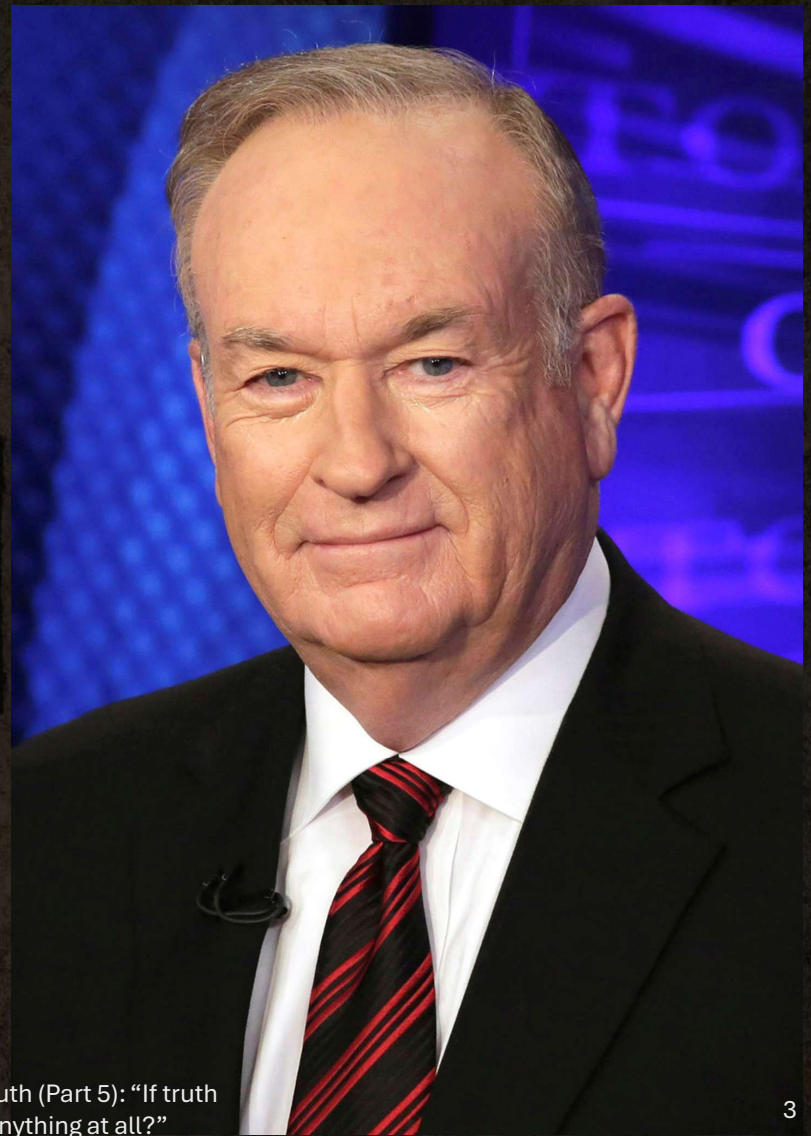
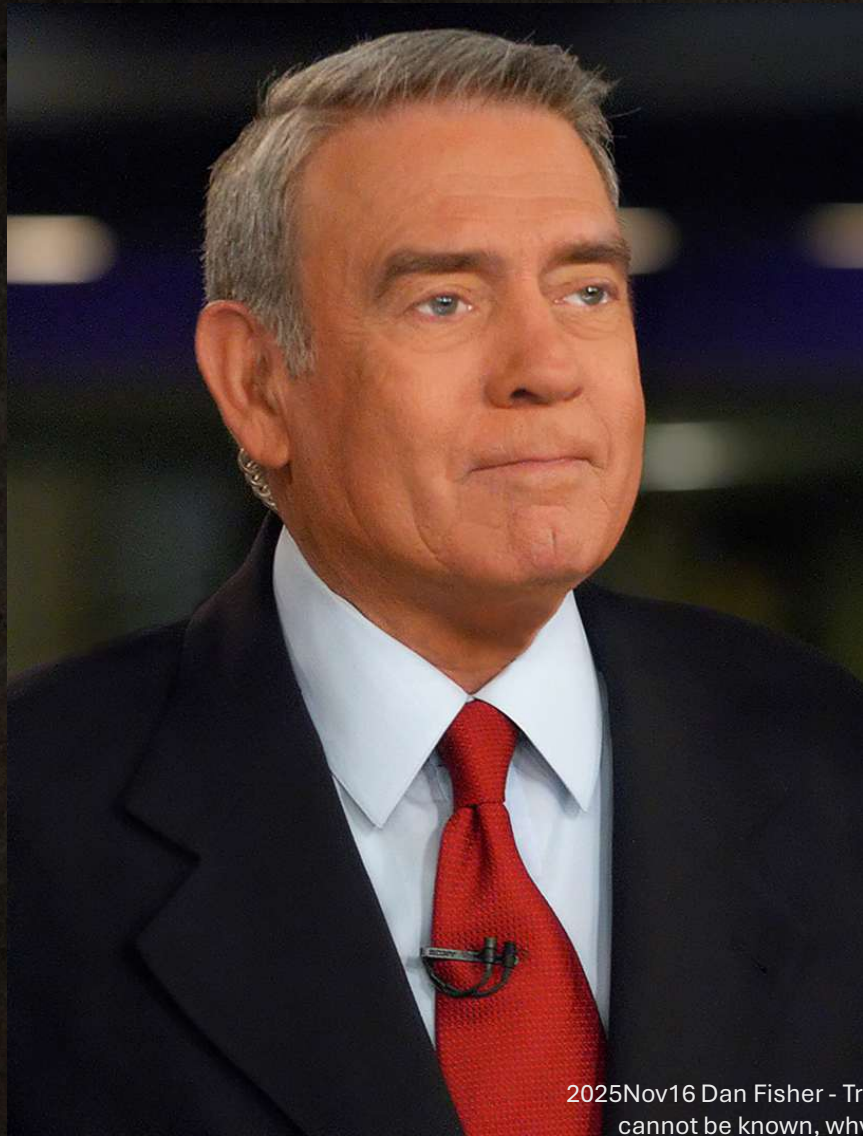


