



# The Mailer

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## Truth

(Written by Dr. Paul L. Tecklenberg, M.D.)

Have you heard it yet? If you haven't, you probably will, before long.

"Heard what?" you ask. It is a statement heard from more and more sources, though perhaps expressed in slightly different ways. It expresses one of the primary tenets of the "post-modern" view of reality. What I refer to is the claim that "Truth does not exist", or, "if Truth does exist, it is really not knowable by man". (In these statements, I have used "Truth" with the capital "T", as did Francis Shaeffer when he referred to "true truth" or "Truth" as that which is objectively true as opposed to the more subjective idea, so prevalent today, of that which "is true for you" .)

I have heard this claim in recent months from four different people all of whom have college or graduate degrees and three of whom would claim to believe in some way in the existence of God. Bertrand Russell voiced this idea poetically when he once said that "Truth is a shining goddess, ever distant, ever veiled, but ever worthy of our pursuit".

So how should we answer these claims? To the statement that "Truth does not exist" one should ask the obvious question: "Oh, is that true?". Do you get the point? Statements such as "Truth does not exist" or "if Truth does exist, man cannot know it" are really self-contradictory and, therefore, absurd; they are contrary to reason. Why? Because the person making the statement is actually making a "truth claim" - an implied claim that he just said something "absolutely true".

In **all** conversations or discussions, the participants are, or should be, consciously saying what they believe to be "true". If not, then they would be **consciously** making **false** statements, and the entire process would, therefore, be without meaning and absurd - not worth the time invested. If there is no Truth, all communication is meaningless!

Furthermore, if it is absurd to claim that "there is no Truth", there is at least one "truth claim" that **MUST** be "true", and that is the opposite claim: "Truth

must exist". And at least to some extent, Truth must be *knowable*, because the person claiming that "Truth must exist" knew at least that much Truth to be able to make the assertion!

However, if our post-modern friend qualifies his original statements by saying that "most" Truth is not knowable by man he is on much firmer ground. We all "know", if only intuitively, that Man is a very limited creature when we consider his meager powers of observation and understanding, even when aided by some of the amazing instruments provided by modern technical achievement. And this limitation is particularly evident when applied to Man's ability to know things that are non-material - things spiritual or eternal.

However, this limitation applies to Man using **only** his own limited capacities of observation and reason. What is overlooked is the fact that Man can **receive** knowledge of Truth if it is **revealed** to him by another Person (God) Who does not have Man's limitations.

Bertrand Russell's statement, or similar claims, neglect the fact that God knows all truth, He is true and He can and does reveal truth to those who come to Him for understanding. Jesus asked His Father in His prayer in John 17 to "sanctify them (His disciples) in Thy truth; Thy word is truth" (vs. 17). He also told some followers in John 8:32: "you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free".

Of course, there is the condition that seekers be serious about receiving truth from God and be willing to act on it. This is reflected in John 7:17: "If any man wills to do His (God's) will, he shall know of the teaching if it be from God" (or not). If a person is not honest about knowing and serving God and acting on truth received from God, that person is just "playing games"; and God will not play games with us.

It has been said "God is a 'gentleman'". He does not force truth upon people but waits until they are really open and desirous. "You shall search for me, and you shall find Me (if and) when you search for me with all of your heart" (Jer. 29:13). "God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (Heb. 11:6).

If those conditions are not met, people will remain blind to Truth, even when it is evident all around them, in the creation and in the lives of others who have been changed by the working out of Truth in their personal lives.

So, the Bible teaches that we **can** find Truth in and through God's word if we are willing to "grapple" with it (the Bible) with a teachable heart and an honest prayer for God's enlightenment. Without God's (sought for) intervention, man remains blind to Truth even when it is right in front of him - or on his book

shelf - and then Russells' conclusion, sadly, will be his experience.

