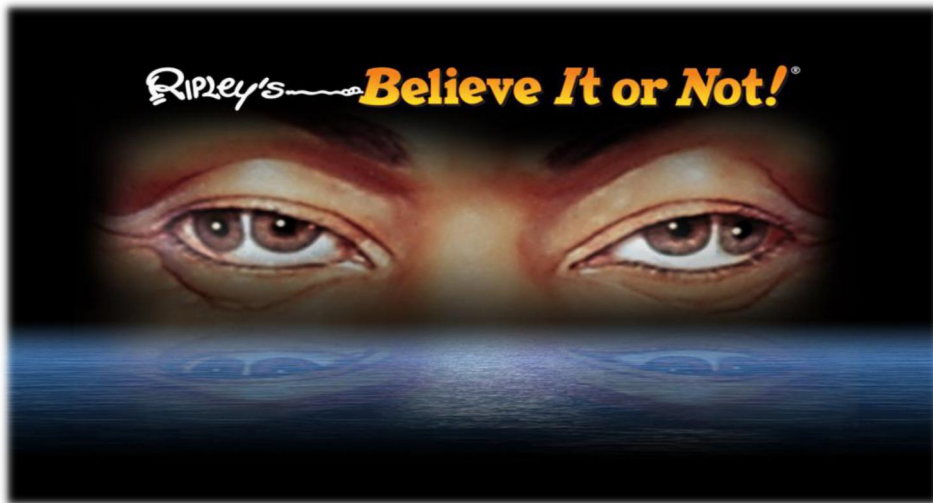
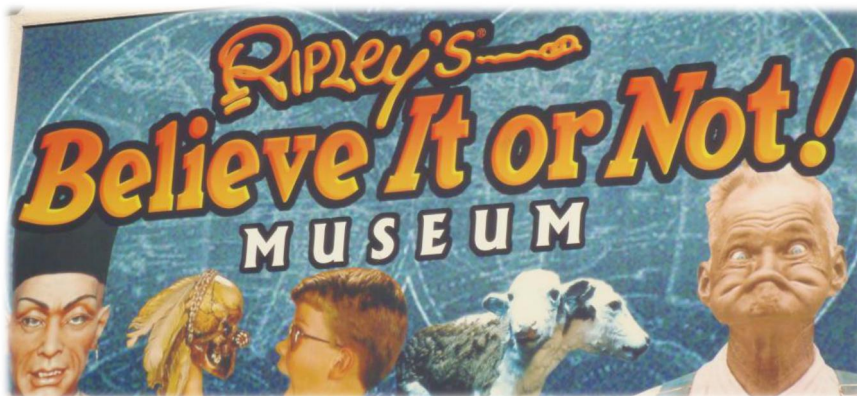


Believe It Or Not

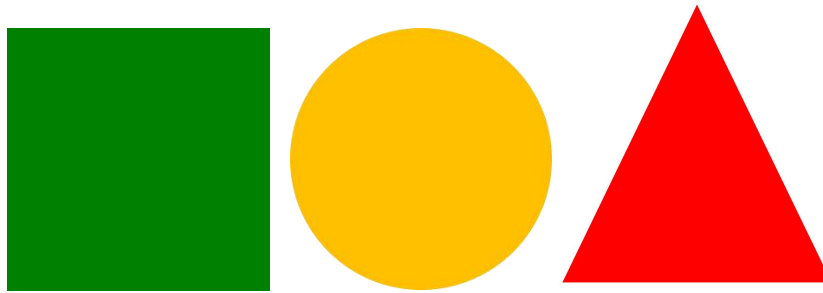


Ripley's Believe It or Not! is an American franchise, founded by Robert Ripley, which deals in bizarre events and items so strange and unusual that readers might question the claims. Originally a newspaper panel, the Believe It or Not feature proved popular and was later adapted into a wide variety of formats, including radio, television, comic books, a chain of museums, and a book series.



When I visited a Ripley's museum for the first time, I saw many replicas of strange people and events, that actually existed and happened. I was surprised that these people and events were not found in educational textbooks or discussed in public forums. Maybe they were left out because they were peculiar or because the burden of proof to their validity was not sufficiently provided. Whatever the reasons, it made me wonder what is **Real** and **True**. Is there such a thing that is **absolutely True** or is everything that we think we know just something that we **'Believe'**?

