

# Truth and The Word of God

WHAT'S YOUR STANDARD?

**Slide 1**

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**DE1**

Dale Edwards, 11/9/2018



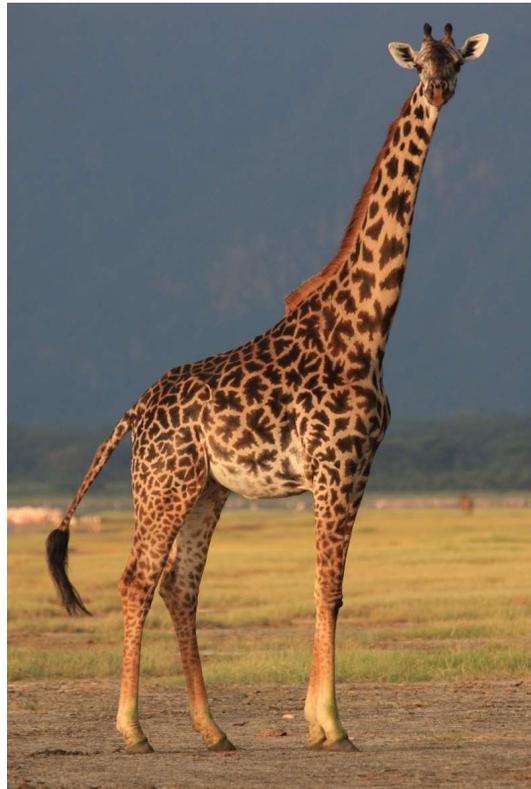
# A Giraffe Is Tall ...

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## All Statements of Truth Must Be Measured Against A Standard

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- ▶ The giraffe is the tallest animal in the world
- ▶ Height vs. Length

All Statements of Truth  
Must Be Measured Against  
A Standard

# What is Truth?

- ▶ Websters (1913):
  - ▶ The quality or being true; as conformity to fact or reality; exact accordance with that which is, or has been; or shall be.
  - ▶ Fidelity to an original or to a standard
- ▶ God's Word ...

# John 18:37-38 (TPT)

*Then Pilate responded, "Oh, so then you are a king?"*

*"You are right." Jesus said, "I was born a King, and I have come into this world **to prove what truth really is**. And everyone who loves the truth **will receive my words**."*

*Pilate looked at Jesus and said, "What is truth?"*

# God Himself Is The Standard Of All Truth

- ▶ John 14:6
- ▶ Exodus 34:6
- ▶ 2 Samuel 7:28
- ▶ Psalm 25:10
- ▶ Isaiah 65:16
- ▶ Ephesians 4:21
- ▶ Titus 1:1-2
- ▶ 1 John 5:6

Do You Believe God Is The  
Standard For All Truth?

Would A Non-Believer, Looking At  
You, Agree?

# The Problem ...

## *The World We Live In, And Our Own Flesh*

*After this Jesus went into the temple courts and taught the people. The leading priests and Jewish elders approached him and interrupted him and asked, "By what power[a] do you do these things, and who granted you the authority to teach here?"*

*Jesus answered them, "I too have a question to ask you. If you can answer this question, then I will tell you by what power I do these things. From where did John's authority to baptize come from? From heaven or from people?"*

***They stepped away and debated among themselves, saying, "How should we answer this? If we say from heaven, he will say to us, 'Then why didn't you respond to John and believe what he said?' But if we deny that God gave him his authority, we'll be mobbed by the people, for they're convinced that John was God's prophet."***

*So they finally answered, "We don't know."*

*"Then neither will I tell you from where my power comes to do these things!" he replied.*

Matthew 21:23-27

# Relativism

- ▶ The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language: [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com)
- ▶ Defines 'Relativism' as a philosophy or theory, especially in ethics...that conceptions of truth and moral values are not absolute but are relative to the persons or groups holding them.
- ▶ 2nd definition: Relativism - the philosophical doctrine that all criteria of judgment are relative to the individuals and situations involved.



# Relativism Is Treason

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## ▶ Relativism

- ▶ Relativism is a revolt against the objective reality of God
- ▶ Denying the existence of a standard of truth is the same as denying the authority of God
- ▶ Everyone, deep down, knows that it is wrong, yet ...
- ▶ We practice it because it provides cover to do what we want
- ▶ It allows us to rationalize treason against God to satisfy our physical and emotional desires

## ▶ God

*“Where were you when I laid the foundations of earth?*

*Tell Me, if you have understanding.*

*Who set its dimensions—if you know—  
or who stretched a line over it?*

*On what were its foundations set,  
or who laid its cornerstone—*

*when the morning stars sang together,  
and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”*

Job 38:4-7 (TLV)

