
What is Truth
And how do we know it?

John 18: 37-38

- Therefore Pilate said to Him, “So You are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”
- Pilate *said to Him, “What is truth?” And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews and *said to them, “I find no guilt in Him.



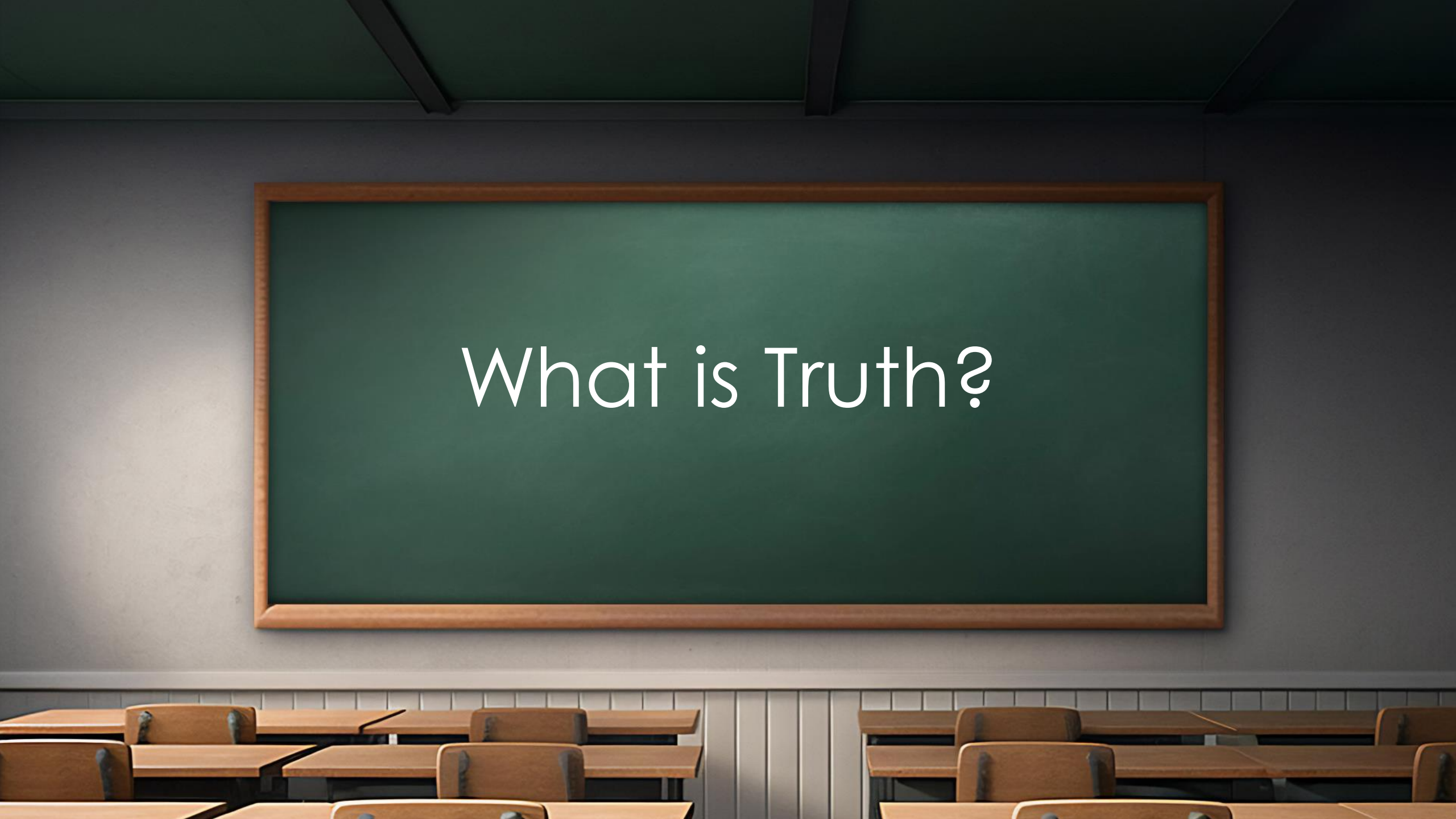
BELIEF



=REASONABLE


Why should I care?

