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Dead Sea Scrolls and the New Testament

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## Lesson 8

Pascal's wager

1. Pascal's wager about whether or not to believe in God is to either forsake the pleasures of the unbeliever in pursuit of an eternal reward or choose not to believe in God and live for the world.

His wager is to live the life of a believer in hopes of an eternal life in which case if there is no reward, nothing is lost or to forsake the life of a believer and enjoy the finite rewards of this world.

2. The solution Pascal gives to the other person in the conversation is to reduce the passions they have so as to cure their unbelief. He tells them to learn from others who have struggled with the same thing he is struggling with by doing what they do which is things like attending mass and daily prayer as doing things such as these consistently will cure him of his unbelief.

Kierkegaard Faith and subjectivity

1. Kierkegaard believes disproving or proving the Bible is not the real issue when it comes to faith because faith isn't brought forth from any scientific inquiry and setting out on a journey to prove it will do no one any good in regards to increasing faith. The desire to have certainty about something confounds the very idea of faith requires uncertainty for it to flourish.

2. In terms of objectivity, if one is objective in his search for Christ, the less passion he will have for it and when he does arrive at the truth, it will simply be viewed as a historical fact or just another thing to jot down that we know. If there is no passion in the search because of objectivity, there is no point. At the same time, without subjectivity, we do not contemplate or decide anything. We need subjectivity to search ourselves and have our sense of being to decide what we think about our newfound knowledge.

3. I had a hard time following this chapter so I decided to just skip over this and answer the questions I could.

4. Kierkegaard's definition of truth for an existing individual is that if he can grasp God in an objective manner, then he does not believe but it is because he cannot do this that he has no choice but to believe. This definition involves uncertainty and not objective certainty because he does not know for a fact that God exists but because of this, he decides he must believe which is the equivalent of faith.