TRUTHS ON TRUTH

**Part 5: "If truth cannot be known,
why believe anything at all?"**



“Men stumble over the truth from time to time, but most pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing happened.” Winston Churchill



2025Nov16 Dan Fisher - Truths on Truth (Part 5): "If truth cannot be known, why believe anything at all?"

Foreword by David Limbaugh

I Don't Have Enough
FAITH
to Be an
ATHEIST



Norman L. Geisler
Frank Turek

“Even skeptics have faith
— they have faith that
skepticism is true.”

Geisler & Turek

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1. Why should we care about truth?

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A college student was asked, “What’s the greatest problem in America today – is it ignorance or is it apathy?”

He answered, “I don’t know and I don’t care!”

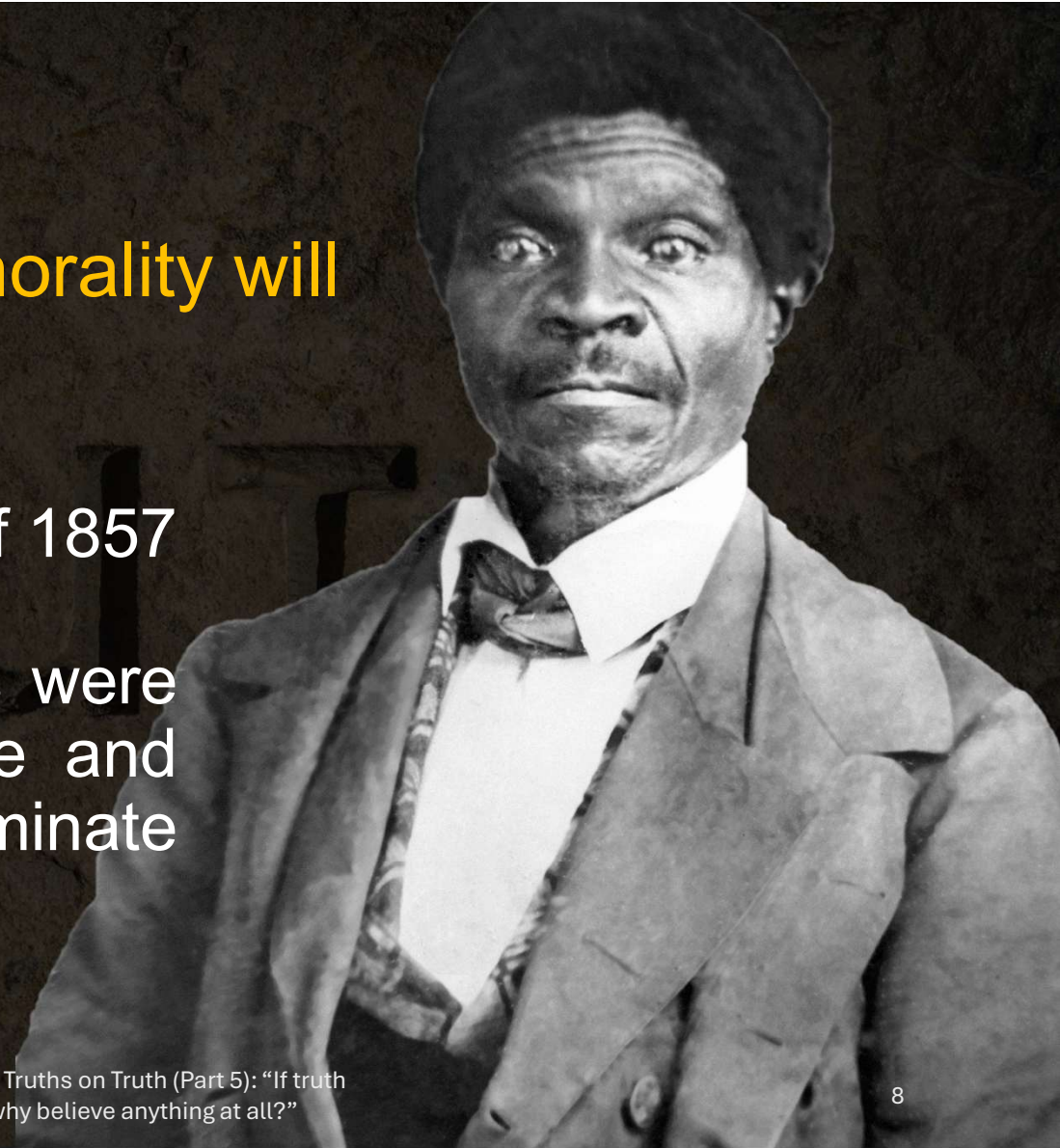
Truth in morality matters:

(Even though people may claim that truth in morality doesn't matter, they don't really believe that when someone treats them immorally.)

- Because success in life is often dependent on the moral choices we make.
- Because all laws are based upon perceived truth and are designed to legislate that truth/morality.

The question is, “Whose morality will be legislated?”

- The *Dred Scott* decision of 1857
- The Nazis believing Jews were inferior to the Aryan race and thus, seeking to exterminate them



Truth in religion matters:

- If the Bible is true, those who don't believe it are in big trouble.
- If the Koran is true, those who don't believe it are in big trouble.
- In Saudia Arabia, some schoolchildren are taught that Jews are pigs and non-Muslims (infidels) should be killed.
- In America, public schools teach children (through Darwinism) that there's really no difference between human beings and pigs.

2. Why do people believe what they do?

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“People almost invariably arrive at their beliefs not on the basis of proof but on the basis of what they find attractive.”

Blaise Pascal

Reasons for beliefs:

- Sociological reasons = parents, friends, culture
- Psychological reasons = comfort, peace of mind, purpose, hope
- Philosophical reasons = consistency, coherence, completeness
- Religious reasons = Scripture, pastor, rabbi, church

3. Pragmatism is one of the biggest obstacles to understanding truth

- **Pragmatism:** defining truth as that which works
- Left unchecked by the eternal perspective, this kind of thinking judges things in terms of short-range goals

A photograph of R.C. Sproul, an older man with grey hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and red tie. He is speaking at a podium with a microphone. The background is a textured blue wall.

According to R.C. Sproul, this kind of thinking produces “sensuous Christians.”

“The sensuous Christian cannot be moved to service, prayer, or study unless he “feels like it” ... The sensuous Christian doesn’t need to study the Word of God because he already knows the will of God by his feelings.” R.C. Sproul

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TRUTH

4. How is truth known?

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In order to find the truth one must be willing to give up subjective preferences in favor of objective facts.

- The process of discovering truth begins with the self-evident **laws of logic** called **first principles**.

(Logic is the same worldwide. Despite what the relativists believe, there's only one type of logic that helps us discover truth no matter what culture we're in.)

- It's okay to use our minds when searching for truth by studying Scripture

Mt 22:37 Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’

1 Cor 14:20 Brothers, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults.

Rom 11:25, 1 Cor 12:1, 1 Thess 4:13: I do not want you to be ignorant

- First Principles: the tools used to discover all other truths. They are to learning what eyes are to seeing.

Examples of First Principles:

The Law of Non-contradiction: contradictory claims cannot both be true at the same time in the same sense – the opposite of true is false.

The Law of the Excluded Middle: establishes if something *is* or *is not*.

- Investigating things we cannot see by observing their effects is called induction.

There are effects we can observe that point to God's existence – one of which is the universe.

- Lining up premises gained by induction into an argument and arriving at a valid conclusion is called deduction.

Example:

All men are mortal.
Spencer is a man.
Spencer is mortal.

- Invalid induction leads to an invalid deduction:

Example:


All men are four-legged reptiles.

Zachary is a man.

Therefore Zachary is a four-legged reptile.

5. Subjectivism v/s subjectivity

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- **Subjectivity:** evaluating your life by Scripture
 - **Subjectivism:** evaluating Scripture by your life

6. Intellect/logic alone cannot enable us to understand Scripture

1 Cor 2:7-8 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, ⁸ which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

2 Cor 2:14 The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

7. With all the evidence, why don't more believe the Gospel?

Why would anyone want Christianity to be wrong?

Why would anyone want to be an atheist?

People do not believe because of:

- **Intellectual roadblocks:** problem with the existence of evil, the presumed silence of God when bad things happen
- **Emotional hangups:** Christian exclusivism, the doctrine of hell, the hypocrisy of Christians
- **Volitional resistance:** Christian morality restricts personal actions