And even the Christian, if he does not continually stay engaged with the scriptures, will go nowhere; he will simply be "spinning his wheels". I proved that in my own life for over 20 years until, one day, I asked God to have His way in my life. After I became "willing to do His will", He introduced me to a Bible study and used it as a means to lead me to His Truth and fulfill His design for my life.

So, are you ready to answer the claim, when you hear it, that truth is non-existent or unknowable? Have you, yourself, received Truth revealed to you from God's word, and have you received the One who is Truth - the Lord Jesus Christ? If you are not sure, have you ever truly "willed to do His will"? Are you ready and willing to diligently seek Him for the Truth in and through His word? He is the rewarder of all who diligently seek Him! His reward is the Truth!



Paul L. Tecklenberg, M.D.

*(Dr. Tecklenberg, Steve's father, was a founding Board member of ENM. Now retired, he lives with his wife, Hilda, in western North Carolina.)*

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### Ministry Report

**South Carolina, USA (1).** As a follow up to his lecture series in Greenville last summer, *Steve Tecklenberg* was invited to teach on Genesis 1-11 for the Old Testament Survey course offered at the Evangelical Institute.

For the first week in October, Steve gave four lectures to the class of about 15 students. The first lecture dealt with the relevance of our understanding of pre-patriarchal Genesis to the rest of Scripture, endeavoring to establish the fundamental place these chapters hold in our understanding of many Biblical doctrines, including the Gospel itself. The second lecture addressed and answered the various categories of "alternative theories" that have been developed in an attempt to "reconcile" the Bible with the ideas of modern science. In the third, Steve specifically dealt with the creation of man, and the origin of evil. For the last lecture, he gave an overview of flood geology, and how it answers many of the questions surrounding the age of the earth.

The students, who represent many different countries, were very eager to learn. For some, it was obvious that this was the first time they had heard information of this kind. They were both excited and relieved to learn that Christians do have very good



Teaching at EI

answers to many of the attacks by the world against the Scriptures.

**South Carolina, USA (2).** Also as a result of his summer lecture series, on October 3 Steve was invited to speak at two chapel services at Blue Ridge Christian Academy, in Greenville. In the first (K-5th grade) Steve talked about "*Everyone Loves Dinosaurs!*", and for the second (6th-9th grades) he gave his lecture on "*Simple Questions: The Myth Of Human Evolution*".



With young students

Subsequent written feedback indicated that both students and teachers enjoyed and were challenged by the talks. Some of the teachers were especially encouraged by the fact that Steve related these issues back to the Bible, emphasizing its authority and relevance for today.

**Maryland, USA.** On Tuesday, October 16, Steve was given the opportunity to speak to the youth Bible study group at Beachmont Christian Ministries, his former employer, in Kingsville.

Steve gave a version of his "*Genesis: Foundation Of The Faith*" lecture. The young people gave Steve their rapt attention, and it seemed were able to grasp the central point, namely, that the Christian community *cannot* cheat on Genesis 1-11, for in doing so we undermine the whole message of Scripture.



At Beachmont

**Canada.** Beginning October 11, *Daniel and Stephanie Popoi* have been conducting a teaching / evangelistic seminar on Creation in their home church in Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec.

For almost two hours every Thursday night, Daniel has been systematically working through such topics as, "*The Big Bang Fiction*", "*The Age of the Earth*", "*The 6-Day Creation*", "*The Flood and the Ice Age*", "*Cave Men & C14*" and "*Dinosaurs, Dragons and People*".

Daniel reports that the response of the attendees has been very positive so far. Non-Christians have also been attending, and it is our prayer that the sessions will also be meaningful for them and a tool that the Lord uses to draw them to Himself.

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### Ministry Calendar

October - December	Canada	D&S Popoi	Creation Seminar
Nov. 26 - Dec. 3	Poland	S&S Tecklenberg / S&A Riecker	" <i>Enduring Truth</i> " Prep.
December 10-19	Latvia	S&S Tecklenberg	Bible School
January	Romania	S&S Tecklenberg	DTS / Church