

Vicarious Sacrifice: All “Philosophies” Are Human Efforts to Discover Truth; Scripture Is Irrefutable Truth Confirmed by Jesus’ Idiom, “I Am telling you the truth,” Used 76 Times in the Four Gospels; Three Categories of Truth: Moral, the Content of Divine Righteousness; Ontological, the Believer’s Inventory of Divine Viewpoint; Cognitive, the Application of Doctrine to Life & Circumstances; The verb “to know”: *Ginōskō*, Translated as “Love.”

- These are the inventions of the Dark Side designed by Lucifer himself to combat faith perception of what is authenticated truth found only in Scripture.
- Jesus Christ prefaced a significant number of His statements with this emphatic phrase guaranteeing their veracity, “I am telling you the truth.” He did so 76 times in the four Gospels!
- Among the 76 uses of the statement, John’s Gospel contains 25 where he quotes the long version: “Verily, verily, I say into you” (KJV), “I tell you the truth” (NIV), and “Truly, truly, I say to you” (NASB.)
- The word being translated is the confirmatory adverb **ἀμήν (amén)** which is a transliteration of the Hebrew adverb **אָמֵן (’amen)** used as a declaration to acknowledge affirmation of a statement. The English use comes from this word and means, “I agree,” or “I believe it.”
- The repeated use of this phrase establishes a principle of faith perception based on absolute confidence in the veracity of what is communicated.
- Thomas had a problem that is not unusual in this world, especially after the ascension of Jesus Christ. Truth must be suppressed, faith must be discredited, and Jesus must be characterized as nothing more than a Nice Guy.
- When Scripture is ignored as the absolute source of truth, then man is forced to concoct it out of whole cloth. Ergo, the nineteen anthropocentric stabs in the dark we just listed from the encyclopedia.
- The Greek word for truth is **ἀλήθεια (alétheia)** indicating something that is intrinsically pure, independent of all error or falsehood.
- Although the only source of truth available to mankind, *alétheia* is only accessible to the believer in Christ.
- The word is a compound noun made up of the alpha privative: **ἀ-**, which is a negative, plus **λήθω (Iéthō)**, an older form of **λανθάνω (lanthánō)**: “to lie hidden, concealed, or unknown.”
- The alpha (ἀ-) prefix means that the truth is not hidden, concealed, or unknown to the believer who has the divinely imputed assets to understand, inculcate, and retain truth: doctrine.
- There are three categories of truth: **(1)** moral, **(2)** ontological, and **(3)** cognitive.
- **Moral** truth speaks of the integrity of God which is made up of the composites of righteousness, justice, grace, and omniscience and summarized by love.
- Truth is the content of divine righteousness and is expressed to man as absolute principles for thought, decision, and action.
- Justice protects truth by aggrandizing those that adjust to it and imposing discipline upon those that do not.
- The policy for enforcing truth functions under a system of unmerited favor, blessing compliance but administering punishment with the goal of cognitive rehabilitation.

- Omniscience is the full inventory of divine knowledge which contains all the principles of truth including that portion of the inventory revealed to man in Scripture.
- Man is equipped with cognitive abilities combined with the power to choose in order to inculcate the thinking of God.
- Absolute truth finds its source in the integrity of God while moral truth is that portion of divine thought inculcated, retained, and applied by a believer in Jesus Christ.
- Jesus spoke of this kind of truth on numerous occasions:

John 14:6 - "I am the way [ὁδός (*hodós*): the Door into the plan of God], the truth [ἀλήθεια (*alētheia*): divine thought inculcated into the *kardia*], and the life [ζωή (*zōē*): the Christian way of life based on truth retained and applied]; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

John 17:17 - "Sanctify them [ἀγιάζω (*hagiázō*): to be set apart for spiritual function] in the truth [divine thought inculcated]; Your Word [λόγος (*lógos*): Scripture] is truth [doctrine]."

- **Ontological** truth is the end result of submitting to the ontological argument regarding the existence of God:

The Ontological Argument. Since the human mind possesses the idea of a perfect and absolute Being, such a Being must exist. Apart from the religious and moral tendencies, the existence of God is a necessary idea to the human mind. Beyond the relative which man measures, there is the absolute that gives character or value to the relative.¹

- Ontological truth deals with the resident integrity of the individual that has appropriated the thinking of God into his stream of consciousness. Maximum doctrine resident in the soul enables the individual believer to replicate the integrity of God to that degree. In doing so, he glorifies God and magnifies His Word.

John 8:31 - So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed in Him, "If [3CC] you continue in My Word, then you are truly disciples of Mine;

v. 32 - and you will know [γινώσκω (*ginóskō*): renovation of the soul] the truth, and the truth will make you free."

- **Cognitive** truth refers to the inventory of doctrine stored in the *kardia*. Production occurs when this inventory is accessed and applied to life and circumstances.
- Our cognition of truth either increases or decreases during our spiritual lives, but it does not stay the same.
- The believer is either advancing or retrogressing in his knowledge of truth. What we choose to think, decide, and do is true only if it is was inculcated by the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit.
- We have seen the verb **γινώσκω (*ginóskō*)** in our study of John 10 where this word for knowledge can, in context, be translated "love":

¹ R. B. Thieme, Jr., *Heathenism*, 3d ed. (R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 2001), 16.

γινώσκω: To come to know, to gain or receive a knowledge of (John 8:32, “you will know the truth”). In the Gospel of John, γινώσκω denotes personal fellowship with God or Christ and also between the Father and the Son (John 10:14, 15). Since the Father and the Son know each other they love each other (John 3:35). The same relationship exists between the Lord Jesus and His disciples (John 13:1). To know God is to be directed by love (1 John 4:7, 8) and is, therefore, followed by a life of love and the execution of Christ’s commandments. Thus, it could be said that γινώσκω means to believe, for it is through faith that we come to love the Lord.²

- To know God is to know the omniscient source of all knowledge — not to know all He knows, but to understand how wisdom and knowledge are at all possible.³

² Spiros Zodhiates, ed., *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, rev. ed. (Chattanooga: AMG Publishers, 1993), 373.

³ A. F. Holmes, “Truth,” in *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*, gen. ed. Merrill C. Tenny (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1976), 828.