

Commending ourselves by truth  
II Corinthians 6:6-7

1. “Word of truth” defined
  - a. “Word” is from G3056, a very general term for speech or discourse, an explanation. It sometimes refers to reasoning.
  - b. “Truth” is from G225, a general term for an explanation of reality
    - i. When we speak of truth we generally mean “efforts to explain reality” that are “valid for all groups, cultures, traditions, or races...”
    - ii. Some “truth” statements are the result of reasoning (rationalists) or observation (empiricists)
      1. Reasoning and observation can be mistaken or faulty without an intention to deceive (the intention to deceive takes the resulting explanation beyond the bounds of any type of truth)
        - a. Disease is because of demons – therefore exorcism
        - b. Disease is because of bad blood – therefore bleeding as curative
        - c. Disease is because of bad air – therefore Arizona or the mountains
        - d. Disease is because of germs/viruses – therefore filtration
        - e. The earth is the center of the universe
      2. Mistaken or incomplete explanations caused some to contend that *all* truth is therefore constructed as the mind tries to understand its own particular and personal reality (postmodernists)
    - iii. Some aspects of reality must be revealed because they are beyond reasoning or observation, i.e. what happens after the point of death
      1. Revelation is immune from mistakes or faulty reasoning
      2. We still must understand properly what has been revealed
    - iv. Reality exists independently of efforts at explanation, i.e. gravity
2. God’s mission
  - a. To “say” what is true that could not be definitively determined without revelation
    - i. “...His eternal power...” can be inferred, Romans 1:18-25
    - ii. Complete understanding must come from additional revealed information
  - b. Not to “reveal” what could and/or should have been “observed”
  - c. The “why” behind what we observe about God
    - i. “who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him”
      1. Romans 11:33-36
      2. I Corinthians 2:6-16
    - ii. Evil does not exist because God is powerless to correct it but because He graciously gives time for repentance, II Peter 3:3-18
      1. “where is the promise of His coming...”
      2. “all things continue as from the beginning...”
      3. “God delays His judgement...”
      4. “God desires all men to come to repentance...”
3. My focus

- a. To make careful observations of “observable” reality, always without intent to deceive or hide
  - i. Acknowledge that some observations are difficult to reconcile with revelation – they should not be hidden away but rather treated as incentive to keep pursuing a more complete understanding of revealed information
    - 1. Intelligent design (snakes don’t breathe through the food hole, men do)
    - 2. Indications of a chaotic universe without God as sustainer
    - 3. Have the mind of Francis Bacon who tried to understand how species can change through the expression of dominant and regressive genetic influences
- b. To always rely on revealed information as explanatory of unobservable reality
  - i. The Word as source of information
  - ii. Explanatory
  - iii. Unobservable
  - iv. Reality
- c. To live incorporating what is not “under the sun” (observable) as part of reality as much as what is “under the sun”
- d. To take revealed information to as many people as possible
  - i. II Timothy 2:2
  - ii. I Corinthians 9:19-23
- e. Take seriously the position of “master”
  - i. Ephesians 5:15-17
  - ii. James 3:1-2
- f. Expect that the very notion of “truth” or “explanations which claim validity for all groups, cultures, traditions, or races” itself will cause the **“uncritical” postmodernist** to reject our ministry or the ministry of a man like Paul.

### Postmodernism Defined

["Postmodernism Glossary"](#). *Faith and Reason*. 11 September 1998. Retrieved July 1, 2020

A general and wide-ranging term which is applied to literature, art, philosophy, architecture, fiction, and cultural and literary criticism, among others. Postmodernism is largely a reaction to the assumed certainty of scientific, or objective, efforts to explain reality. In essence, it stems from a recognition that reality is not simply mirrored in human understanding of it, but rather, is constructed as the mind tries to understand its own particular and personal reality. For this reason, postmodernism is highly skeptical of explanations which claim to be valid for all groups, cultures, traditions, or races, and instead focuses on the relative truths of each person. In the postmodern understanding, interpretation is everything; reality only comes into being through our interpretations of what the world means to us individually. Postmodernism relies on concrete experience over abstract principles, knowing always that the outcome of one's own experience will necessarily be fallible and relative, rather than certain and universal.

Postmodernism is "post" because it denies the existence of any ultimate principles, and it lacks the optimism of there being a scientific, philosophical, or religious truth which will explain everything for everybody - a characteristic of the so-called "modern" mind. The paradox of the postmodern position is that, in placing all principles under the scrutiny of its skepticism, it must realize that even its own principles are not beyond questioning. As the philosopher Richard Tarnas states, postmodernism "cannot on its own principles ultimately justify itself any more than can the various [metaphysical](#) overviews against which the postmodern mind has defined itself."