

## Aristotle vs. Gravity

Aristotle was one of the greatest thinkers of all time, yet he was not always right. For centuries people believed that Aristotle was right when he said that the heavier the object the faster it would fall. Aristotle was such a smart person with most things that no scientist dared question him on this matter. It was almost 2,000 years later before anyone would question him. In 1589 Galileo invited several learned professors to the base of the leaning tower of Pisa. He then climbed to the top and dropped a ten pound weight and a one pound weight off of the building. Both of the weights landed at the same instant, however, the scientists had been engrained with their belief for so long that most of them denied what they had seen and continued to say that Aristotle was right.

This is such a simple concept and so easy to test, why had no one tested this before? Why didn't Aristotle pick up two different weighted objects and drop them to make sure that he was right? Anyone could have proven Aristotle wrong at any point, but no one dared to because of his great knowledge and influence. For 2,000 years scientists believed a lie and based their studies upon that lie. For 2,000 years students in school were taught a lie about this concept all because no one was willing to challenge a man as smart or influential as Aristotle.

Sadly, this same tragedy often happens in the religious world today. Most people are sincere about their religion and are trying to do what is right. Most people want to go to heaven and want to live their life doing right with God. Yet many are led astray by the thinking and teaching of some very smart people. It is easy to simply accept the teachings of someone we respect and trust without ever checking to see if they are right. It is easy to base our entire system of belief on what we have been told by someone we trust instead of what we have read ourselves from the word of God. The reality is...eternity is too important to not study God's word and know for ourselves for sure.

In Acts 17:11-12 the Berean's were ones who refused to just take what they were told at face value. They were being taught by Paul...an apostle...yet they still refused to just trust what he said. They received the word with an open mind, and then they went and searched the Old Testament scriptures to verify that the things they were being taught were true. One might consider this to be extreme. Could they trust Paul? After all he was an apostle and should know what he was talking

about. Yet Paul calls these people "Noble" because they went back and confirmed that the things he taught were true. Even Paul does not want us to simply take what he taught at face value. In Galatians 1:7-9 Paul teaches that they are to reject any other Gospel than the one they have received...even if it was Paul himself teaching that other "gospel".

Books are good...they can challenge our thinking. Preachers are good...they can apply the word of God to our lives and challenge us to change. Religious friends are good...they can encourage and help us along in the right direction. However at the end of the day we must place our trust on God and in His Word. It is His Word that we will be judged by (*John 12:48*). It is His Word that holds the power of God unto salvation (*Romans 1:16-18*).

For hundreds of years scientists just trusted the theory of Aristotle until one scientist dared challenge his theory. Let us daily challenge the religious theories we are taught so that we will never trust in anything but truth!

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(via the Christian Messenger, Algood Church of Christ)

### **Sincere, But Sincerely Wrong**

The above article is an excellent explanation for why there is so much error being taught and practiced in what is called Christianity. Do note the fact that was stated, that most people who are teaching and practicing in error are sincere in their efforts. I would hesitate to use the word "lie" in reference to what they teach because the word "lie" indicates a deliberate false statement. There are indeed some that are deliberately teaching false doctrine and in their case, it is a lie. Yet, most have been led astray through ignorance. Tradition and trust in people who are considered to be honorable and knowledgeable have resulted in few being willing to put forth the needed effort to do the study for themselves to determine what is right and what is wrong.

It would seem that one of the greatest examples of one who was sincere, yet sincerely wrong was Saul of Tarsus. Years after his conversion, he even said that he had done all that he had done (this included putting people to death for being Christians), in all good conscience (*Acts 23:1*). There is no doubt that Saul was sincere in his attempts to serve God. But, there is also no doubt at all that he was sincerely **wrong**. Don't trust in others. Learn it for yourself! **RCO**