

FROM OUR PASTOR

December 10, 2016

Warm Sabbath Greetings to everyone!

Have you heard any fake news recently?

The proliferation of fake news and “opinion stated as news” stories that have flooded Americans’ cell phones and living rooms in recent days have prompted a national discussion on the nature of “news.”

The trust that the public once had in the media new stories coming from newspapers, television, and radio is a thing of the past. Many people no longer simply believe what they hear—and for good reason. Slanted stories, raw opinion, and outright concocted or false news reports are seemingly so commonplace that no longer do some of the sources have credibility. The internet is often to blame, since it is very easy for anyone to post whatever they want to without consequence. Other sources also have been broadcasting or printing items that quickly turn out to be false.

The problem with “fake news” is that some people believe it and act upon it. One prime example of this is the North Carolina man who fired his gun in a Washington pizzeria recently trying to investigate a false story spread online of a child-abuse ring. Most people avoid those extremes, but there are consequences.

False news is nothing new and it is important to our Creator that we not be a part of it. God had Moses address it just after the Ten Commandments. In Exodus 23: we are told, “You shall not raise a false report...” Many other verses, especially in Proverbs, address the issue of dishonest and false reports. We are told to “discern the spirits,”-meaning to filter what we hear through the prism of known truth, and our most solid truth is the Word of God. (1John 4:1)

While Jesus Christ walked the earth there were many false reports about him. At one point Jesus asked His disciples, “Who do men say that I am? The Son of Man?” His disciples responded, “Some say, John the Baptist, some Elijah; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.” (Matthew 16:13-14). So opinion was “news” two thousand years ago!

Jesus also predicted that there would be many false reports about him in the future—our time.

“My name, saying, I am Christ, and will deceive many.” (Matthew 24:21-22)

Certainly this has come true as many people over the past 1900 years have proclaimed messages about a false Jesus Christ or, in some cases, proclaimed that they themselves were a Messiah.

False predictions of the return of Jesus Christ to this earth have also abounded, just as predicted.

“Then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ! Or, there! Do not believe it. For false Christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders; so much so that, if it were possible, they would deceive even the elect. Behold, I have told you beforehand.” (vs 23-25)

Jesus Christ warned us of the importance of truth. “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.” (John 8:32) Make sure what you listen to and believe is the truth!

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