

# TEACHING THE WAY OF TRUTH



"Compared to two years ago, just half as many Americans believe that absolute moral truth exists, dropping from 38% in January 2000 to only 22% in November 2001."<sup>1</sup>

Everywhere we look, we face the reality of absolute truth. It is found in natural law, mathematics, economics, and a host of other topics too numerous to mention.

Why is it that we so resist the reality of absolute truth when it comes to issues of moral law?

If there is no such thing as absolute moral truth, we are faced with the frightening fact that *nothing we do really matters*. If there is no standard of right or wrong, of good or bad, all we are left with is a deceptive, self-based philosophy of living that dead ends at hopelessness and despair. So . . . the very meaning of life is actually tied to the existence of absolute truth. In *True Truth*, the rational freedom of Christianity, with its absolutes, is contrasted with the surprising inflexibility of relativism, which dismisses all truth claims. It is a great book for those wanting to know how to defend Christianity without being defensive.

**Our perspective of absolute truth is determined by God, the ultimate authority in all things.**

He is the ultimate authority because He is the initiator or Creator of all things. If a person desires to know

# Make sure the teaching of your church provides more than “spiritual junk food.”

what absolute truth is, it is essential that he learn from the One who has absolute knowledge, which may be why *Know Who You Believe* is such a powerful book for seekers, but also for those wanting more. The ultimate proof that there is absolute truth does not come from the clever arguments of man nor from human philosophy. It is derived from a personal relationship with the One who declared: “I am the truth!” That is what Bible study and

Sunday School are all about. They are designed to teach us the way of truth.

## What must be taught and what must I know to embrace absolute truth?

- I must know that I was created for a purpose.
- I must know that success and fulfillment in life can only come when I fulfill the objectives and purpose for which He created me.
- I must know that God is and that He is Holy.
- I must know that God created all that is.
- I must know that God created me.
- I must know that some actions are right, while other actions are wrong. I can only discover the difference by learning about God’s plan.
- I must understand that wrong action is sin and is incompatible with a Holy God.
- I must understand that I am accountable to God for my sin.
- I must understand that God has provided a remedy for my sin through His Son, Jesus Christ.

These absolutes must be taught in creative and effective ways within our Bible study groups and Sunday School classes. They are absolutes that must be reinforced at every age level.

*The Message* warns: “You’re going to find that there will be times when people will have no stomach for solid teaching, but will fill up on spiritual junk food – catchy opinions that tickle their fancy” (2 Timothy 4:3-4)<sup>2</sup>.

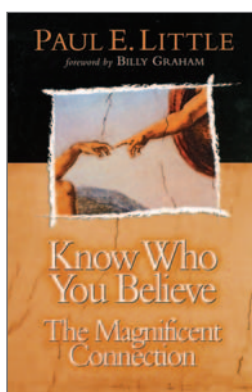
Make sure the teaching of your church provides more than “spiritual junk food.” Give them the “absolute truth” of God’s Word. ■

Wes Bartel is the small group consultant for GPH and the director of the Assemblies of God national Sunday School office. He has been active in Christian education for over 30 years. A successful pastor, he used Christian education to help build and strengthen a variety of churches. © 2006 by Gospel Publishing House. Permission to reproduce for local church use.

<sup>1</sup>“The Year’s Most Intriguing Findings” by Barna Research Studies, as it appeared on the Barna Research Group website, [www.barna.org](http://www.barna.org). Accessed December 17, 2001.

<sup>2</sup>Scripture taken from THE MESSAGE by Eugene H. Peterson. Copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group. All rights reserved.

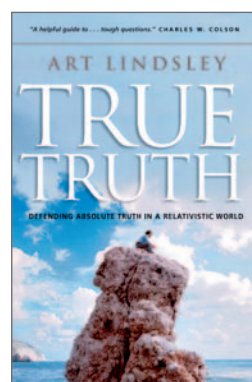
## ADMINISTRATOR’S TOOLBOX



### Know Who You Believe

For seekers or anyone wanting a deeper spiritual life, this easy-to-read book points to the source—God Himself. It gives eight bottom-line truths, answers today’s common questions, and shows you how to have a magnificent connection with God through Jesus Christ. Plus, there are questions at the end of each chapter, making the book great for a small group study or Sunday school class. Includes a foreword by Billy Graham.

Paper. 112 pages. 03LK0514 \$11.99



### True Truth

Proclaim and defend the absolute truths of the gospel without being defensive. How? *True Truth* clearly explains the faulty claims of relativism and how it fails to answer humanity’s need for meaning, something only a relationship with Jesus Christ can give.

Paper. 180 pages. 03LK0521 \$13.00