

The importance of absolute truth vs relativism. How do I know the Bible is true?

To start with, there is no such thing as a relative truth. A statement is either true at all times and in all places or it is sometimes false and therefore is not true.

Consider a statement such as “There is no absolute truth”. This statement invalidates itself since it is making an absolute truth claim that there is no absolute truth. So, since the statement proclaims there is no absolute truth, then it must also not be true all the time, so therefore, there is absolute truth.

Truth is what reality is.

While we are all entitled to our own opinions and beliefs, we are still subject to reality. Consider for example a person believing that they are not subject to the law of gravity. They go to the top of a skyscraper and walk off the platform. Regardless of what they believe, they will still experience a sudden stop as they impact the concrete below and it will not look pretty.

Anyone that believes something other than what the true reality is, lives in a fantasy world and will at some point experience reality, even if it is after death where it is written:

[And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment \(Heb 9:27 NASB\)](#)

Since our eternal destiny is determined by reality and what is true, it would be very prudent to search out the truth and follow it.

As for the second part of the question regarding the ability to know if the Bible is true.

We must first ask ourselves how we can know if anything is true at all.

We are always making certain presuppositions which would include

- Our senses are accurately processing what they are experiencing
- Our brain is accurately processing the signals coming from our senses
- The reality that our senses are telling us is there, actually exists
- In addition to these, we usually subject everything to our own worldview, whether it is correct or not

In order to know if anything is true at all times and in all places, we would need to know everything, past present and future. If we did not know everything past present and future, we could never be certain that we do know everything.

So, let's start by eliminating everything that cannot know everything and therefore know what is true.

- All people, since there are no people that know all past, present and future
- All philosophies put forth by people are eliminated

- All religions that are based on a person's ideas about what is true are eliminated
- All religions that have multiple gods are eliminated since none of them can be infinite and therefore know everything past present and future. Polytheistic religions have gods that are at odds with each other and therefore have contradictions.
- Pantheism (everything is god) cannot be true since if this were true, we are all part of god and we obviously do not know everything past, present and future. Aside from this, various people have different ideas that contradict themselves. Therefore, you cannot have truth from contradictions and pantheism is eliminated.
- Agnosticism is eliminated since it proclaims that you either cannot know or do not know. This statement also contradicts itself because making a truth claim that you do not or cannot know is self-defeating.

So, what does that leave us with?

Well, in order for truth to be known:

- The person has to know all of the past, present and future.
- The person has to be infinite
- The person has to be able to communicate the truth to us

This eliminates any religion that does not have a personal God, since a personal God is required to communicate. A force cannot communicate.

This reduces the candidates to the three monotheistic religions of

- Judaism
- Christianity
- Islam

So how do we determine which is correct?

Judaism and Christianity share the Old Testament which predicted the coming of the Messiah.

The Jews rejected the Messiah that was predicted, so they do not have the present and future, only the past, so Judaism is eliminated.

Muhammed accepted the Pentateuch (books of Moses), the Psalms of David and the Gospels.

Since Islam does not accept the clear teaching of the Gospels that Jesus is God, that He was crucified and rose again on the third day, then Islam can also be eliminated. (there are also other issues regarding Islam)

This leaves us with the only option – Christianity

In order for us to know the truth about reality, it has to be communicated to us by an infinite being that was there past, present and future.

God has revealed Himself to people who recorded His Word in the Scriptures. He verified His Word by the miracles that He performed at the time. The Scriptures are consistent within themselves and are logically consistent. Archaeology and Science confirm the Bible.

In light of all this, we can be quite certain that the Bible is true and the God that has revealed Himself in the Scriptures is the one and only true God.

Some good resources for further study:

Norman L. Geisler, Frank Turek. *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an ATHEIST*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2004.

Bodie Hodge, Roger Patterson. *World Religions and Cults, Volume 1, 2 & 3*. Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2015