

SLIDE	NOTES
1	<p>TITLE</p> <p>In this module we discuss Truth and the role of evidence.</p>
2	<p>What is truth?</p> <p>* I am constantly amazed when I ask that question, at how often people don't have a clear explanation...They know it is important but can't describe it.</p> <p>Anim1: Quote Brigham Young</p> <p>Anim2: Quote Mortimer Adler</p> <p>* This is called the Correspondence definition of Truth, which means "Correspondence of thought with reality.</p> <p>* Truth is knowledge of reality. A reality that is independent of the mind and "is what it is" regardless of what we think about it.</p>
3	<p>A simple example:</p> <p>* Correspondence between thought and is = True</p> <p>* Non-Correspondence between thought and is = False</p> <p>Anim: Quote Aristotle</p> <p>Aristotle was a genius...He was the first we know of to recognize (document) logical mathematics.</p>
4	<p>Aristotelian Logic:</p> <p>Here is a simple explanation using Aristotle's logic: When I assert that:</p> <p>Anim1: "That which is, is"...It is an apple and I recognize an apple</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Anim2: "That which is not, is not"...I see a banana and recognize it is not an apple.</p> <p>THEN</p> <p>Anim3: Both are true = There IS correspondence with reality</p> <p>The opposite:</p> <p>Anim4: "That which is, is not"...It is an apple and I recognize it as NOT an apple</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Anim5: "That which is not, is"...It is a banana and I recognize it as an apple</p> <p>THEN</p> <p>Anim6: Both are false = No correspondence with reality</p> <p>Notice the apple and banana are setting the terms...Not your consciousness.</p>
5	<p>Did you know The Lord gave us his definition of Truth and it is part of our scriptures?</p> <p>Does anyone know in the scriptures where it is?</p> <p>How do you think it compares with Aristotle's definition?</p> <p>Anim1: Quote D&C 93:24</p> <p>Do you see anything wrong here?</p> <p>Anim1: Truth is</p> <p>Anim2: Things...in reality...</p> <p>Is that a correct way to paraphrase D&C 93:24?</p> <p>Is truth like a seashell (a physical object) sitting out there waiting for you pick it up and put it in your pocket?</p> <p>Can I pick up real false objects as well?</p> <p>Anim3: Paraphrasing D&C 93:24 incorrectly makes it a <i>metaphysical</i> statement having nothing to do with correspondence between your mind and reality.</p>

	<p>Anim4: Knowledge of...Here is the full scripture. Many Latter-day Saints quote it incorrectly. They leave out the knowledge part.</p> <p>Anim5: With the words "knowledge of" it reads like this...and then becomes the Correspondence definition of truth.</p> <p>Q: When knowledge is involved, what philosophical branch does that place it in?</p> <p>Anim6: Truth is Epistemological. Correspondence of a Consciousness to that which really exists.</p> <p>* Notice D&C 93:24 agrees with Aristotle...</p> <p>* You have to have a conscious intelligence to have truth. The restored gospel gets the language right, time after time after time! One critical word missing and the whole thing would fall apart. Once you start seeing the scriptures with deeper insight, this should be a testimony builder.</p>
6	<p>Does Christ's definition of truth describe truth as correspondence with God's will or does it describe truth as correspondence with reality?</p> <p>Another way of asking this question is: Which ontological framework does the Lord's definition of truth describe: God-inside-the-box or God-outside-the-box?</p> <p>Anim1: Christ's definition of truth in D&C 93:24 didn't say</p> <p>* "Truth is what I say it is" or "Truth is GOD (a consciousness) yesterday, today and tomorrow..."</p> <p>* Instead it describes truth as correspondence with reality...not God's will.</p> <p>Anim2: Absolutism of Reality (objective)</p> <p>* If God was once like us, then the Standard has to be outside of Him (Eternal)...otherwise it is a changing standard. The standard has to be "the box", not the "consciousnesses inside the box".</p> <p>* Reality/God is objective...True for anyone past, present, future (including God before he was exalted)</p> <p>* LIFE: Abiding by the laws of reality and progressing your life...Is the standard of value (the things you should pursue).</p> <p>* PERFECTION: Putting Reality over God does not diminish God...It makes God real and alive. He then becomes the standard of what we should all seek to become.</p> <p>Anim3: Absolutism of God (subjective)</p> <p>* God/Reality is subjective</p> <p>Who's God...The God who tells you it is your duty to hijack an airplane and fly it into a building?</p> <p>* Everyone claims their God is true and claims to speak for him (just like the confusion in Joseph Smith's day).</p>
7	<p>WHY IS TRUTH IMPORTANT</p> <p>Anim1: Quote President Brigham Young...All truth is for our salvation.</p> <p>Anim2: Quote Joseph Smith...Without truth we are captive to evil who knows more.</p> <p>Anim3: Quote Notice the epistemological word "know"...Truth sets us free.</p>
8	<p>Quote Mortimer Adler...There are two distinct Questions (and people often mix these up):</p> <p>Anim1:</p> <p>What is TRUTH? (defining the standard)</p> <p>* Correspondence <i>WITH</i> The Box.</p> <p>Is it TRUE? (validation against the standard)</p> <p>* Verification <i>WITHIN</i> the Box. How you know it corresponds.</p> <p>Anim2: Quote Mortimer Adler...</p> <p>* The definition doesn't answer the 2nd question.</p> <p>If you put the validation first before the definition, how do you know what the validation is validating?</p> <p>* Primacy issue...The definition gives meaning to the validation.</p>

