

7 UNIVERSAL TRUTHS

Find personal freedom in 7 sequential steps

*Your guide to gain access to the
ultimate in revealed truth*

DR. DOUGLAS SHAW

PREFACE

7 UNIVERSAL TRUTHS
published by FullCycle Publishers

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International Standard Book Number:

Cover design by ImageStudios, www.imagestudios.net

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Dear Reader:

*Veritas (Ver"i*tas Latin for truth, the true or real nature of reality—to enlarge and enhance our view of true life together).*

Can we experience true life together? Is there a realm of societal belonging that both embodies the potential to know truth and encourages experiences that can collectively be interpreted to build a consistent and definitive view of reality? What is Veritas? What is truth?

From my boyhood in India I have known the teachings of my family members who intensely pursued knowledge and the experience of spiritual enlightenment as gurus and mystics. I have held a lifelong fascination with understanding how religions worldwide perceive truth which has included earning a doctorate in that pursuit. In my study of the masters and my attempts at adherence to their revelations, I have come to a revelation of my own.

While I do not view myself as overly religious, it is in the combined or communal world of religious

thought that truth as an implementation for social change and societal foundations is most often initiated and ultimately interpreted.

To ignore religion altogether and pursue an interpretation of truth is fantasy.

My personal revelation is stated simply and developed systematically for you in this booklet. By gaining insight into and applying these seven sequential universal truths, you can arrive at a personal revelation of truth and experience the ageless promise that the knowledge of truth embodies the hope, enlightenment and expression of your personal freedom...and will set you free!

My hope is that you will not only gain new insight and understanding, but also find a new revelation of personal freedom—a freedom that only comes from knowing the seven universal truths.

Douglas Shaw

*To all who are seekers of truth—who are searching for universal reality—who are longing to know personal enlightenment and freedom—who want to experience a self-sufficient inner calm and assurance...the promised reward is for you.
This booklet is for you!*



To all those students, professors and various workers who have already taken this message to their world—one individual at a time—to the reward you already are experiencing I can only add my deepest thanks. To those who will take this booklet and these universal truths to your personal world, I have an abiding assurance that you will discover Veritas and the rewards that come from sharing this universal knowledge with others.

INTRODUCTION

All religions claim to have “the truth” — unique and exclusive. Even those people who are not religious have pieced together their own, personal version of the truth.

It is not my intent to tell you who’s “right” or “wrong,” but rather to explore a more basic question: Are any universal truths interwoven into the fabric of humanity and history which transcend the conflicts between major religious creeds and, if realized, could change the dilemma of a world often camped out on the thin edge of despair?

Some of the universe’s truths are clear and self-evident. Only a color blind or irrational person living in a disconnected unreality will deny that grass is green, snow is white and the sky is blue.

Yet does the universe harbor deeper truths, hidden yet seemingly obvious, simple yet profound, unchanged for centuries, yet containing the potential to transform human lives?

Is there a destination and true arrival for the spiritual seeker—or have we been left to roam the earth like aimless wanderers who never reach home?

No matter what others think, ultimately you have to decide.

The seven universal truths that follow are developmental. Each one builds on the reality of the previous and paves the way for the next. Universal truth 1 is foundational to each that follow. I challenge you to explore each in order and once you have examined all seven determine for yourself whether they collectively have initiated a new understanding of reality and a hope for collectively experiencing and achieving “true life together” with others.

Universal Truth 1 establishes the fundamental premise of uniqueness in these universal truths.

UNIVERSAL TRUTH 1

The awesome creation all around us is not only impressive, but unique, including you.

- The striking beauty of the Rocky Mountains, Oregon’s lush green valleys and towering, two-thousand year old California redwoods can not only leave us appreciative or awestruck, but seem to speak of an intentional handiwork.
- We cannot help but marvel as we gaze into the sky at a flock of migrating birds going south for the winter, their thousand-mile course guided by some unexplained, inner global guidance system.
- Tame and wild animals behave instinctively and even sensitively at times, leaving us fascinated by their apparent intelligence.
- Since at least 1984, the DNA imprint in every human being is no longer a theory but a scientific reality. Every single human being is a unique creation.

For some, there is a god called ‘chance’ who has never identified himself. For others who follow one of the world’s religions, there is(are) a supreme being (or beings) identified in their sacred writings.

Even though we may not know who or what that supreme being or creative power is, the awesome power of earthquakes, tsunamis and other national disasters confirm the infinite power of a preeminent creator force behind the Universe.