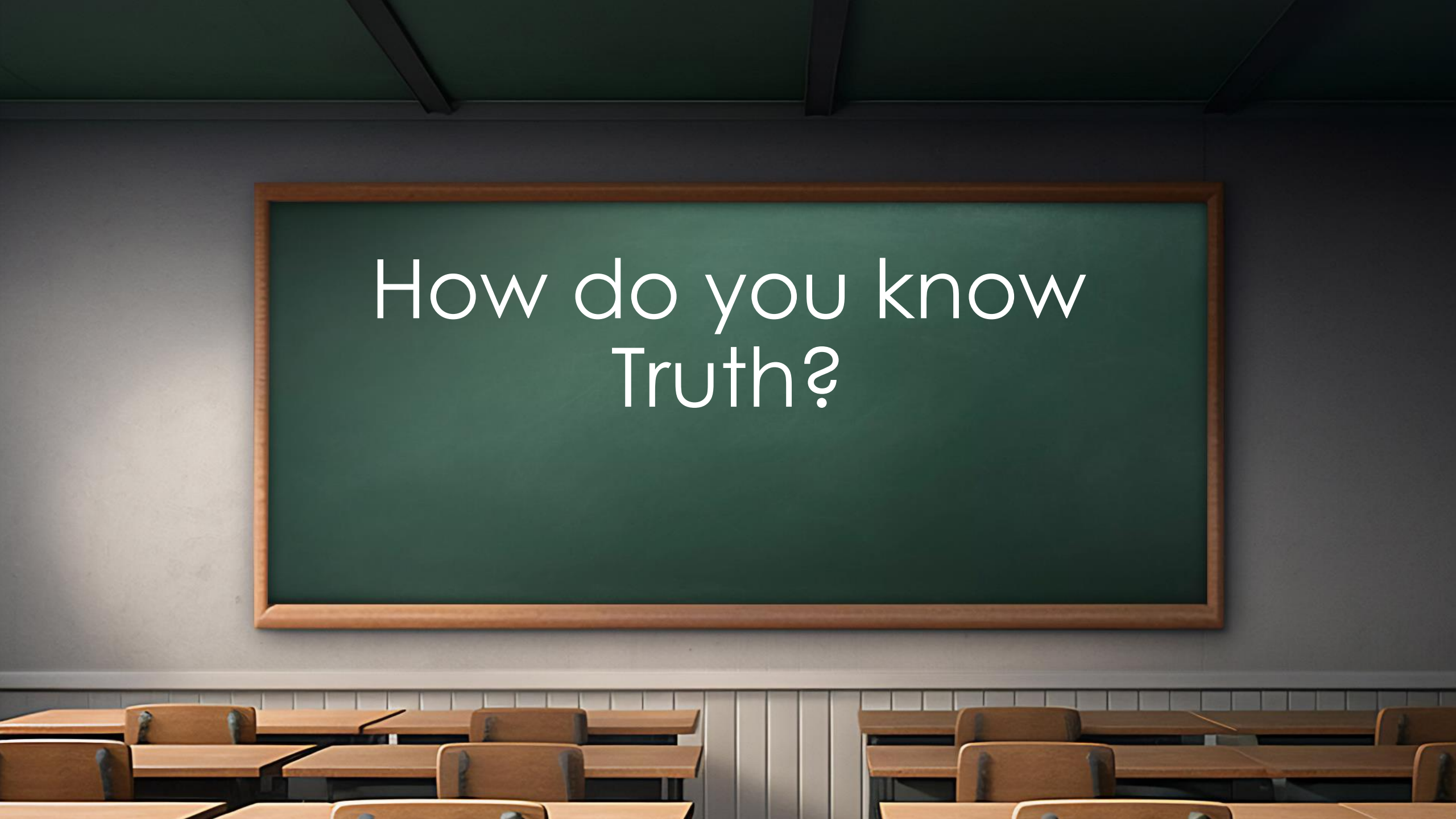



What is Truth?

Truth defined (Websters)

- **a(1) :** the body of real things, events, and facts : **ACTUALITY**
- **(2) :** the state of being the case : **FACT**
- **(3) often capitalized :** a transcendent fundamental or spiritual reality




How do you know
Truth?



