

Does Truth Actually Exist?

- “If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?”

–Psalm 11:3



Why Do We Doubt Truth?

*Understanding the Attacks Against
Our Foundation*

The Problem of Doubt

- **“Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart! But as for me, my feet came close to stumbling, my steps had almost slipped.”**

–Psalm 73:1-2

Doubt in a Post-Truth World

- **(Post)Modernism – *The Nihilistic Turn***
 - **Language is Uncertain/Ambiguous**
 - **Truth cannot be understood through language**
 - **Nothing can be understood without language**
 - **Therefore, we cannot know Truth**
- “What therefore is truth? A mobile army of metaphors, metonymies, anthropomorphisms: in short a sum of human relations which became poetically and rhetorically intensified, metamorphosed, adorned, and after long usage seem to a nation fixed, canonic and binding; truths are illusions of which one has forgotten that they are illusions; worn-out metaphors which have become powerless to affect the senses; coins which have their obverse effaced and now are no longer of account as coins but merely as metal.” (*Nietzsche, On Truth and Lies in a Non-Moral Sense*)

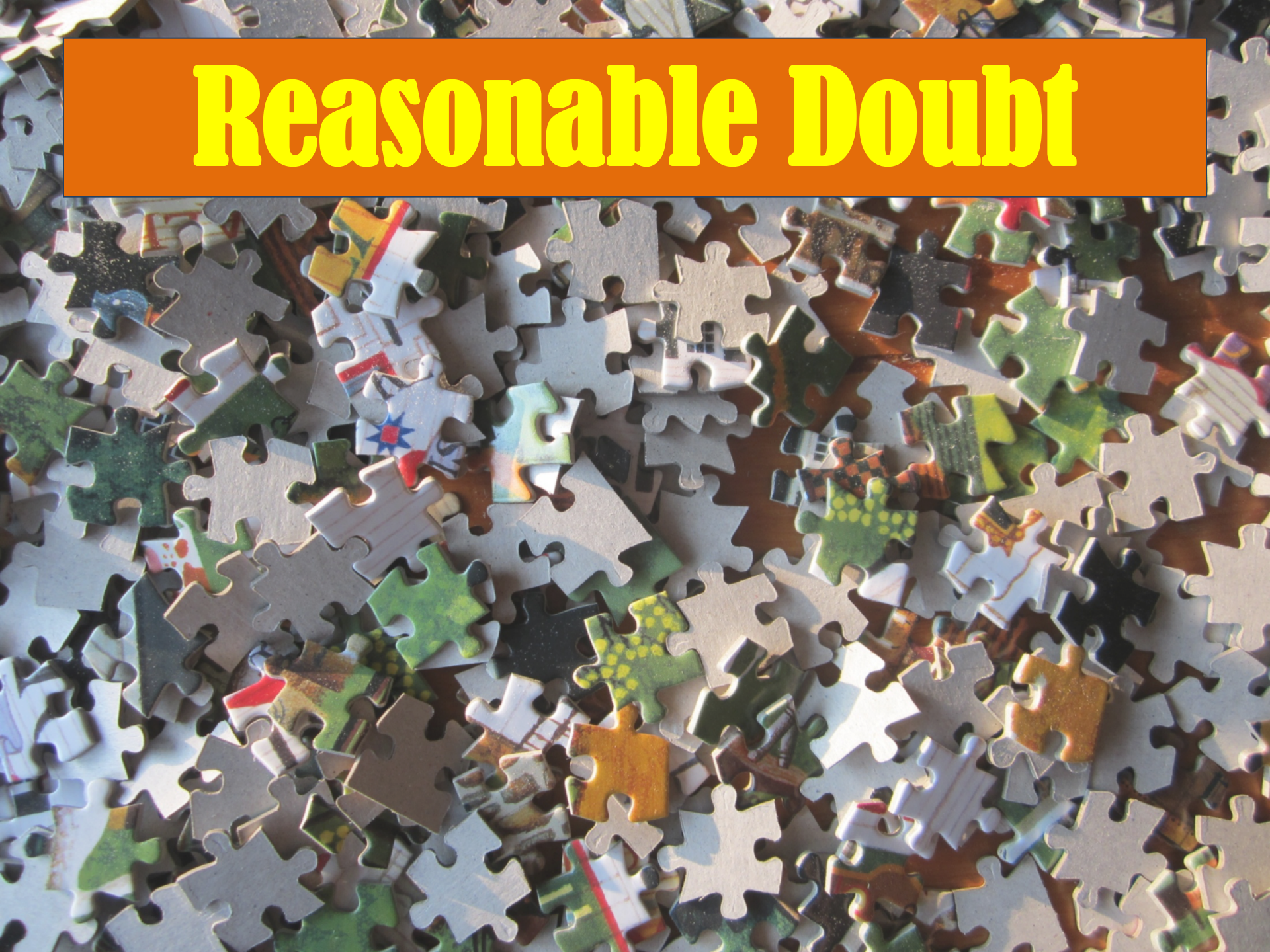
Doubt in a Post-Truth World

- Secular Existentialism – Individualistic Turn
 - Individuals chose their own meaning, because there is no true purpose or absolutes to abide by / “Existence precedes essence”
 - “If there are no guidelines for our actions, then each of us is forced to design our own moral code, to invent a morality to live by.”
 - “You might think that there’s some authority you could look to for answers, but all of the authorities you can think of are fake.” (Sartre)
 - People should live “authentically” / Choose your purpose!?!

Why do we doubt Truth?

- **Our personal experiences lead us away**
 - Psalm 73:3, 16; Matthew 14:30
- **Many people believe and practice different things**
 - 1 Corinthians 1:10-13
- **We really don't have a solid understanding**
 - Hebrews 5:11-14
- **Our lives are filled with hypocrisy**
 - 1 Corinthians 9:27
- **Made to feel arrogant (argument about empathy)**
 - 1 Corinthians 4:10-14,16
- **Mishandle doubts and questions**
 - Acts 24:25
- **Truth is different from the world**
 - John 1:5, 9-10; John 15:18-20

Reasonable Doubt



(Un)Reasonable Doubt



Truth or Doubt?

- **We are not given every piece of knowledge**
 - Deuteronomy 29:29
- **Even now there are things that are not revealed to us**
 - 1 John 3:2
- **We do have everything that we need**
 - 2 Peter 1:3; 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- **We must be sure to communicate in love and consistency**
 - Ephesians 4:14-15

Moving Beyond Doubt

- **“But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil.”**

—(1 Thessalonians 5:21-22)