Absolute Truth



"**Absolute Truth**" is defined as inflexible reality: fixed, invariable, unalterable facts. **Absolute Truth** is something that is **true at all times and in all places**. It is something that is **always true** no matter what the circumstances. It is a fact that **cannot be changed**.

For example, there are no round squares...there are also no square circles...the angles of a triangle add up to 180 degrees...living things are alive...time moves forward. These are all true by definition.

Moral Truth



"**Moral Truth**" is defined as: relating to or concerned with the principles or rules of **right conduct** or the distinction between **right and wrong**.

For example, a moral truth could be that humans should be concerned for the care of the young and the old. It might say that we don't eat our babies and execute those of a certain old age.

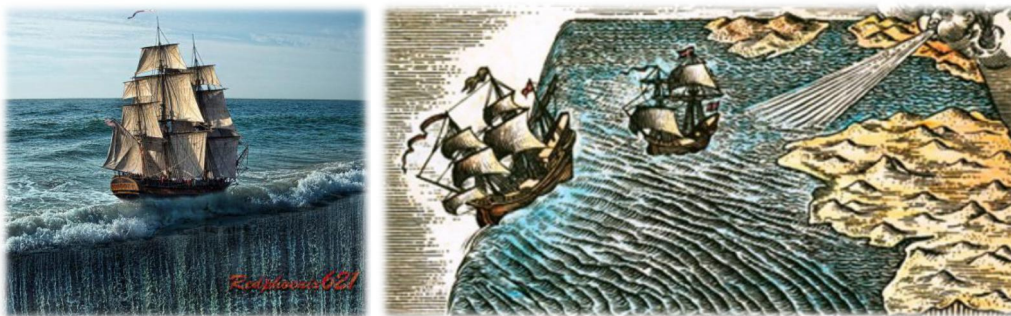
The data from a pair of nationwide studies conducted by the Barna Research Group of Ventura, California showed that **less than one third** of born again Christians **adopt** the notion of **absolute moral truth**. The surveys also found that **few** Americans **turn to** their '**faith**' as the **primary guide** for their moral and ethical **decisions**.

If we know very little **Absolute Truth** and opinions **vary widely** on **Moral Truth** among people of supposedly the same *belief* system, then **how do people**, Christian or not, **make decisions** about anything?

Believe and Accept



Because much of our lives are spent learning, we assume we know many things that are **True**. The **truth is that we don't always know True things....**rather we know what we **'Believe'** and have **'Accepted'** to be **True**. Information from historical scholars, ancestors, parents, teachers, religious leaders....has been taught and passed down throughout human history. But just because information has been passed down and **'Accepted'** doesn't make the information absolutely **True**.



For thousands of years, people *believed* (some still do) the Earth was flat...and if you sailed too far to the horizon you would fall off the edge of the Earth. The **Accepted 'Flat Earth' belief limited human actions and interactions** and influenced people's daily behavior...and those who challenged this *belief* were criticized and chastised by those who were resolute in their *Accepted Belief*.

With the invention of telescopes, airplanes, rockets, satellites, and countless journeys across the globe and into space, we now can conclude that the Earth is not flat, yet some still don't accept the proof.



Aristotle states that, “The high-minded man must care more for the **truth** than for what people think.” So if we consider ourselves to be **wise** individuals, our concern should be to **find truth** and not just opinions.

But because Absolute Truth cannot always answer people’s deepest questions and Moral Truth varies so much depending of the person and circumstances, people prefer to rely on what they **believe** to be **true in their own minds** rather than search for what is **True for All**. If we make decisions on what we **believe**...then **what we believe is important**... it is our **Faith**.

Faith is when we act as if that which we ‘believe’ is absolutely ‘true’.