Right Heart

- Willing - Must be willing to know even if it makes you wrong - Jn 7:17
- Perseverance - God wants you to know the truth Mt. 7:7
- Faithfulness - Be faithful with what you have Mt. 13:12
- Humility – Seek counsel –Prov. 18:17 Prov. 12:15 .
- Courage - Are we scared to decide? Rev. 21:8

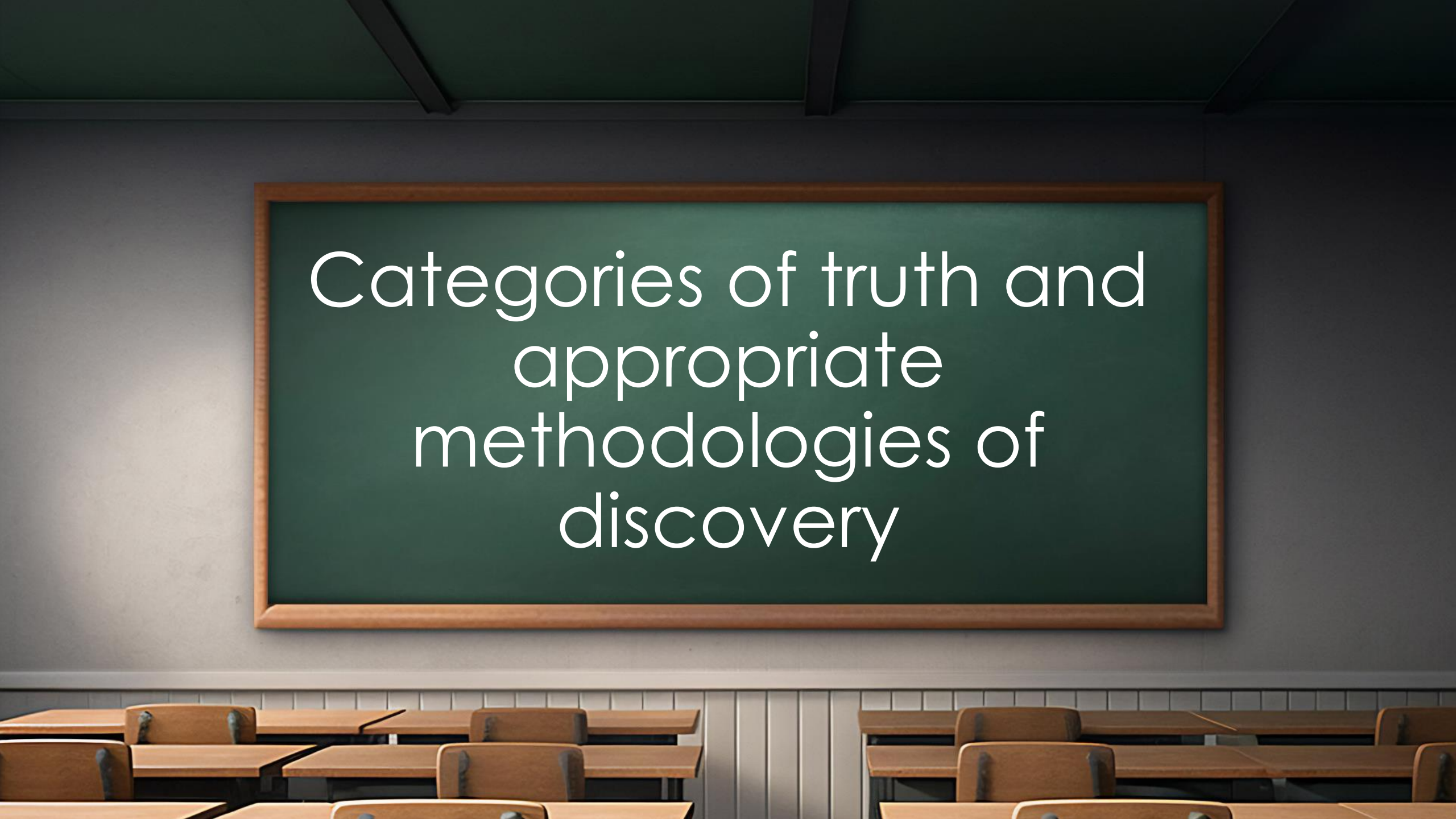




Right Mind

- Understand that there are…
  - Different categories of truth
  - Different approaches appropriate to determining truth in each category
  - Different types of reasoning and the certainty they bring




Categories of truth and appropriate methodologies of discovery

Categories of Truth and Methodology

Category	Methodology
Creation (Physically Observable Items)	Scientific Method & Empiricism
Historical	Testimony & Circumstantial Evidence
Morality	Proper Authority
Mind/Person/God	Revelation
Mathematical	Axioms and proofs

What (Physical) Sciences cannot do.

