

Fake News

The news-media is reported to be losing the confidence the general public has placed in it from the beginning of our nation. Much of it has come from biased reporting of the news, slanting news reports to sway public opinion politically. “Facts” that are reported, often from anonymous sources, are distortions. Quotations make the headlines, but often taken out of context. The result has been what is being termed “fake news.” Given a certain spin, what is factual is conveniently distorted into fakery. Such seems to always find a willing audience. When the fake-news is questioned, the one questioning it is readily attacked as “racist,” “hater,” “homophobic”, “Islamophobic”, etc.

Fake-news is not limited to the political scene, however. There is an abundance of such in the realm of religion. There are fake gods, fake prophets, fake teachers, fake preachers, fake scriptures, and even fake churches. This being true, it is not surprising that there would be fake Christians as well. Jesus indicated that it would be so. He warned of “false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves” (Matthew 7:15). The apostle Peter gave warning that as “there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways, by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of” (2 Peter 2:1-2). John, likewise encouraged a wariness of spirit in receiving messages supposedly from God, urging, “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1). Being a true Christian is more than one having Christian parents, going to some church, and living a decent life. It also necessitates discernment between the true and the fake.

God has not provided us with infallible men, but He has given us an infallible standard of identifying the true and rejecting the fake. The holy Scriptures are described as “given by inspiration of God...profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Timothy 3:6-17). We’re living in troubling times wherein the politically correct “call evil good, and good evil, that put darkness for light, and light for darkness: that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter” (Isaiah 5:20). The truth of God, as revealed in the Holy Bible, has been displaced in men’s minds by decisions of church councils, traditions of men, and ever-changing cultures in a world plagued by satanic deception (Revelation 12:9). Jesus Christ alone remains “the way, the truth and the life” (John 14:6), and all else are bearers of fake news. His unadulterated Gospel (Good News) remains “the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth...” (Romans 1:16). In faith, have you yielded to Christ in repentance and baptism “for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38)? Reject the world’s fake news, and embrace the true. –Ron