# Relativism Is Hypocrisy

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## ▶ Relativism

- ▶ In Theory:
  - ▶ Believing in relativism commits you to truths that you do not treat as relative
  - ▶ Believing in relativism commits you to a world-view that is not, in practice, relative
- ▶ In Practice:
  - ▶ Every relativist eventually goes home to their spouse
  - ▶ The relativist in court for murder
  - ▶ The relativist and the crashing plane
  - ▶ The relativist's obituary

## ▶ Standard of God

*In the very beginning the Living Expression was already there.*

*And the Living Expression was with God, yet fully God.*

John 1:1 (TPT)

*Jesus, the Anointed One, is always the same—yesterday, today, and forever.*

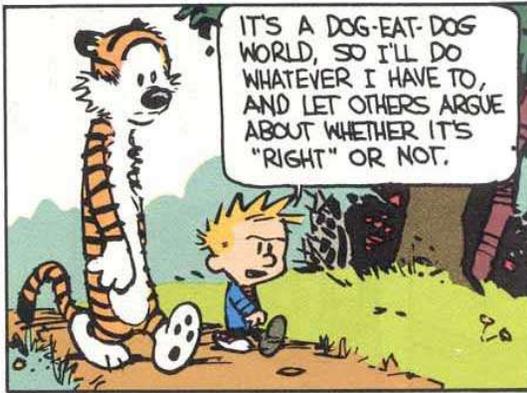
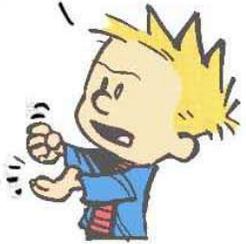
Hebrews 13:8 (TPT)

# Calvin and Hobbes

BY WATKINSON



GET WHAT YOU CAN WHILE THE GETTING'S GOOD - THAT'S WHAT I SAY! MIGHT MAKES RIGHT! THE WINNERS WRITE THE HISTORY BOOKS!



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# Humor Break

# Relativism Turns Language Into A Weapon

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## ▶ Relativism

- ▶ Now language throws off the yoke of servanthood and takes on a power of its own.
- ▶ It doesn't submit to objective, external reality; it creates its own reality.
- ▶ It no longer serves to display truth. Now it seeks to obtain the preferences of the user.
- ▶ This gives rise to every manner of spin. The goal of language is no longer the communication of reality, but the manipulation of reality. It no longer functions in the glorious capacity of affirming the embrace of confessional truth, but now it functions in the devious capacity of concealing defection from the truth.

John Piper

## ▶ Standard of God

Language holds the honorable place of expressing and carrying and transmitting the precious cargo of truth.

*For the Scriptures tell us:*

*Whoever wants to embrace true life*

*and find beauty in each day*

*must stop speaking evil, hurtful words*

*and never deceive in what they say.*

*Always turn from what is wrong*

*and cultivate what is good;*

*eagerly pursue peace in every relationship,*

*making it your prize.*

1 Peter 3:10-11 (TPT)

## 2 Timothy 4:3-4 (TPT)

*For the time is coming when they will no longer listen and respond to the healing words of truth because they will become selfish and proud. They will seek out teachers with soothing words that line up with their desires, saying just what they want to hear. They will close their ears to the truth and believe nothing but fables and myths.*

# Relativism Is Greed In Disguise

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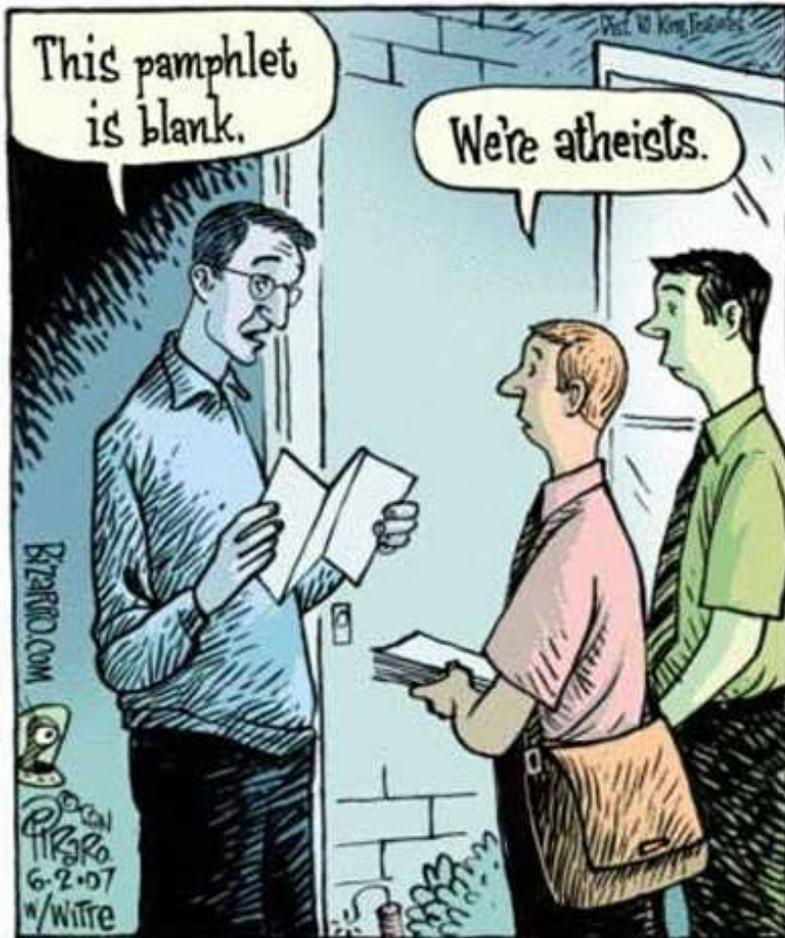
## ▶ Relativism

