

## **FAKE NEWS!!**

Fake News!!Fake News!!!! I am sure all of you are aware of those two words and the person that “coined the term” as it is used in today’s society Of course that would be President Donald J. Trump. He uses the term Fake News to describe what he considers lies that have been or are currently being told about his presidency and circumstances surrounding his agenda for America. He points out the news media and other mass communication organizations as the guilty parties. President Trump says that what is “truth” is being twisted into a lie, and the real truth is not being reported at all to the public.

I am not indicating that everything or even anything our President labels as Fake news is actually fake news or lies, but only that he is stating that “TRUTH is not being told” by individuals and institutions whose very existence is to report the facts, not intentional lies or distorted opinions.

It is very sad that in politics today and in almost all areas of society, including the institutional church, opinion is often being reported as facts. I believe almost everyone would agree our society is bombarded with false narratives. Have you ever bought a hamburger at a fast food restaurant that looked like the picture on the menu? When someone mentions the term “used car salesman” does it make you think of someone who is honest and has integrity? Of course not. It seems, however, that most people believe they are equipped with a personal “filter system” so that when “truth really matters’ they can determine truth from “fake news. That belief for the most part is “fake news” in itself.

When one has an opinion about politics or non-moral issues formed on “flawed facts” it can result in bad temporal consequences for the individual or even society. But when it comes to spiritual matters, opinions formed from untruths or fake news can send a person to hell. Institutions don’t have to worry about those kinds of consequences. As Christians we must depend ONLY on the Bible , God’s Word , for that Truth.

The term “Fake News” may be new, but what it describes has been around a long, long time. It first appeared in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve were living in a perfect environment created for them by our Loving God. It was a sin-free setting. They could do anything they wanted except for one thing. God said to Adam in Gen 2:16-17:

“You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

That was the TRUTH. I find it interesting that God gave that message to Adam before Eve was even created. So Adam definitely knew he was not to eat the fruit.

A little later we read In Genesis 3:1-6 where Satan was discussing with Eve what God had said earlier regarding not eating the fruit from the tree of good and evil . Eve repeated what God said and even added an additional prohibition God did not include in what had not told Adam in 2:17 . She said in Gen 3:3 “But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, **Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.** “

Not only can you not eat the fruit, you can’t even touch it or you will die! Eve certainly understood what God said.

The bible says in Gen 3:4 “And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die” Eve believed the devil. She believed “FAKE NEWS” and repeated the lie to Adam. What a huge mistake! When they disobeyed the truth, it brought sin and death into the world for all of mankind until the earth is destroyed. Today one might think “that’s such a small sin”. Why would a God of love do something so harsh to mankind for such a small sin as touching or eating an apple. This just can’t be true.

Throughout the Old and New testament times God constantly warned His children to beware of “false prophets” or Fake News that contradicted his Word. If we look what Mark wrote in chpt 8:31 we read Jesus taught the following:

“ And He began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders, and the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. This is God’s **TRUTH!**

In Matt 28, after the Angel rolled the stone away on Easter morning, the guards at the tomb went to the chief priests and elders and told them what happened, and that Jesus was gone. The officials were petrified that the people would find out, so they paid the soldiers money to say that Jesus disciples stole his body while they were asleep. Fake News!! Matthew says the lie spread among the Jews and is still believed even until today. Fake News can have legs that people hear and believe for thousands of years.

### **Example of Biblical Fake News today**

With that in mind, I have listed some examples of Fake News below. This list is not “all inclusive”. The list could be a mile long. These particular statements came from Christians during bible studies and one on one mentoring I was involved in. The spiritual maturity of these men varied from “babes in Christ” (which didn’t concern me) to those I would consider Godly men and Elders, mature believers who should be on “solid food” (this did concern me greatly).

1. The bible is true, however some of the commands are cultural and don’t apply in today’s society
2. I have always been a Christian
3. It is not a sin if a woman doesn’t wear a hair covering to church
4. When God forgives your sins, He also eliminates the consequences for those sins
5. God has given us some commands that are impossible to keep.
6. When bad and horrible things happen in this life, God allowed those things to occur, but he did not cause those things to occur.
7. Divorcing your wife and remarrying someone else is ok because God wants you to be happy.
- 8 Homosexuality is not a sin for me, because God made me this way.
9. I respect and reverence God, but I don’t have to fear Him now that I am a Christian.
10. It is a fact that I am a Christian and therefore I am not going to hell when I die.
11. Fornication is ok if your heart is in the right place.
12. I can determine what God considers small and big sins in my life.

## Applications:

1. Pray for Jesus's return
2. God commands you to know the truth as found in his WORD as you persevere and mature through the sanctification process so you can discern the TRUTH from Fake News. Willful ignorance is no excuse
3. Meditate and Study scripture such as those below and many others as it pertains to knowing and remembering the Truth. You will not hear this on SIN News. If you have a question regarding interpretation ask knowledgeable Godly men to help you discern the truth.

2Ti 3:16-17 KJV All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: (17) That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

Act 17:11 Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

1Co 6:9-10 KJV Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, (10) Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

John 14:21 .He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

1 Peter 3:15 NASB but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

1Co 15:1-4,11 KJV Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; (2) By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. (3) For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; (4) And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: (11) Therefore whether *it were* I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.

Ecc 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.