

The purpose of this publication is to spread the truth, to sow God's good seed, the Word of God, and to confront religious error for the good of men's souls. Editor: Allen Dvorak

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with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.
-- Mark 16:15-20; ESV

¹ Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. ² For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, ³ how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, ⁴ while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

-- Hebrews 2:1-4; ESV

¹² The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works.

-- 2 Corinthians 12:12; ESV

The Holy Spirit confirmed the truthfulness (divine origin) of the message preached (the gospel) in the first century by enabling those who preached it to perform "signs" that indicated the power of God. Those who witnessed the signs could know

that the "news" about Jesus was indeed truth. As the gospel message was being confirmed and committed to writing, the need for the miraculous "signs" faded away.

Just as in Paul's day, there are many people/groups in our day preaching various doctrines about Jesus, salvation, the church, the return of Jesus, etc. But we have a static, i.e., unchanging, "good news" message, confirmed by the work of the Holy Spirit and recorded for us in our Bibles. We can measure any message preached by anyone against this confirmed message and know for certainty what is true and what is false.

The news media present conflicting "stories" about events that happen in our country and around the world; some of those accounts are perhaps inaccurate simply through ignorance and others are just plain "fake news." If I want to know the truth about some event, I have to continue to sift through various news stories, but I often have little confidence that I can distinguish the truth from all of the "fake news." In contrast, we can take comfort in the knowledge that the "good news" about the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus is unchanging and has been confirmed to be true.

Bible Challenge Question - Answer

Genesis 17:17 tells us that the age difference between Abraham and Sarah was 10 years (at the time, Abraham was 99 and Sarah was 89; assuming that Abraham was not "rounding"). Sarah died at 127 years old (Genesis 23:1), so Abraham would have been 137 years old at the time. Abraham died at the age of 175 (Genesis 25:7), so he lived an additional 38 years after Sarah's death.



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Good News...Or Fake News?

By Allen Dvorak

I believe the charges began during the final months of the presidential campaign. Mainstream media were accused, by more conservative individuals/groups, of publishing "fake news" stories that either contained some false information or were completely fictional, with the purpose of pushing a particular political or social agenda. The mainstream media and political left learned very quickly, using the same charge to suggest that Donald Trump had won the recent presidential election because Russian hackers had "planted" fake news stories that influenced voters to vote for him.

The aftermath of the bombing of a Syrian air base by the United States this last week illustrates well the problem behind "fake news." First, the story came out that a large number of Syrians were injured or had died as the result of exposure to deadly sarin nerve gas. Depending on which source one reads, the Syrian government forces had bombed their own people, using the chemical agent or they had simply inadvertently bombed a chemical weapons cache held by rebel forces. Still other sources of "news" have suggested that

the rebels blew up canisters of sarin nerve gas in conjunction with a Syrian government bombing raid in order to charge the government with the use of chemical weapons!

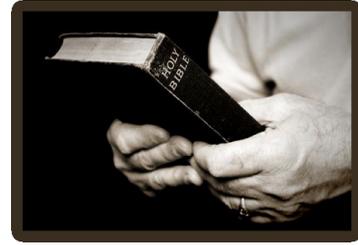
Russian involvement in the initial bombing of Syrian civilians ranged from complete ignorance of the use of a chemical weapon to the subsequent bombing of a hospital where victims of the chemical poisoning were being treated in an effort to cover up their complicity – again, depending on which source of "news" one reads. And on and on it goes.

Mark Twain is credited with having said, "If you don't read the newspaper, you are uninformed. If you read the newspaper, you are misinformed." Not many people read newspapers anymore, but the same sentiment could perhaps be leveled against television and Internet news stories. How can the average consumer of "news stories" know what is true and what is false?

Continued on page 3

So You Want To Be A Wife...

By Allen Dvorak



The husband is to be the _____ of his wife.

The wife is:

1. A **S** _____ **H** _____
 - Peter described the wife as a _____.
 - The practical implication of submission? _____
 - Submission does not necessarily imply _____.
 - Manner? _____ (Ephesians 5:____)
 - Extent? _____ (Ephesians 5:____)
 - Submission involves the possibility of **u** _____.
 - **T** _____ **i** _____ **G** _____ provides the **p** _____ to submit to unloving husbands.

2. A **M** _____ of the **H** _____

- Titus _____
- 1 Timothy _____
- An example of a “homemaker”: **P** _____

Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an _____ way, showing honor to the woman as the _____, since they are _____ with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

-- 1 Peter _____; ESV

“Nothing can be changed until it is faced.”

-- James Baldwin

“Some of the most generous people have no money. Some of the wisest people have no education. Some of the kindest people were hurt the most.”

-- Steve Wentworth

Almost 2,000 years ago, a man arrived at the Greek city of Corinth and began preaching in the market place a message about a crucified king. As the people of Corinth heard his “news” about this Jesus who, about twenty years earlier, had been crucified on a Roman cross and resurrected, there were no doubt many who wondered about the truthfulness of the “story” he was telling. The apostle Paul later wrote to the Corinthian Christians, noting that he had not sought to “wow” them with “lofty speech or wisdom,” but had demonstrated that his message about Jesus was the truth by the “demonstration of the Spirit and of power” (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).

The people who heard the gospel message in the first century would have had the same problem that we have today – how can they know if what they were being told was really true? Anyone could show up in Corinth or any other city and begin preaching some religious message, claiming it was truth, and it would have been difficult for the hearers of such messages to determine

what was true and what was false. There were plenty of people in Paul’s day preaching various philosophies of wisdom and religion and Paul himself was accused of being just one such person (Acts 17:16-21). Later there were even some among the members of the church who questioned his claim to be an apostle (2 Corinthians 12:11-12).

The work of the Holy Spirit was critical in this regard. The apostles (and other Christians as well) were able to perform miracles whose purpose was to confirm the message preached. The Scriptures identify the role of such “signs”:

¹⁵ And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. ¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸ they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.” ¹⁹ So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. ²⁰ And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked

Bible Challenge Question

How long did Abraham live after the death of his wife Sarah?

The answer to this question is on the back page.