- ▶ All human behavior is about "getting what we want"
- ▶ Interactions with others become dishonest and political in order to accomplish our personal objectives
- ▶ Language becomes a currency for which we want a return on investment

## ▶ Standard of God

*Our coming alongside you to encourage you was not out of some delusion, or impure motive, or an intention to mislead you, but we have been approved by God to be those who preach the gospel. So our motivation to preach is not pleasing people but pleasing God, who thoroughly examines our hearts. God is our witness that when we came to encourage you, we never once used cunning compliments as a pretext for greed,*

1 Thessalonians 2:3-5 (TPT)



# Humor Break

# Relativism Is Not Humble, It Is A Cloak For Pride

## ► Relativism

It poses as humble by saying: “We are not smart enough to know what the truth is—or if there is any universal truth.” It sounds humble.

But look carefully at what is happening. It's like a servant saying: I am not smart enough to know which person here is my master—or if I even have a master. The result is that I don't have a master and I can be my own master.

That is in reality what happens to relativists: In claiming to be too lowly to know the truth, they exalt themselves as supreme arbiter of what they can think and do. This is not humility.

John Piper

## ► Standard of God

Submitting to God's authority is true humility.

*He has told you, humanity, what is good, and what Adonai is seeking from you:*

*Only to practice justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.*

Micah 6:8 (TLV)

# Relativism Enslaves

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## ► Relativism

In practice, relativism enslaves you to the view of the mob

Relativism also enslaves you to a life of ambiguity

The presence of the “outlaw” is apparent by the activity of Satan, who uses all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs, spurious wonders, and every form of evil deception in order to deceive those who are perishing because they rejected the love of the truth that would lead them to being saved.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 (TPT)

## ► Standard of God

*So Jesus said to those Jews who had believed in Him, If you abide in My word [hold fast to My teachings and live in accordance with them], you are truly My disciples.*

*And you will know the Truth, and the Truth will set you free.*

John 8:31-32 (AMPC)

# Relativism Leads to Dictators

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## ► Relativism

During the next hundred years, the question for those who love liberty is whether we can survive the most insidious and duplicitous attacks from within, from those who undermine the virtues of our people, doing in advance the work of the Father of Lies.

“There is no such thing as truth,” they teach even the little ones. “Truth is bondage. Believe what seems right to you. There are as many truths as there are individuals. Follow your feelings. Do as you please. Get in touch with your self. Do what feels comfortable.” Those who speak in this way prepare the jails of the twenty-first century. They do the work of tyrants.

Michael Novak

## ► Standard of God

*Jesus said, “Then if God were really your father, you would love me, for I’ve come from his presence. I didn’t come here on my own, but God sent me to you. Why don’t you understand what I say? You don’t understand because your hearts are closed to my message!”*

*“You are the offspring of your father, the devil, and you serve your father very well, passionately carrying out his desires. He’s been a murderer right from the start! He never stood with the One who is the true Prince, for he’s full of nothing but lies—lying is his native tongue. He is a master of deception and the father of lies! But I am the true Prince who speaks nothing but the truth, yet you refuse to believe and you want nothing to do with me.”*

John 8:42-45

# What's Your Standard?

- ▶ It's easy for us to say it is God
- ▶ It's much harder to live this way
- ▶ Devotion to earnestly studying the Word of God, daily

*Every Scripture has been written by the Holy Spirit, the breath of God. It will empower you by its instruction and correction, giving you the strength to take the right direction and lead you deeper into the path of godliness. Then you will be God's servant, fully mature and perfectly prepared to fulfill any assignment God gives you.*

2 Timothy 3:16-17