

Dear friends,

One of the most repeated phrases echoing through our media is the phrase “fake news.” Fake news has been attributed to the defeat of a presidential candidate, to the election of another candidate, as well as to a myriad of problems. Listening to the news might cause us to ask Pilate’s question to Jesus, “*What is truth?*” (John 18:38)

While we know that some news organizations are more trustworthy than others, when it comes down to it, the only truth that we can really depend on is the truth of God’s Word. That has been driven home to me again in the memory portion of our Young People’s Catechism class. One of our memory selections is question and answer 21 of the Heidelberg Catechism which asks, “What is true faith?”

True faith is
not only a knowledge and conviction
that everything God reveals in His Word is true;
it is also a deep-rooted assurance,
created in me by the Holy Spirit through the gospel,
that, out of sheer grace earned for us by Christ,
not only others, but I too,
have had my sins forgiven,
have been made forever right with God,
and have been granted salvation.

In that definition faith is not a mere feeling, but rather a concrete certainty. True faith involves not only a knowledge about certain facts, but includes conviction that those facts are not “fake news” but absolutely trustworthy.

The definition also teaches us that everything about God’s Word is true. Some would teach that God’s Word is true in presenting Jesus as a unique individual, even the Son of God, but that it cannot be relied on in its account of history or in its description of the creation of the world. By contrast, the gift of true faith enables us to have a knowledge and a conviction that *everything* God reveals in His Word is true.

Fake news has been around ever since Adam and Eve were deceived by the devil’s false message. Jesus described him as “*a liar and the father of all lies*” (John 8:44). It is because of the evil one and his work that falsehood is often presented as truth, that evil is called good and good is called evil, and that we are besieged with “fake news.” But Jesus, in His high-priestly prayer in John 17:17, prayed to His Father and gave us the definition of what is true. He prayed, “*Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth.*”

May you and I take great comfort that in a world filled with fake news we have the truth of God’s Word, which includes the greatest truth, that all who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ will be saved. May the truth of His Word encourage us, convict us, and guide us, this month and always!

Blessings,
Pastor Ted