9	<p>* From a primacy of reality perspective there is only one DEFINITION answering the first question: What is Truth?...Eternalism defines the answer as CORRESPONDENCE with reality as described in Doctrine and Covenants 93:24</p> <p>Anim1: Quote D&C 93:24 Correspondence of your mind with reality.</p> <p>Anim2: But we have 3 tests (not standards) to validate the second question: Is it true?</p> <p>Anim3: Pragmatic Test = Outcome of our "Existential Proof"...Does it work in reality?</p> <p>Anim4: Coherence Test = Outcome of our "Philosophical Proof"...Comparing two or more with each other (for coherence...similar identity).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Are there any logical contradictions? * Does what appear to be true, cohere with everything else I know to be true? * In order to be considered for a coherence test, what is being analyzed must first have passed the pragmatic test. <p>Anim5: Revelatory Test = Outcome of our "Theological Proof"...Light of the Holy Ghost...The final confirmation once you have done your part first (Pragmatic and Coherence work done before asking for confirmation).</p> <p>Anim6: Primacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Pragmatic test has primacy over all other tests. * The Coherence test has primacy over the Revelatory Test...You must first study it out in your mind before asking for revelatory confirmation.
10	<p>Anim1: Quote Abraham 3:24-25</p> <p>The Pragmatic Test is a legitimate test of truth, but not a standard of truth...</p> <p>God uses pragmatic tests as valid tests of truth (He doesn't tell us to just take his word for it).</p> <p>Anim2: Quote Mortimer J. Adler</p> <p>The Coherence Test is a legitimate test of truth, but not a standard of truth... Contradictions cannot co-exist in the temple of your mind. You must choose one to keep and one to toss out.</p> <p>What is the problem with making the coherency "test of truth" the "standard" or definition of truth?"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Eternalism's Primacy Chart is a Coherency TEST...which lists two opposing set of primacy issues on top and bottom parallel tracks. This is very valuable for testing new things against things you already know to be TRUE. * The problem is: Falsehood can also cohere! You can't know just from coherence alone. It ends up as "My truth verses your truth." <p>How do we decide which set of primacy issues are true and which is false since both sides cohere and claim to be the gospel truth?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The answer is pick which set BOTH coheres among its various parts AND corresponds with reality. <p>Anim3: Quote D&C 9-7-8</p> <p>The Revelatory Test is a legitimate test of truth, but not a standard of truth...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Requires the correct primacy issue of your mind governing your heart. * If you try to skip over #1 & #2 and jump right to #3 you are like Oliver Cowdery...Showing up, expecting the Lord to reveal the truth to you without you having done your pre-requisite work. * #1 (pragmatic) and #2 (coherence) are required before receiving the confirmation. * Notice the Mind "THEN" Heart language. <p>These 3 Tests of Truth are ONLY an aid (not a replacement) to your Objective Understanding of Reality...Correspondence of your thoughts with reality.</p>
11	<p>A metaphor of target practice-looking through a scope-is a helpful aid to remember these in their proper context.</p> <p>Anim1: Think of The Pragmatic Test of Truth as the one crosshair in your scope.</p> <p>Does it work in reality?</p>

