

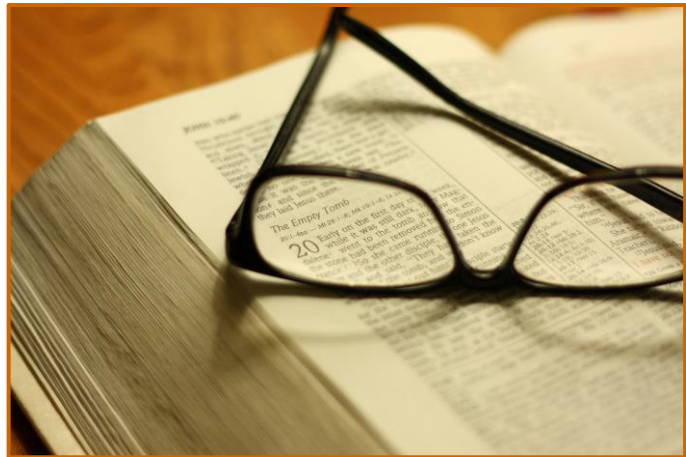
The Half-Life of Facts

Medical school advises students that half of what they are about to learn won't be true when they graduate – they just don't know which half.

In every field of knowledge, half of what is true today will one day be updated with better information, and it turns out that we actually know when that day will come for many academic pursuits, according to Sam Arbesman in his book *The Half-Life of Facts*.

The premise is that for every domain, silo, discipline and school of knowledge, the facts contained within are slowly being overturned, augmented, replaced and refined – and in medicine, for example, the rate of that overturning is high enough that you never really complete your education. Medical school, in other words, never ends.

In physics, about half of all research findings will be disconfirmed within 13 years. In psychology, it's every seven. In other words, if you graduated with a degree in psychology seven years ago, half of the information in all your textbooks is now inaccurate.



By contrast, the Bible is the very Word of God. The fact that millions of people the world over have found that claim to be credible for 3,500 years proves that the truths that matter the most are not nullified by the passing of time or rendered passé by better information.

There is no half-life to the truth that God loves us or that Jesus came into this world to die for the sins of mankind. These truths are grounded in God's unfailing nature and will never be overturned or replaced.

The Holy Bible is recommended reading – daily or very often – to mature into the kind of life and purposes God has in store for each of us.

The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of our God endures forever (Isaiah 40:8 NIV).

– Beecher Hunter