The Questions of Faith

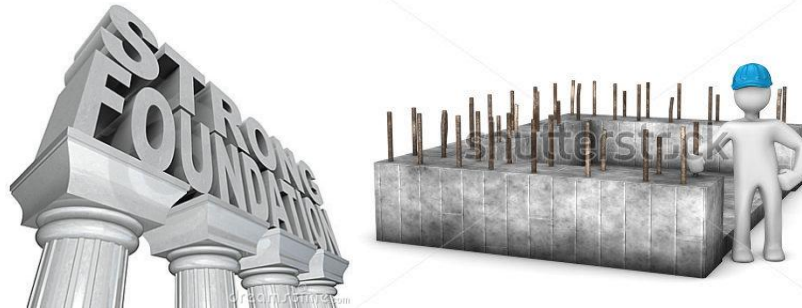


- **Who or What started life in our universe into existence?**
- **What is our purpose in our Earthly life?**
- **What happens after our life on Earth?**

No Human was **around at** the very **beginning** of time to record history with accurate facts and document with certainty how human existence started. Thus **all accounts** of “The Beginning” must be considered **by Faith**. Even scientists cannot agree on what/who started the very beginning; they just say, *by faith*, that something started the “*Big Bang*”.

And many many many years after the very beginning people formed theories of **life origin, life purpose, and afterlife**...and *belief* systems start to emerge in folklore, science, religion, and philosophy. These *beliefs* have been debated, refined, and passed down for generations...many have some **truth** (moral and absolute) rooted in them...but **they all still require faith to believe them or not.**

Foundation of Belief System



With so many people of so many different *beliefs* from ancient times to the present, how can you pick a **good belief system**. Some say that they don't belong to any *belief* system and that puts them in the largest *belief* system of all called 'Me-ism'....**We all believe 'something' and that 'something' influences our actions.** And no two people *believe* exactly the same 100% of the time. So below are a few of my thoughts on what should be included in a **good belief system**:

- **Contains a doctrine open for interpretation and growth**
- **Answers the Questions of Faith**
- **Contains believable Absolute Truth**
- **Contains Moral Truth that is 'Fair To All' and not just a few**
- **Equips you with power to make your life journey**
- **Provides a good practical example of how to apply *beliefs***
- **Does not require works or sacrifice to attain acceptance**
- **Foundation is Love and Forgiveness**

On my life quest to find **truth**, I have studied many *belief* systems from many past and present generations. I can honestly say that **all belief systems** have their **flaws** and **none** can be called **perfect**; hence it takes **faith** to *believe* in any one system. And it also takes **patience** to allow yourself time to **learn, mature, and change** as you continue your destiny to find **truth**. Remember that others of the same *belief* system or outside of it may not share your *beliefs*. **Your beliefs are yours.** Below are **my beliefs** and you can **believe them or not.**

I Believe



I believe that science and various religions agree that in the beginning there was 'nothing'...and 'something' came from 'nothing'....and that 'something' is 'everything' that is in our universe.

I believe that everything on earth and in our universe has design intent and is not random....and if everything has design intent...there has to be a Designer of Immense Power whom I call The Creator.

I believe that there are many things that the human mind cannot truly understand with certainty in our very brief lifespan. Original Creation, Good and Evil are a few of these many things.

I believe that people possess the power of choice. We spend much of our life making decisions internally that affect ourselves, others, and the world around us.

I believe that mankind's choices separated us from the Original fellowship that we had with the Creator and that this separation required atonement to restore.

I believe that Jesus Christ was the blood atonement that provides mankind reconciliation with the Creator if we *believe* by faith in his sacrifice for us.

I believe that the life and words of Jesus are like none other who has Ever lived. His example for daily living, love, suffering, forgiveness, dying, and Resurrection are unparalleled.

I believe that there is an eternal afterlife which is far different than the physical life that we live on Earth.



There are so many things that people **believe that are not true**. There are also so many things that people **don't believe that are true**. The central issue is the commodity of time.

When we believe things that are not true we are wasting time and creating a self-fulfilling world that leads to our own disillusionment, discontent, and destruction.

When we don't believe things that are true, we are wasting time and missing the beauty of what it means to actually "live" life.



Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? Isaiah 53:1

I once *believed* that **truth** led you to **faith**; now I understand that it takes **faith** to lead you to **truth**. History has shown that **great destruction** can occur when people *believe* things that are **not true**... so our quest for **truth** by **faith** must continue. The statements of my **faith** above may agree with some and may disagree with others, but I am not here to prove my *beliefs* as absolute facts. I only want to share my *beliefs* as **faith** on my path to find **absolute truth**. You can:

BELIEVE IT OR NOT!