	<p>Anim2: Think of the Coherence Test of Truth as another Crosshair. Does it cohere in philosophically?</p> <p>In this metaphor can you think of how the Revelatory Test of Truth would fit in?</p>
12	<p>* Revelation is like a thermal vision scope lighting up the entire target area. * These are all just tests helping you zero in on Truth Where is truth itself?</p> <p>Anim2: It is the whole point of target practice...The object you are trying to gain knowledge of. Correspondence = knowledge of reality. This is an apple. Looks like an apple. Tastes like an apple. It is not a banana.</p>
13	<p>Modern Prophets describe Two Doors to the Temple of Truth Anim1: WORKS of God...Represented by Science. His creations as observed by us. Anim2: WORD of God...Represented by the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. His revelation to us. Anim3: Quote Elder George Bywater (two doors) Both are REQUIRED for man to reach his full capacity. Ignore either one at your own detriment. Anim4: Quote President Brigham Young Anim5: Quote President Nelson</p> <p>* The doors have a primacy issue between them... Which has primacy Observation or Revelation? Observation has primacy over revelation. D&C where Joseph Smith teaches to "prove the spirits". Revelation is of "real things"...The Works of God.</p> <p>Religions of the Apostasy have a Problem...treating Religion and Science as different things with different rules... When we are out of the box who cares about science anymore? * The Restoration does not have this problem...It is all just Eternal Truth to us, with a consistent set of Realities to deal with.</p>
14	<p>BEWARE OF DEFINITIONS AGAIN The difference between "Truth of Thought" and "Truth of Speech" often trips people up. * Notice the 2 key words: THOUGHT and SPEECH * Your "inward" mind" is a different arena from your "outward" communication".</p> <p>TRUTH OF THOUGHT: Anim1: Deals with "Knowing the Truth" vs "Believing Something False" Anim2: This is an Epistemological issue with regard to "Knowing / Believing / Proving". It is dealing with reality as it relates to your own mind. Anim3: In a court of opinion, you claim to know the truth.</p> <p>TRUTH of SPEECH Anim4: Truth of Speech involves what you communicate outwardly. Telling (or not telling the truth) involves conveyance according to what you believe to be true. Anim5: Truth of Speech is an Ethical issue dealing with Honesty. Anim6: A Court of Law deals with telling (not thinking). You swear an oath to TELL the Truth (convey what you actually believe). Perjury = conflict with self</p> <p>Anim7: Be careful about mixing up Epistemology and Ethics...Jumping to the conclusion that someone is a liar, is different from someone being a fool (their believing something that ain't so).</p> <p>PRACTICE QUESTIONS: Anim8: Can you think of something false?</p>

Anim9: YES. You can think of all kinds of things that don't exist...Gremlins, Unicorns, etc.

Anim10: **Can you think of a lie?**

Anim11: YES. You have to think it before you say it. You must conceive of communicating the opposite of what you think to be true, before you actually act upon it in telling a lie.

Anim12: **Can you be honest while saying something false?**

Anim13: YES. Someone can say something that is untrue (false) yet not be lying. If you believe it is the truth you are not lying.

Anim14: **Can you be honest while saying a Lie?**

Anim15: NO. If you say something opposite to what you actually believe to be true that is dishonest.

Anim16: **Do you have to know the truth in order to say a lie?**

Anim17: NO. If you "know you don't know" yet say it is EITHER true or false.

EXAMPLE: "There is a gremlin in the corner"...

Not lie = if you actually believe there is

Lie = If you "don't know", or "know there is not"

When you lie you are at odds with reality that's why it is so bad.

What do the scriptures say about liars? (incl. ten commandments)

Do you think the Book of Mormon is consistent with these two separate definitions?

Anim18: **Quote** Jacob 4:13

The Holy Ghost is a person who deals only with TRUTH in either:

A "Truth of Thought" (Epistemology) context or

A "Truth of Speech" (Ethics) context.

Notice again the correspondence with reality the same as D&C 93:24.

What are the odds that The Book of Mormon and The Doctrine and Covenants BOTH got it consistently right?

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Questions? Rating?