- So awesome is this Creator force that even many who do not claim to know Him worship the creation instead.
- As a child reflects its parents in looks, mannerisms and numerous other ways, we humans surely have been made in the image of the one who created us.
- The ability to think creatively, to feel and express deep love and to believe zealously is unique to human beings.
- Like a painter and his painting, sculptor and his statue, an architect and his designs, ancient religious texts strongly suggest a link between Creator and Creation—not to mention the fact that you have been marked with a divine imprint on your life.

UNIVERSAL TRUTH 2

*Something has gone seriously
wrong on planet earth.*

- Famines --- especially in the continent of Africa, kill millions each year. Almost 50% of the world goes to bed hungry each night.
- Wars—ravage nations and tribes—often fueled by religious intolerance or tribal or ethnic conflict.
- Depravity accelerates—as criminals rape and murder children and terrorists behead their victims on public media.
- Terminal diseases, like incurable cancer, create havoc in the personal lives of individuals and families – physically, emotionally and financially.
- Death -- visits every family at various points and leaves us in agony and helpless as we experience the trauma a loved one's loss.
- An accelerating cycle of domestic crisis leaves married couples divorced, children alienated from parents and often irreparably broken relationships.
- At various points in time, many testify to a sense of supernatural evil forces at work against them.

UNIVERSAL TRUTH 3

All human beings have some regrets, feelings of inadequacy and a lack of total fulfillment.

- Even the strongest, smartest and most successful person has moments when he or she feels the weakness and limitations of human frailty and feels the clock ticking on his or her short stay on planet earth.
- Insecurity often results in fears of all different kinds – from the most understandable to the flat-out bizarre.
- Some find themselves paralyzed by life's blows which jeopardize them emotionally, mentally and financially.
- Others become victimized by debilitating, psychosomatic diseases resulting from mental phobias and fears.
- Addictions commonly plague the human heart as inner emptiness and feelings of alienation set in.
- At times, insatiable drives for money, sex and power can push the limits of even the most conscientious and disciplined person.
- Guilt is unavoidable, and though it plagues people in varying degrees, we are all called upon to contend with it. A sense of fulfillment both in our day- to- day lives and spiritually becomes increasingly elusive.

UNIVERSAL TRUTH 4

Religion is a spiritual journey to rediscover our roots— and find answers.

- Hindus bathe in the Ganges for cleansing and worship many gods with the goal of uniting with the Creator through endless cycles of reincarnation. They believe that salvation comes through human effort.
- Muslims pray five times a day and follow other rituals to attain salvation by human effort.
- New Age and Neo-Pagan beliefs include a smorgasbord of pop spirituality, including dabbling in the occult and borrowing from various eastern religious beliefs to discover personal enlightenment.
- Ancestor worshipers revere their parents to gain inner peace and spiritual satisfaction.
- Quasi-Christian cults and psychological cults abound in this third millennium, tapping into a wide spectrum of available spiritual options.
- Christians who are authentic Christ-followers and Bible-centered seekers believe salvation comes not through their personal effort or self focused attempts to obtain enlightenment but through the self sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

UNIVERSAL TRUTHS 1-4

Summary Application Points:

Universal Truth 1 The awesome creation all around us is not only impressive, but unique, including you.

The Bible presents God as the Creator-Father who has a claim on humanity. You may find it difficult to consider God as a father. The Bible describes God in this way, not only as a father, but as One who has unconditional love for His creation—and that includes you.

Universal Truth 2 Something has gone seriously wrong on planet earth.

God is your true father. Sin is a self-centered departure from one's true father. The problem of sin and self-centeredness has profoundly affected our ability to know God as a true father who takes delight in creating and providing for humanity. When we pursue self-centered ends instead of God we violate His standards as shown through the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17).

Universal Truth 3 All human beings have some regrets, feelings of inadequacy and a lack of total fulfillment.

Jesus came as a mediator or ultimate “go-between” to restore humans who are alienated from God. Every obstacle between humanity and

God was removed by Jesus' sacrificial death on a cross (Mark 15:37-39). The status of Jesus as our mediator has serious and significant implications for our individual response to God.

Universal Truth 4 Religion is a spiritual journey to rediscover our roots—and find answers.

Our response to God should be one of dependence on the completed work of Jesus in His death and resurrection to bring us to God. 1 Corinthians 15:3 states that Christ died for our sins. This means that He took the punishment that believing sinners deserve (1 John 2:1-2). Our responsibility is to place all our hope of reaching God in Jesus (Acts 16:31).

