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Viewpoints

Observing events in our modern world from the viewpoint of our ascended Savior.

The Truth about Truth ~ August 25, 2016

Take refuge from distortions and fallacies: get into God's Truth.

[Online Version & Archive](#)

US Olympic swimmer Ryan Lochte is being charged by police for making false statements about being robbed at gunpoint during the Olympics. Lochte admits he was "over-exaggerating" but still claims that he was in fact robbed at gunpoint. What's the truth?

Because our world is a world fallen into sin, every human descended from Adam and Eve has a fallen nature (except Jesus). Being truthful is not characteristic of the fallen nature, unless it's self-benefitting. Therefore humans have developed the court of law as a venue for determining the truth. But even this venue is flawed because everyone involved, from the defendant to the prosecutor, and from the jury to the judge, are all fallen creatures subject to prejudice, pride and error. So deep is humanity's inherent sin, we can even lie to ourselves. "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" (Jeremiah 17:9).

With the concept of "the heart" God is speaking of that inner core from which our affections, attitudes and actions originate. Jesus taught: "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander" (Matthew 15:19). This is why it's often difficult to discover and know the truth, not only in legal contests (such as Lochte faces) but also in the field of science.

As you read the following quotations, it may be helpful to remember that science is built on measuring what is observed, and being able to independently reproduce (replicate) those findings. In "Big Science is Broken" the author makes some shocking revelations.

There's a "replication crisis" in science. This is particularly true in the field of experimental psychology, where far too many prestigious psychology studies simply can't be reliably replicated. But it's not just psychology. In 2011, the pharmaceutical company Bayer looked at 67 blockbuster drug discovery research findings published in prestigious journals, and found that three-fourths of them weren't right. Another study of cancer research found that only 11 percent of preclinical cancer research could be reproduced. Even in physics, supposedly the hardest and most reliable of all sciences [there's a replication crisis.] "Two of the most vaunted physics results of the past few years — the announced discovery of both cosmic inflation and gravitational waves at the BICEP2 experiment in Antarctica, and the supposed discovery of superluminal neutrinos at the Swiss-Italian border — have now been retracted, with far less fanfare than when they were first published."

Then there is outright fraud. In a 2011 survey of 2,000 research psychologists, over half admitted to selectively reporting those experiments that gave the result they were after.... Then there's everything in between human error and outright fraud: rounding out numbers the way that looks better, checking a result less thoroughly when it comes out the way you like, and so forth.

From the Olympian to the scientist to people in general, we're awash in a pool of expediency. In other words, people tend to say whatever is expedient for their selfish needs, so that at best we're exposed to erroneous distortions and fallacies, and at worst we're targeted by the manipulations of pride and prejudice. *May God have mercy on us!*

And he has! Instead of flushing away humanity because we so easily produce mistruth and untruth, the Lord God has graciously delivered and preserved his truth on earth in the scriptures. The Bible is not a collection of thoughts and ideas that different men recorded about their views of God, but the Bible is the truth that God revealed to us fallen creatures.* Over and over again, particularly in the book of John, Jesus Christ says, "I tell you the truth."

If you want truth, there's one unpolluted source: Jesus, the Son of God, who takes away the sin of the world. His presence on earth in the flesh reveals that he's the living Word of God (John 1:1&14), the Living Truth who came down from heaven to be our Savior from sin. "**I am the way and the truth and the life**" explains Jesus (John 14:6).

Because we're fallen humans living in a fallen world, whatever we must deal with outside the Bible is subject to mistruth and untruth. So at best, we're exposed to erroneous distortions and fallacies, and at worst we're targeted by the manipulations of pride and prejudice. Be very careful what you trust as true! Is the media massaging the Lochte story in order to manipulate us? Could your prescription provide bogus help, because it was brought to market using inaccurate or falsified data? We may not know. But such uncertainty about the truth is checked at the door when you open the Bible and encounter God's truth. His personal name is Jesus. ✚

Source Material (Links may become inactive over time.)

[Brazil Police Charge Lochte Over Robbery Claim](#) @ BBC.com

[Big Science is Broken](#) @ theWeek.com

*The Bible is the truth God has revealed, verbally inspired, without error and infallible. See [1 Thessalonians 2:13](#); [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#); [John 17:17](#).

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Blessings to you and your loved ones, Pastor Mike Nitz

