



# CAPITOL COMMISSION

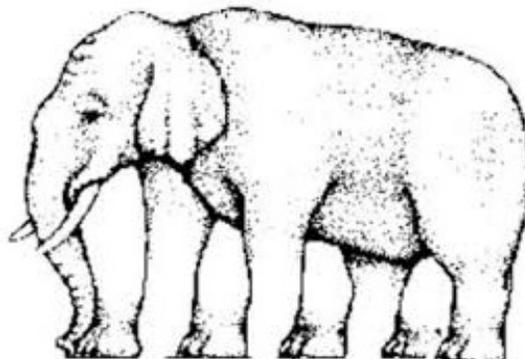
*Reaching Capitol Communities for Christ™*

## The Shape of Reality

January 2015

Freddy Davis / 850-383-9756 / [freddy.davis@capitolcom.org](mailto:freddy.davis@capitolcom.org) / [www.capitolcom.org/florida](http://www.capitolcom.org/florida)

How many legs does the elephant have? Of course it has four, but the way the image is drawn, it looks like it must have more. I imagine you are familiar with this optical illusion. Sometimes things appear one way when reality is something entirely different.



Faith concerns are like that. There is an actual way reality is structured and it is not structured any other way, no matter what anyone might believe.

So this brings up a question we must all come to grips with. Is what I believe actually true? This relates particularly to what we believe about God, what we believe about the nature of a human being and, what we believe is the ultimate one can gain or accomplish in this life.

Every human being struggles when they get into deep thought about these questions. We all believe something, yet how do we know that what we believe actually corresponds with reality? How do we know that what we believe about God, man and the ultimate source of meaning is actually true? Human reason alone can't get us there because it is incapable of even dealing with questions of transcendent possibilities. Tradition alone can't get us there because there is no way to objectively arbitrate between different traditions. Human experience alone can't get us there because different people experience life in so many different ways. So how can we know?

Well, of course human reason, tradition and human experience must all be in the mix because we live life in a material world where these things are central to our perceptions about reality. But there is one more possibility – revelation. If God really exists and wants us to know about him, he must reveal himself. Without that there would be no way to know anything about him. Then, based on that revelation and using our reason, traditions and experience, we can come to a resolution.

In the Bible, in 1 Timothy 2:3-4, we read these words: This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. <sup>(NIV)</sup> God does want us to know him and has revealed himself. In that revelation we have the ability to sort out the truth about reality. And when we get there, our lives take on a whole new level of meaning.

---

\* Capitol Commission Florida is a non-partisan, non-political Christian ministry to political leaders, their families, capitol staff, political networks and lobbyists. The Capitol Commission State Director for Florida is Dr. Freddy Davis. Please feel free to make contact anytime there is any way we can serve you.