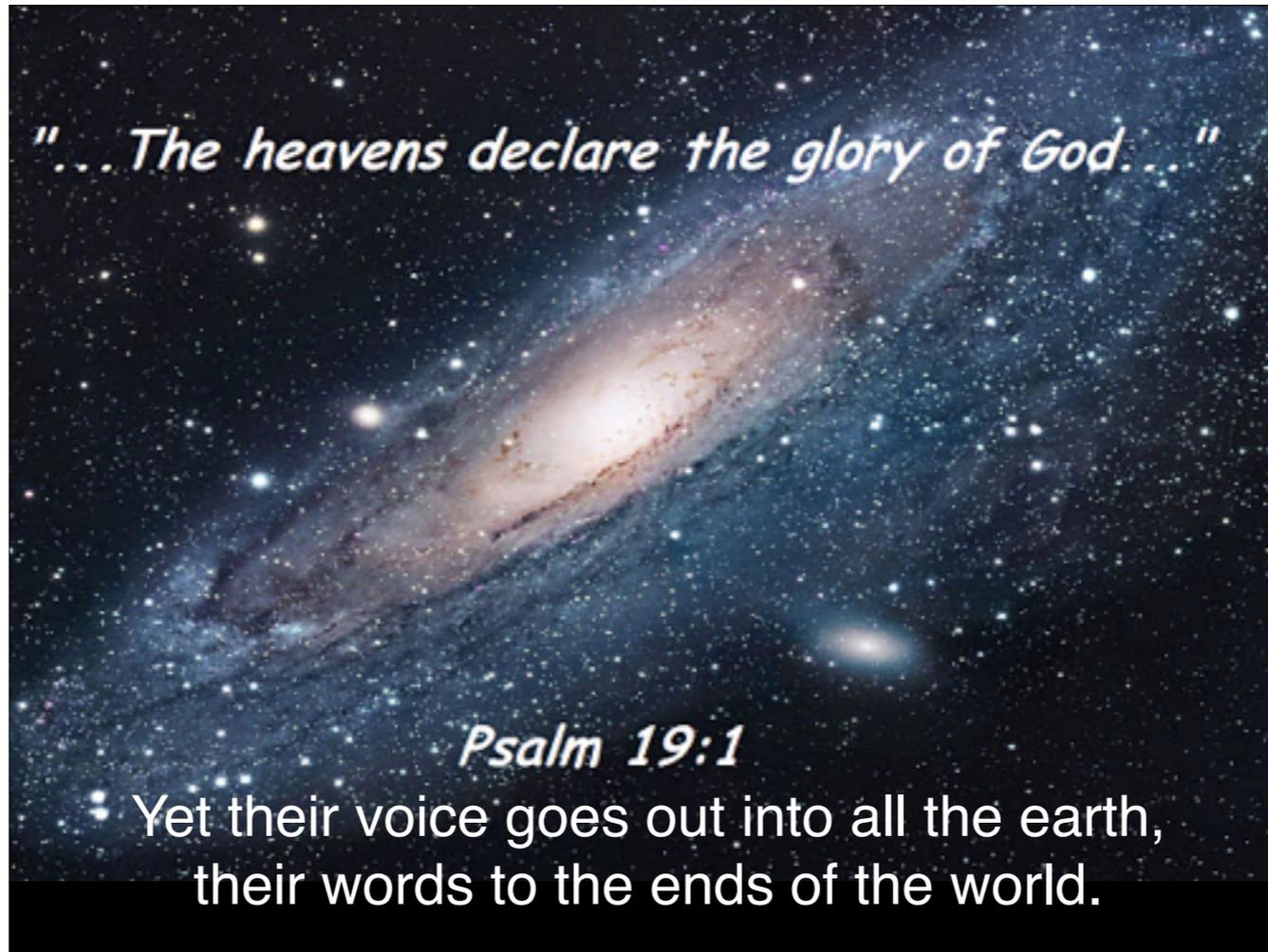
That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.

3 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,

The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,

4 What is man that You are mindful of him,

And the son of man that You visit him?



NIV Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.  
2 Day after day they pour forth speech;  
night after night they reveal knowledge.  
3 They have no speech, they use no words;  
no sound is heard from them.  
4 Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,  
their words to the ends of the world.

# Romans 10:14-20

- How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?
- “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!”

Paul quoted this verse in the context of spreading the Gospel

NKJ Romans 10:14 — How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace,  
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# Romans 10:14-20

- But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our report?” So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
- But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: “Their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world.”

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# Romans 10:14-20

- But Isaiah is very bold and says:  
“I was found by those who did not seek Me;  
I was made manifest to those who did not ask for Me.”

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NKJ Romans 10:14 —...

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The Revelation of God in Humanity and History

— Humanity was made in the image of God

NKJ Genesis 1:27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

# Romans 2:13-15 NIV

- For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.)