Since Jesus is God's only Son, our only access to God is through Jesus (John 1:18; 14:6; Acts 4:12). While other religions contain aspects of truth about the human condition—only the Bible explains the way back to our true Father—our true roots—by faith in Jesus Christ. Only by placing our faith in God's provision for covering our sin can we live with God (John 6:29; 1 John 4:10).

PRELUDE

to *Universal Truths 5 - 7*

Mel Gibson's film "The Passion of the Christ" brought audiences worldwide a graphic depiction of the suffering of Jesus and the personal pain Jesus endured in His determination to finish His mission and die on a cross.

Each of us must answer questions like: What was the purpose? What did it accomplish? What makes devotion to Jesus Christ or His sacrifice distinctive or in any way significantly different from the practices of devotees to other great religious leaders?

An acceptance of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ is the basis for implementing the remaining three universal truths in your personal life. There are chasms in the natural world that are impassible without a bridge to the other side. The distance is simply too much or the danger too great to cross over without a way to get across.

In the supernatural world, Jesus Christ is the only authentic way to complete your journey to lasting or universal truth—the only bridge for us to cross over from our humanism to God's holiness—to meet His righteous standard for acceptance.

Jesus said of Himself that He is the way, the truth, and the life. (John 14:6) The way to universal truth that leads to eternal life is through an understanding and acceptance of His sacrifice on the cross of Calvary.

UNIVERSAL TRUTH 5

Nothing we can do separately and apart from God will give us spiritual fulfillment. We need an outside infusion of God's grace and love.

- History confirms that humanity has never been able to provide for its own salvation.
- The sincerity and ardency of the spiritual seeker, as admirable as it may be, must arrive at a destination where the reality of the human dilemma intersects successful solutions to human imperfections and worldly challenges.
- Jesus Christ did not come to condemn the world, but to provide salvation from the penalties of for sin and spiritual barrenness.
- The God of the Bible as expressed through Jesus Christ loves every human being in the world with a clearly-expressed passion. It is a love which remains unconditional, regardless of our spiritual state.
- The salvation of Jesus Christ showers grace

or unmerited favor on all who are willing to believe.

- The grace and love of the God of the Bible is available even to those who have rejected Him in the past.
- The result of salvation through the love and grace of Jesus Christ is authentic spiritual fulfillment.

UNIVERSAL TRUTH 6

One solution for the human dilemma is the incredible offer of Jesus Christ and the God of the Holy Bible, the best-documented book in antiquity.

- The Bible declares that we are each uniquely created by a loving God and called to the higher purpose of reflecting His great love, character and power.
- The Bible states that we all have regrets because we have missed the mark of “perfection” and are in need of help. (In other words we have all sinned against God by our selfish thoughts and actions.)
- The Bible makes the extraordinary assertion that a way has been provided for us to return to God the Father—our spiritual roots—through Jesus’

sacrificial death on the cross.

- It also affirms the realities of our world’s pressures and human weaknesses and dark supernatural powers and declares the good news that any and all obstacles have been overcome by Jesus Christ.
- In this regard it is important to note that Jesus Christ is the only spiritual leader who can claim the distinctive of a virgin birth, a sinless life, a vicarious death and an actual resurrection from the dead, never to die again.
- The Bible calls us to admit our need for God through repentance, belief in Jesus Christ along with acceptance of His offer of salvation, a more fulfilling life here on earth and eternal life with Him in heaven.
- The Bible makes the extraordinary and freeing promise that nobody, regardless of race, religious background, gender or any other factor, is excluded from the circle of God’s love. In other words you are not denied the personal opportunity to accept or reject Jesus Christ.

UNIVERSAL TRUTH 7

Salvation provided by Jesus Christ is not just a destination, but a doorway to many other good things.

- Salvation in Jesus Christ is more than just eternal life after death, but a blessing for the rest of your earthly life.
- It provides freedom from a sense of spiritual failure caused by guilt.
- It addresses the problem of aimlessness by providing a purpose for your life and a plan from God Himself which you can personally discover.
- Jesus Christ's gift of salvation confronts the fears we all deal with – fear of our own inadequacy, fear of worldly factors and fear of spiritual darkness, among countless others
- It fills us with strength for life's challenges through the in-dwelling presence of God's Holy Spirit whom He promises in the Bible to provide as a comforter and counselor to those who believe in Him.
- Daily guidance from God becomes available through the Scriptures, the Holy Bible and prayer.
- You join a new family, the family of Jesus Christ unified by His authority, love and blessing.

