

## **Biology 1.2**

### **Searching for truth**

What is truth, and how can it be know?

1. What is truth? Jesus said, “I am the way the truth and the life.” Not all knowledge is true. The acquiring, analysis, and testing of knowledge is important to finding truth.
2. Is it important to know truth? Decisions are no better than the information you consider to be true. Truth is necessary for sustaining life and improving quality of life. Eternal life with God is the ultimate fulfillment of both existence and its quality. Failure to know truth can lead to decisions that lead to misery and death.
3. Can truth be known? Can it be found? God expresses truth and wants to be known. Jesus came to declare truth. Because God is the Creator of all things, all things represent truth about God. Discovering truth about our world is discovering more about God. The limitation to discovering truth reflects upon our own limitations of observation and measurement, thought and analysis, and skill to test our observation and interpretation. Ultimately, infinite knowledge and perfect logic would be necessary to know truth by personal means. It is not required to prove truth to others to know a truth. Yet truth can be known even with our imperfections. The problem is recognizing the truth when we see it. It is possible to know truth for the wrong reasons as well as to know truth for the right reasons. Truth can be known sufficiently to survive and to use creation to improve our quality of life. Fortunately, truth about important things such as eternal life can be known because God makes it known by faith.
4. Why do scientists say they cannot prove anything with absolute certainty? Science specializes in disproving claims. To know something with absolute certainty requires infallible skill of observation and logic and perfect knowledge of all things. This is not possible for any man to claim, so, scientists make claims, and then try to disprove it. If a claim cannot be disproven, and it is useful in predicting outcomes, then it has a very good chance of being right. However, it may be that it is right at the present only because no one has thought of a condition to disprove it.
5. How can truth be known? Faith and science. Science allows us to sufficiently explain the make up and behavior of physical creation by a methodical process of discovery and experimentation. The sufficiency of scientific explanation is determined by our ability to advance technology, to manipulate the complexity of life’s chemical code, and to make accurate predictions. However, we must also acknowledge that sufficiency is not the absolute guaranty of truth. Absolute confidence in knowing truth requires complete comprehension of all creation past, present and future; perfect observation skills, and flawless logic. Thus, science is useful to give us sufficient, third-party explanation and verification, but it will always be subject to the qualification that “as of today” this is our best explanation.
6. In contrast, faith comes from God who created all things with infinite knowledge and flawless logic. Revelation of truth from God, by faith, is absolutely true.
7. What is faith? Hebrews 11:1 says that, “... faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Substance refers to a foundation upon which all else is based on. Evidence is proof of something being true. So then, faith is the confirmation of truth upon which all else rests. Hebrews 11:3 says that, “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.” Thus, truth is confirmed by enabling us to understand the certainty of God’s claims. This is contrary the humanistic definition of faith, which refers to ‘blind’ faith. Humanists have no experience with faith and are incapable of describing it accurately or representing it correctly.
8. Why are there so many different opinions if truth can be known? Competence differences in observation and rationality can lead to different conclusions. However, differing opinions do not rule out the knowability of truth. It simply means that different measurements or interpretations of knowledge lead to different conclusions. This is why testing or experimentation is important. The test to validate knowledge should give the same results every time for any tester. The lack of information, wrong data, faulty thinking, personal bias, presuppositions and lack of skill can lead to different interpretations. And sometimes it is possible to be right for the wrong reasons. Therefore, man must continually be improving his skills of discovery.

9. Is the presumption of atheism and naturalism a good starting point for determining truth about creation? No. The presumption of atheism and naturalism state that in the absence of evidence, disbelief is preferred. The presumption is that absence of evidence is evidence of non-existence. However, the absence of evidence is not evidence of absence. For example, you are unable to prove to others what you were thinking and eating last year on a certain day during breakfast. The lack of evidence does not mean were not thinking or eating.
10. Is arguing for the existence of God an appeal to the 'god of the gaps' fallacy? Prior to the formulating and maturing of science, 'God' was used as the reason for many unexplainable occurrences. This is called "god of the gaps" interpretation. Using God to explain the unknown is fallacious thinking. And as scientific knowledge has determined natural explanations for many unknowns, the 'god of the gaps' has become smaller and unnecessary. Science must offer explanations based on what it knows not what it does not know without using God as an excuse for ignorance.
11. Is there empirical evidence for God's existence? Atheists claim that sufficient or compelling evidence is lacking. But this is a very subjective claim. The first and second laws of thermodynamics state that energy cannot create or organize itself in a closed system by natural means. These are two laws of science that have been empirically established and for which there are no known exceptions and no reason to think they are wrong. Therefore, based on what we do know (not on a gap of knowledge that we do not know) scientifically about our world, the best explanation for the existence and organization of energy in the universe is that God supernaturally created it and organized it. Today, many believe in God because of what is known.