- Moral judgments, aesthetic judgments, decisions about applications of science, and conclusions about the supernatural *are outside the realm of science*, but that doesn't mean that these realms are unimportant.
- https://undsci.berkeley.edu/understanding-science-101/what-is-science/science-has-limits-a-few-things-that-science-does-not-do/



Historical /Legal

- **Definition.** Evidence an item or information proffered to make the existence of a fact more or less probable. Evidence can take the form of testimony, documents, photographs, videos, voice recordings, DNA testing, or other tangible objects. Courts cannot admit all evidence, as evidence must be admissible under that jurisdiction's rules of evidence (see below) in order to be presented to court. In federal court, evidence is governed by the Federal Rules of Evidence. A court may exclude evidence because it is not relevant, hearsay, or otherwise inadmissible.

- **FEDERAL RULES OF EVIDENCE.**
- **Rule 401 – Definition of Relevant Evidence** – Evidence having any tendency to make the existence of any fact that is of consequence to the determination of the action more probable or less probable than without
    - Probability – More probable than it would be without the evidence
        - Have to be able to state the logic of the evidence – this is where Carey gets all crazy about precision
    - The fact to which the evidence is directed need not be in dispute
        - EX: Evidence of spoken statement to prove notice, probative value is lacking unless person sought to be charged heard statement
    - **Rule 402 – Relevant Evidence Generally Admissible; Irrelevant Inadmissible**
    - Pleadings, Defense, or Credibility

Direct vs. Circumstantial Evidence

- Direct evidence is that which, if accepted as genuine or believed true, necessarily establishes the point for which it is offered
- Circumstantial evidence if that which, even if fully credited, may nevertheless fail to support the point in question, simply because an alternative explanations seems probable or more so



Probability of being right

- “Preponderance of evidence” – civil cases – contract disputes, torts
- “Clear and convincing evidence” – fraud in trust , constitutional
- “Beyond a reasonable doubt” – criminal law context



Moral Truth

- Moral Theory – An Introduction - 9 different theories of how you determine right and wrong.

- Example – Is smoking right or wrong?

- The question – “Who says?”




Reasoning

Deductive

- Aristotle is a man
- All men die
- Aristotle will die

Also known as syllogistic logic

Made of two premises which if true and properly constructed in relation to each other produce a conclusion which must be true



Deductive

- Through Isaac I've been promised descendants
- Issac must be alive to give me descendants
- Therefore God must be able to raise Isaac from the dead

Heb. 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son;
Heb. 11:18 it was he to whom it was said, "IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED."
Heb. 11:19 He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.



Deductive

- Only God can specifically predict future events. (Isa 44:7)
- The Bible has predicted future events specifically
- Therefore God must be have inspired the Bible.

- Only God can raise someone from the dead
- Jesus was raised from the dead
- Therefore Jesus was raised from the dead by God



Deductive

- Only a liar, or a lunatic, or the Lord himself would call himself God.
- Jesus called himself God
- Therefore Jesus must either be a liar, or a lunatic or the Lord himself.



Inductive

- Inductive reasoning is a method of reasoning in which a general principle is derived from a body of observations.[1] It consists of making broad generalizations based on specific observations.[2]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inductive_reasoning



Inductive example

- For all of recorded history the sun has risen every day. Therefore I believe it will rise tomorrow.



Biblical Example of Inductive Reasoning

- **2Pet. 2:4** For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; Data 1
- **2Pet. 2:5** and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; Data 2
- **2Pet. 2:6** and *if* He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing *them* to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly *lives* thereafter; Data 3



Biblical Example of Inductive Reasoning

- **2Pet. 2:7** and *if* He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men Data 4
- **2Pet. 2:8** (for by what he saw and heard *that* righteous man, while living among them, felt *his* righteous soul tormented day after day by *their* lawless deeds),
- Conclusion **2Pet. 2:9** *then* the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,
- **2Pet. 2:10** and especially those who indulge the flesh in *its* corrupt desires and despise authority. Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties,



Inductive

- There are 1000’s of copies of the Bible over a span of 1000 years with no significant variations. Therefore we can have a high degree of confidence that we have an accurately transmitted Bible.




Faith
Its role


=REASONABLE

Truth does not replace the need for faith.

Truth tells you where to place your faith.



Ultimate Truth

- Jesus *said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.
  - John 14:6