— Paul

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—there is a Natural Moral accountability

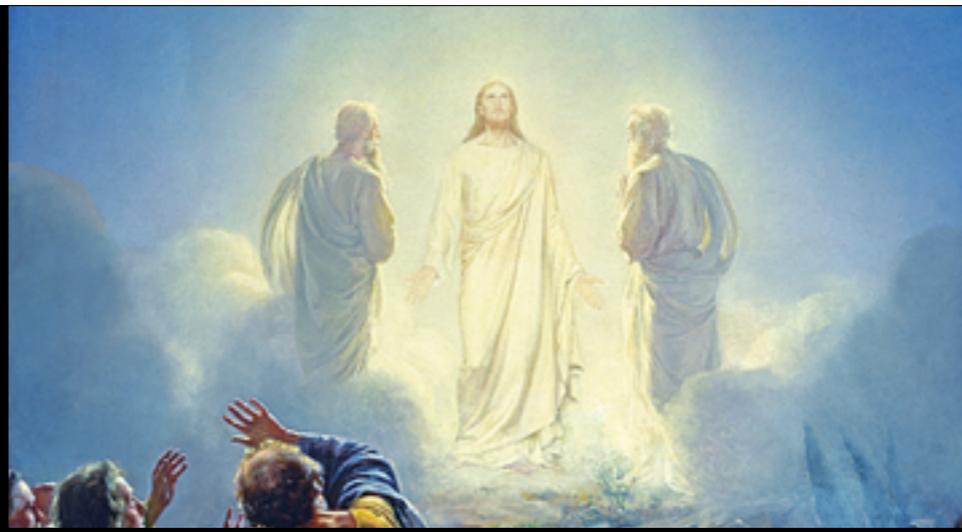


2 Peter 1:16 For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

### **Special Revelation**

—Eyewitnesses to His majesty

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2 Peter 1:19 We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

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— Revealed through the prophetic writings

[NIV] Romans 16:25 Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, 26 but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith.

# Righteousness Revealed

- Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. 17 For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

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# Wrath of God Revealed

- Romans 1:18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

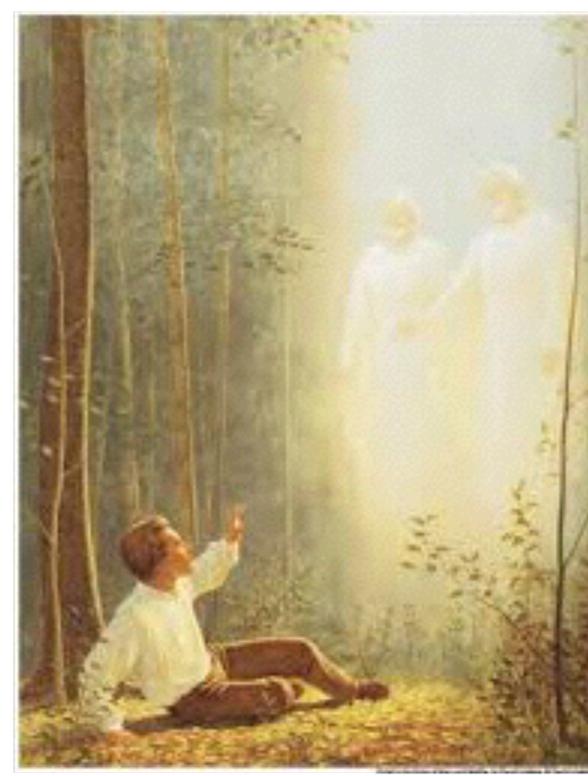
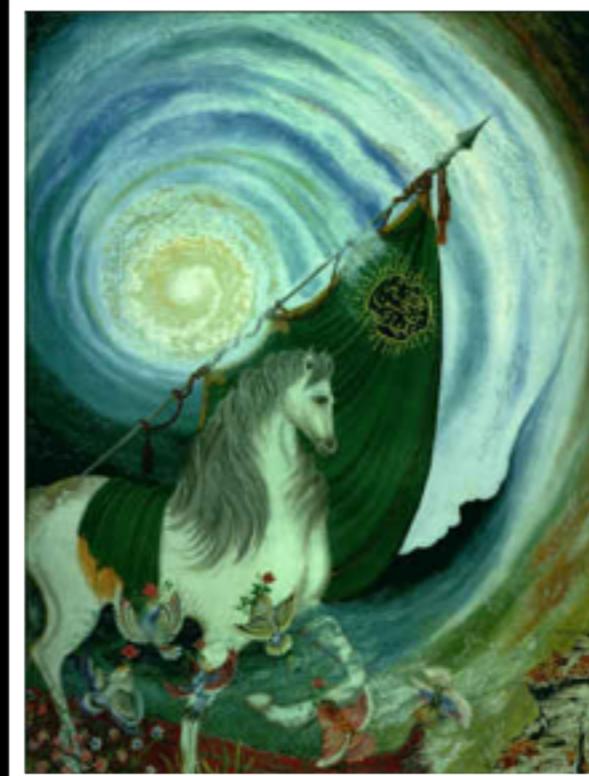
—Wrath of God is a revelation

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21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools

# Extra-biblical Revelation



## Extra biblical Revelation

Some have received dreams and revelations, claimed them from God, and have founded religions and attracted followers.

— Islam - founded on fables — a prophet arises with a new revelation

— Mormonism - founded on the claimed discovery of golden plates and extra biblical revelation, “The Mormons claim that Joseph Smith had a special revelation given to him by an angel on golden plates. This is now their ‘Book of Mormon.’” [<http://narrowwayapologetics.com/2012/05/20/whats-wrong-with-extra-biblical-revelation/>]

The danger of current new revelation is the possibility for human error and deception

# Warning against false prophets

- Matthew 24:11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.
- 23 “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it. 24 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

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# Warning against another Gospel

- Galatians 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.



Galatians 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.

# A Foundation of Truth

- Ephesians 2:19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

— The Church, the Kingdom of God, the plan of God is built on the foundation of the Apostles and the Prophets.

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—This is also why it was important to find a replacement for Judas who was an eyewitness to Jesus Christ. These were the founders of truth and biblical teaching.

# Search the Scripture

- Acts 17:10 Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews.  
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.  
12 Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.

Search the Scripture to determine Truth

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And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

*Truth*

—John 14:16-18

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