

**What is Truth?**

# Inadequate Views of Truth

- *Relativism (Truth is Individually Determined)*— simply stated, relativism is the belief that absolute truth does not exist.
- *Pragmatism (Truth is What Works)*—many people believe that truth is found in utility or what works.
- *Subjectivism (Truth is What Feels Good)*— supporters of this view argue that “truth is what provides a satisfying feeling, while error is what feels bad.” Thus truth is found in our subjective feelings, according to this form of subjectivism.

# The Correspondence View of Truth

- Simply stated, “truth is telling it like it is.” In other words, truth is that which corresponds to its referent, and therefore, truth is that which represents the way things really are.
- In contrast, falsehood is that which does not correspond to its object and therefore misrepresents the way things actually are. One’s intentions or beliefs are inconsequential; if a statement lacks proper correspondence, it is false. Therefore, error does not tell it like it is, but like it is not.

# The Correspondence View of Truth

- A host of philosophical and theological arguments exist to substantiate the necessity of the correspondence view of truth.
  - First, *noncorrespondence views of truth are self-defeating.*
  - Second, *noncorrespondence views of truth make lying impossible.*
  - Third, *noncorrespondence views of truth lead to the breakdown of factual conversation.*

# Seven Truths About Truth

1. Truth is discovered, not invented. It exists independent of anyone's knowledge of it. (Gravity existed prior to Newton)
2. Truth is transcultural; if something is true, it is true for all people, in all places, at all times. ( $2+2=4$ )
3. Truth is unchanging even though our beliefs about truth change. (The earth is round)
4. Beliefs cannot change a fact, no matter how sincerely they are held.
5. Truth is not affected by the attitude of the one professing it
6. All truths are absolute truths. Even truths that appear relative are really absolute.
7. Truth is that which corresponds to its referent.

# The Charge of Circular Reasoning

- *Circular Reasoning*—a use of reason in which the premises depends on or is equivalent to the conclusion, a method of false logic by which "this is used to prove that, and that is used to prove this"; also called circular logic. (*Dictionary.com*)
- *Circular Reasoning*—a formal logical fallacy in which the proposition to be proved is assumed implicitly or explicitly in one of the premises. For example: "Only an untrustworthy person would run for office. The fact that politicians are untrustworthy is proof of this." (*Wikipedia.org*)

**Defeat circular questioning  
with the Wheel of Power**

*(More info: <http://tinyurl.com/z4n5x>)*

***The Bible is  
the word of God***

***Because the  
Bible tells us so***

*"but how can you be sure  
it's the word of God?"*

*"but how do you know  
it's infallible?"*

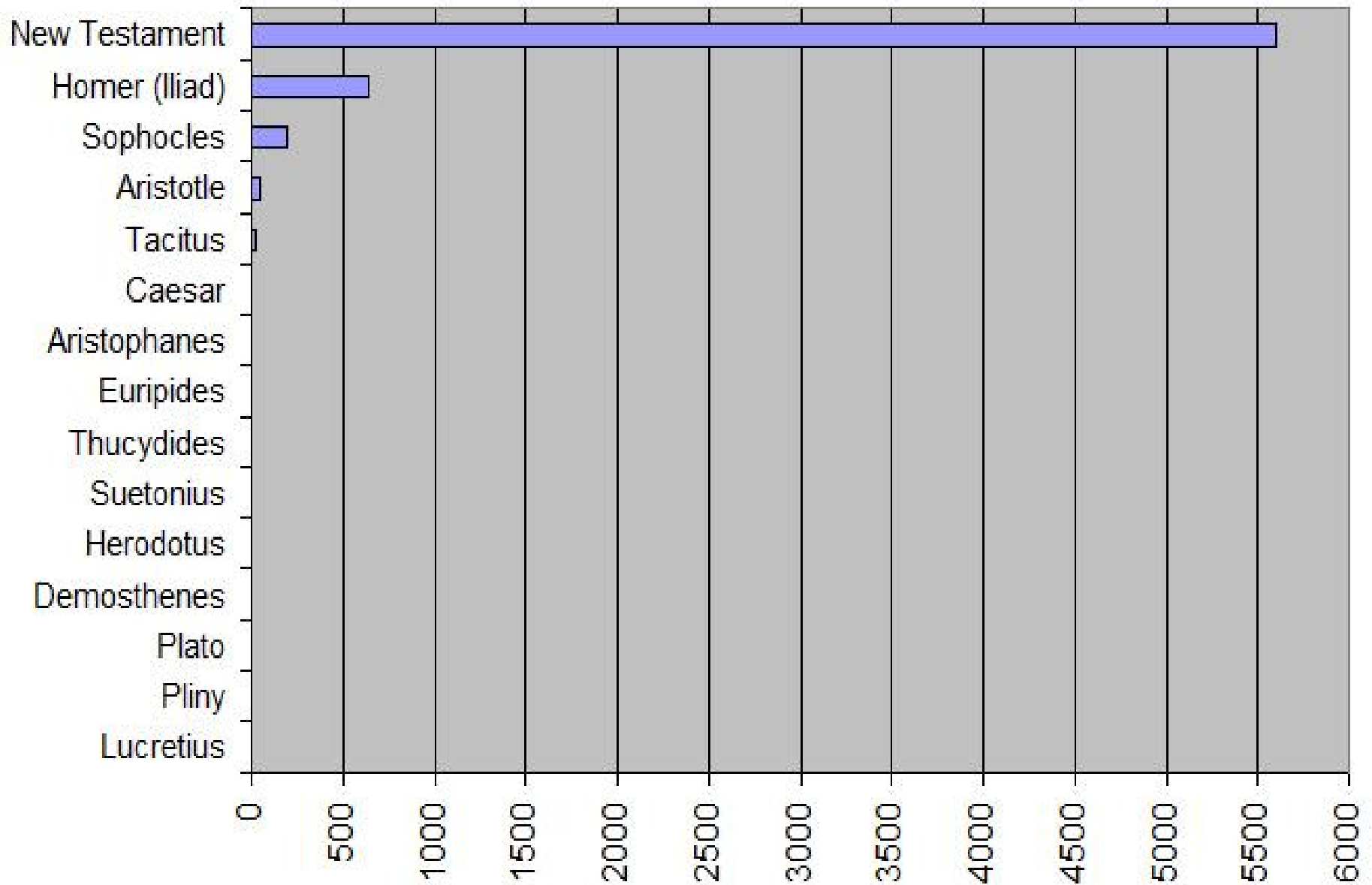
*"but why believe the Bible?"*

***The Bible is  
infallible***

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