Theology is necessary because truth and experience are related. While some would deny, or at least question this connection, in the long run the truth will affect our experience. A person who falls from the tenth story of a building may shout while passing each window on the way down, "I'm still doing fine," and may mean it, but eventually the facts of the matters will catch up with the person's experience. We may continue to live on happily for hours and even days after a close loved one has, unknown to us, passed away, but again the truth will come with crushing effect on our experience. Since the meaning and truth of the Christian faith will eventually have ultimate bearing on our experience, we must come to grips with them.

MILLARD J. ERICKSON
CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY, SECOND EDITION (1998)

I say that my gospel is the true one. Marcion says that his is. I assert that Marcion's gospel is adulterated. Marcion says that mine is. Now what can settle this for us—unless it is the principle of time. This principle maintains that the authority lies with that doctrine that is found to be more ancient. It assumes as a fundamental truth that corruption belongs to the side that is convicted of comparative lateness in its origin. For, inasmuch as error is falsification of truth, it must necessarily be that truth precedes error.

TERTULLIAN (A.D. 207)

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