

## Fake News or the Gospel Truth?

I think we would all agree that we are living in trying times. It's a period in history filled with great uncertainty with vast differences of opinions fueling anger on every side and with that comes uncertainty for a better tomorrow.

Now if you're like me, you try to stay current with these troubling events so we can know what steps we should take in order to survive what may be ahead.

Some of us turn to our favorite news outlets for information while others just read posts on social media sites.

But lately it seems that more and more people have become disillusioned with these different news sources and realize that they cannot be trusted.

Instead of being informative and accurate, we find that so many are what we call "**fake news.**" **and** it's not just things like the tabloids.

Fake News is a witty way to describe news that doesn't share facts and information in an unbiased way like one would expect.

It pushes an agenda.

It selectively presents information in a deliberate way in order to shape a narrative. And so statistically, more and more people do not trust the news believing "its all just fake."

So if it can be said that we live in an information age...we also must realize that we also live in a disinformation age as well.

But... What I would like to talk to you about today is that not all news is fake.

There is in fact Good News. Would you all like to hear some Good news for a change? News that you can trust?

Well, The Good news is found within God's word.

It is ... The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now the word "Gospel" is an interesting word.

It is taken from the Anglo-Saxon term **God-spell**, which means literally "good news".

So the Gospel of Jesus Christ is actually the Good news about Jesus Christ.

But just like what we see with our political and social pundits who take the truth and spin it in order to change the narrative, the Good news about Jesus has been turned into fake news as well.

Things are systematically left out, false facts are put in and what you have instead of the Gospel of Jesus... we have the **false** gospel of Jesus.

And so this is why I titled today's sermon...

### **Fake News or the Gospel Truth?**

You see I believe that it is up to us, the body of Christ to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to the world around us.

For if we don't, who will? The media? Our elected officials? No, we have been given the charge to carry forth the Good news. This is why it says in : 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:20 that we are "Christ's ambassadors.

And in Romans 10: 14, 15 we read

"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"

This idea that we are ambassadors for Christ is amazing because if you think about it, an ambassador is a representative of a nation sent to a **foreign land** and their role is to share the official position of the nation.

Not make up their own position. Not paint some false narrative that makes them feel comfortable.

You see we are to share God's position accurately...His good news. We are to be evangelium- bringer of the Good news)

In other words, we are like God's news anchors sharing our faith without taking away what society deems as offensive or outdated.

**The Bible makes it clear that God has called every believer to share the Good News, not fake news.**

But what I am seeing more and more in our church at large is the message of truth is becoming watered down by some bad news anchors.

I'm seeing Jesus being presented as only half of what He is.

By almost any metric, the churches in our nation are much less evangelistic today than they were in the recent past and whenever Jesus is preached it has become about a savior who saves me from my bad day at work.

He is a deliverer from my troubles, He is a warrior who fights for me in my personal battles, He is there to get me through and He does this because He loves me. . And it seems that What Jesus has saved us from has become lost.

Jesus didn't just save us from our bad days...Jesus saved us from the consequence of our sin...Hell. And just saying that...Feels a little awkward doesn't it?

I remember when I was in my 20s and I had a new job and a new boss who saw me reading my Bible at lunch one day and asked me “ are you one of those Fire and Brimstone Christians? And I looked at him straight in the eye and with every bit of fortitude and intellect I had I said...”YEP”!

Its the truth. And It may be hard to say...But the reality of Hell is real.

And yet this word is being omitted from the Gospel message because more and more people in our world today find it to be highly offensive and makes Jesus look unattractive and a fake news gospel is put in its place which has greater appeal.

The church at large is presenting a buddy Christ.

And why not? You're going to have more people saying their Christian and come out to your Church. Sure...when it's all about fulfilling your needs with no strings attached. He's my personal savior. Its all about me.

I had put out a question on Facebook last week that asked a simple question..

Should Churches stop talking about Hell.

I had around 40 comments from Christians **only** that basically said absolutely not.

And I was so happy to see that. But ...there was not one comment from a non Christian.

Now understand this...I can ask any question about politics or race issues or whatever and receive comments from all walks of life. But this one question...was ignored by everyone who wasn't a believer... except one.

This person said “why done you just preach about love” and then deleted the comment only moments later.

Well this went right along with

A pew research article came out that showed the most commonly used words taken from online sermons. The results were disturbing to me.