This is only the beginning of an exciting journey to spiritual fulfillment.

IN CONCLUSION

To humbly accept the seven universal truths and find the salvation available through Jesus Christ, you must overcome some possible obstacles to believing:

1. Personal pride,
2. Negative experiences from your past,
3. Giving up of self serving, self centered and ultimately self defeating efforts at fulfillment and salvation.
4. The insistence on iron clad evidence and proof of Jesus Christ's message on your own terms– while much information is available on the authenticity of the Bible and of the claims of Jesus Christ it can never substitute for faith and personal experience.
5. Entrapment by addictions – Jesus Christ has ample power to set you free as you call out to Him in prayer.
6. Fear of rejection by family and friends,
7. Fear of inability to explain your experience of believing in the seven universal truths.
8. Fear of acceptance by Christians and churches not knowing how to relate to them.

Here is what some have said after considering the seven universal truths:

A Hindu from India:

I have finally experienced relationship with a personal God through Jesus Christ, forgiveness of sins and have hope for eternal life.

A Muslim from the Middle East:

I agree. Even though I cannot go back home because my father threatens to kill me for accepting Jesus Christ, I have made my decision to follow Him and tell others about Him.

A Buddhist from Japan:

While I was singing and praying about Jesus, I heard Him call me to follow Him

A Communist from China:

After understanding about Jesus, I have decided to follow Him and the inner emptiness is gone.

An ancestor worshipper from Singapore:

I understand what Jesus did. Even though my parents are upset, I will not worship them anymore. Even though I will still honor them as my parents, I will follow Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord.

And there are many more...

If you decide to accept the salvation provided by Jesus Christ, please pray this prayer:

Even if you have prayed before, you can pray again now. I invite you to pray the following prayer and ask God to forgive you, to enter your heart with His Spirit, and to start leading you every day of your life.

Father in Heaven,

*I know that I am a sinner
and need forgiveness.*

*I believe that Your Son Jesus
died in my place,*

to pay the penalty for my sin,

and rose again for my salvation.

*I want to accept You and turn from my sinful ways,
so I now ask You,*

Lord Jesus, to come

into my life as my Savior

and my Lord.

In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

The Bible says, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” So if you have asked Him into your life, and believe He died to save you, you are a Christian, bound for Heaven.

If you have made that decision I encourage you to thank Jesus for being your personal Savior and Lord.

If you still have unanswered questions or if you prayed the above prayer, please feel free to contact me at dshaw@7universaltruths.com.

For further study I encourage you to consider the companion book, *Life's Deepest Question*.

The seven universal truths are expanded as seven topics exploring 52 of life's deep questions. This book is a resource that can be used as a meditative and devotional guide in your further exploration of universal truth building true life together in community with others.

To obtain a copy you may contact me at dshaw@lifesdeepestquestion.com.

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Dr. Douglas Shaw

Indian-born Dr. Douglas Shaw, once an international student himself, is the President/CEO of International Students, Inc. in Colorado Springs, Colorado. After receiving his initial education in Calcutta, Dr. Shaw came to the U.S. over 33 years ago and earned both an MA and a Ph.D. at California Graduate School of Theology in Glendale, CA. Dr. Shaw's professional experience includes ongoing work as a consultant, producer and guest in various media endeavors, including television, radio and multi-media. He is the author of many articles and more than a dozen books and training manuals. In addition, Dr. Shaw travels extensively in the U.S., Europe, Asia and the Far East and serves as a guest lecturer on topics related to emerging world religions, the new world order, and systematic adaptations for the expanding dimensions of globalization. Doug Shaw is married to Susan, and they have three children, Cilicia, Kassania, and Rajeev.

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Dr. Shaw is president emeritus of International Students, Inc. in Colorado Springs, Colorado. After receiving his initial education in Calcutta, India, Dr. Shaw came to the United States and earned two graduate degrees. His heart for international evangelism led him to coordinate the formation of the M28 Bible-discovery model now used by thousands of spiritual seekers worldwide, and he is the initiator of the *World Changers* conference for top, future global leaders, and the executive editor for over 70 publications. He has traveled extensively in the U.S., Europe, Asia, and the Far East and speaks on topics related to emerging world religions, the new world order, and understanding globalism's applications to the next generation of Christian ministry. His professional experience includes many years of pastoral roles, ongoing work as a consultant and guest in various media endeavors, including television, radio, and multimedia.