



Outline

Lesson 1 - Veritology: What is Truth?

- I. Introduction – A Worldview Tour
 - A. Comprehensive – The worldview compass directs us to God's design in all areas of life
 - B. Systematic – Temple structure explains the foundations and framework of course topics
 - C. Purpose of tour – To gaze upon the face of God
- II. Why was Jesus Born? Why did He come into the World?
 - A. To testify to the Truth – John 18:37
 - B. Scriptural emphasis on Truth – Sanctification and salvation connection to Truth
 - C. Man's sinful nature will suppress, distort, reject, and exchange God's truth for lies
- III. The Cosmic Battle – Spirit of Truth vs. Spirit of Falsehood – Reality vs. Illusion
 - A. Scene in heaven between God and Satan - Job 1 & 2 - "Did God really say?"
 - B. Link between salvation and truth - 2 Thessalonians 2 - "...God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the spirit and the belief in the truth."
 - C. Two Fathers – John 8:44 – "You belong to your father, the devil"
 - D. Connection between sin, lies and deceit – Every sin that besets us can be traced to a belief in a lie – Our sins take us captive to the lies of the world
 - E. Dealing with outsiders - 2 Timothy 2 and Colossians 4:5-6 – They have been taken captive and we must "gently instruct them" and let our "speech be seasoned with salt"
 - F. Battle of Worldviews – Opposition between God's truth claims and the lies of the world, the flesh, and the devil
- IV. What is Truth? - Truth as it relates to Reality
 - A. Webster's 1828 definition – "Conformity to fact or reality"

- B. Equating an idol to a lie - Isaiah 44 – Lies are powerful and lead us to insane notions
- C. What is Insanity? – We all suffer from "Common Insanity" - losing touch with reality
 1. Our actions reflect what we believe to be *really real*: Jesus' example in Matthew 6 asking "Why do you worry?...will He not care for you, O you of little faith?"
 2. Connecting faith with our actions and emotions: God is the object of our faith and our hope – Our actions are the most reliable indicator of our beliefs
- D. God is the ultimate source of Truth – Colossians 2:2-3
- V. Conclusion – "Do you *really* believe, that what you believe is *really real*?"



Lesson Guide

Lesson 1 - Veritology: What is Truth?

Introduction

In this initial episode, students receive a general introduction to the overall scope and purpose of *The Truth Project*. This series is designed to take participants on a guided *worldview tour*, following the points of the *worldview compass*, a tool designed to direct our thinking with regard to four fundamental issues: Truth, God, Man, and the Social Order. Along the way, we will attempt to build a logical, systematic framework of ideas by which to organize and evaluate the various truth claims to be encountered during the course of our tour. Our ultimate goal is not simply to gain knowledge, but to look upon the face of God – and to be *transformed* in the process.

Themes

Our destination in Lesson 1 lies due North. The focal point for this first hour of discussion is the concept of *Truth* itself. What is truth? Why is it important? What role does it play in the biblical view of the world, God's purpose for the cosmos, His will for mankind, His plan of salvation, and the way we live our personal lives? In his comments on this subject, Dr. Del Tackett will demonstrate how *truth* was fundamental to the mission of Jesus Christ in the world; how it forms the heart of the *Cosmic Battle* that has been raging since the beginning; how this battle has divided the world into two opposing camps or sides; how lies, the antithesis of Truth, take human hearts and minds captive by the power of deception; and how every man and woman now stands in the position of having to choose between God's truth claims and the opposing perspective of the world, the flesh, and the devil. To answer the question "what is truth?" Dr. Tackett consults the 1828 edition of Webster's Dictionary which defines truth as "Conformity to fact or reality..." We will also see how popular notions of truth (represented by man on the street interviews) contrast sharply with the biblical concept (as articulated by Ravi Zacharias, Os Guinness, and R. C. Sproul).

Points to Watch For

Dr. Tackett concludes that, in almost every case, the perspective of contemporary culture stands in direct opposition to the Truth-centered worldview presented in the Bible. In the process of making this case, he advances the bold claim that our culture is not only filled with lies but is actually heading in the direction of social insanity. As a result, he proposes that Pilate's query – "What is truth?" – is *the* most important question facing our society today. He ends Lesson 1 by challenging his audience with this all-important question: "*Do you really believe that what you believe is really real?*"

Discussion Questions

- 1) What did you see on this tour?
- 2) Jesus stated plainly that He had come into the world "to testify to the truth" (John 18:37). Exactly what did He mean by this, and how is this claim connected with those other aspects of Jesus' mission – for example, forgiveness, salvation, redemption, and healing – that we more naturally associate with the ultimate purpose of His advent?
- 3) How does one's concept of *truth* affect or determine one's concept of *faith*?
- 4) What is the *key point of distinction* between the biblical concept of truth and popular cultural ideas about truth? How is this point related to the concept of *insanity*?
- 5) Read 2 Timothy 2:24, 26 and Colossians 4:5, 6. Why does Paul advise believers to be "gentle" rather than "quarrelsome" in their dealings with outsiders? How does our understanding of the *Cosmic Battle* affect the way we relate to non-believers?
- 6) Dr. Tackett poses the question, "Do you really believe that what you believe is really real?" How can we know what we *really* believe?



Key Terms

Lesson 1 - Veritology: What is Truth?

Antithesis: The complete or exact opposite of something. The truth claims of God in direct opposition to the lies of the world, the flesh and the devil.

Bifurcation: To divide or separate into two parts; to split or branch off into two parts

Common Insanity: A sickness we all suffer from. We have bought into the lies of the world, the flesh, and the devil and therefore we live as if the lie is true, denying reality.

Compass illustration: looking at life from a 360 degree perspective. A graphic means to illustrate that there is no area in life that God has not spoken.

Comprehensive: Covering a wide area, all inclusive, large in scope.

Cosmic Battle: Battle between God's Truth and the lies and illusions of the world, the flesh and the devil. The arguments and pretensions that set themselves up against the knowledge of God, against His nature and His word.

Delude: To lead from God's truth into false beliefs; persuade somebody to believe in something that is untrue or unreal.

Idol: A false source of salvation, sustenance, or power. Isaiah 44 equates an idol to a lie. These lies lead us into insane notions.

Insanity: Losing touch with reality; believing the lie is real. Extreme foolishness or an act that demonstrates it.

Jewels in the Cave: Dr. Tackett often refers to specific topics or truth claims that are of particular interest as "jewels in the cave."

Pathology: Any condition that is a departure or deviation from the true design. Dr. Tackett uses "pathology" to describe areas of distortion within the social spheres.

Pell-mell: In a disorderly frantic rush; confused, jumbled or messy manner.

Pernicious Lie: The lie that man is basically good and that his greatest need is to self-actualize and get in touch with his inner desires.

Spheres: Social institutions or systems that we live and interact in (family, church, state, labor, community, and the intimate relationship between God and man). Each sphere has distinct members with unique roles and responsibilities.

Systematic: Carried out in a methodical and organized manner; deliberate and regular system of organization.

Tour: Dr. Tackett likes to refer to each lesson as a tour in which he is our guide.

Truth temple illustration: a logical and graphic framework to organize Truth Project topics.

Truth: Correspondence to reality. Truth is that which is really real. Our actions reflect what we believe to be really real.

Veritology: The study of Truth; particularly the study of God's character and His Word as it relates to reality.

Worldview: A comprehensive set of truth claims that purports to paint a picture of reality; the framework from which we view reality and make sense of life and the world.