Evangelical sermons contain a number of distinctive words and phrases such as sin, hell and redemption. But those terms were used in sermons only 10% of the time which means a **congregant who attended every service at a given evangelical church had a roughly one-in-ten chance of hearing the words Hell ,sin and redemption .**

By comparison, that same congregant had a 99% chance of hearing the word “love.”

The most common words used amongst Christian sermons was also very telling. The

most common words used by Catholic churches were “Homily, Diocese,Eucharist

The most common words used by Protestant Churches were Hallelujah, come, Thomas and Praise and Love.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is becoming secularized before our very eyes. Its only the feel good parts about Jesus that are being presented. And the reasons are known. **Christians do not want to share the whole truth of the gospel for fear they will offend others. Political correctness is too commonplace even among Christians. The youth in particular in our world today do not want to hear about a God who punishes for wrongs. That's negative and off-putting.**

But the opposite where God is love and understanding is a better narrative.

But i'd like to share with you is that the Gospel message **is a message of Love.**

**Jesus saved us! But the question is....From What?**

We were saved from the consequences of our sins which are Hell and this was the most loving and thoughtful thing anyone has ever done for you and for me.

**At the same time I worked at that new job I was telling you about, I was involved with calvary Chapel of Philadelphia and worked alongside of Jerry Paradise on a creation vs evolution seminar I was putting together with them and while working on this seminar I had the privilege of hanging out with Chuck Missler who if you don't know, was a brilliant teacher of God's word. And Chuck said something to me that just utterly blew my mind. He mentioned how Jesus literally held together the matter of the very cross that He was hung onto.**

**He mentioned the verse in Hebrews 1:3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.**

This phrase "sustain all things" literally means holding together matter.

And Chuck was showing me that the cross and the nails were being held together by Jesus as He was being hung on them. It's an amazing thought. .

And I began to wonder...What would happen if matter wasn't held together.

What would happen if all the atoms that made things in our universe suddenly stop staying together.

To be honest, Science has no clue of why atoms come together to form solids. They actually should repel each other. So science is looking for a Strong nuclear force and the theoretical particle called a GLUON that literally glues atoms together forming you and me and this building and the trees and the earth and stars and so forth.

And as we read, the Bible tells us its God who upholds all matter.  
BUT WHAT IF GOD DIDN'T?

Is there anything that we know of where atoms are not sustained.

Well the closest example we know of is... The sun.

The sun is composed of atoms that are not ordered...but chaotic. Everything's kind of flying all over

the place making a liquid like inferno .

But still... The sun has some order to it. After all it is a ball right if it were any more chaotic it would become a ball of plasma so hot and chaotic it wouldn't even admit visible light. A literal dark lake of fire.

Church, I am sharing with you that this IS what hell is like. Hell is a place where God's presence is not. And so without God, there is disorder, there is absolute chaos... there is hell.

And the theology is simple. Hell is a place man **chooses to go**.

Fake news make God out to be a mean person who sends people to hell to torture them. That's not true.

When we reject Jesus Christ and the Gospel, we are essentially saying I DON'T WANT YOU GOD. I can do it on my own ...my way. And God is saying "no you can't" I sustain all things.

I Hold together the very ground you stand on. If you choose to reject me ... I will let you do it.

I will put you in a place I prepared for the devil and his angels where my presence will not be. OR... you can be with me in paradise if you simply ask.

That my friends is the Good News. God saved us from our selves.

HE saved us from being in a place where there will be no physical contact of any kind with anything because everything is gone.. The sustainer of it all is gone. No light, No sound, No contact, no end. Or...

You see we need to share that Or! lol

We need to tell people The gospel truth... not the fake news.

And it's simple. I've learned from Pastor Bruce a simple approach. I ask the lord everyday for a divine appointment. I ask Him to place somebody in my life today that I can share His truth with and without fail...He does every time. Sometimes twice. Lol

Ask the Lord for that as well. And when you find yourself in that moment...let go and ask the Lord to give you His words, His strength. And He will. He will use you to let him be known.

God wants to be known. Remember Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, '**I never knew you**; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

God wants to be known. Not a fake news God. Not one that sounds like what we think God should be. But the real deal.

Lets not just soak up Biblical truths week after week. Let's put them in practice.

Remember what I said before ...**even a sponge needs to be emptied in order to be useful.** Except when we empty this sponge, it extinguishes the flames. Let us stand.