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THE BULWARK

FACT CHECK

Would that all before they assert something as fact that time would have been spent to verify said “fact”. Sadly, we live in a time when there is precious little honesty being shared through the various forms of communication available to the masses. The “Fourth Estate” refers to the press and news media in their explicit capacity of reporting news. The media carries a lot of power in wielding influence over the populous, especially with respect to politics. It is imperative that members of the “Fourth Estate” present only truth, and not being influenced by any personal ideology. It should serve as a watchdog for society and not embrace an attitude of being a shaper of public opinion.

“Sanctify them in the truth, Thy word is truth.” (John 17:17) Did you notice the use of “the”? “The” is a definite article and as such refers to a specific noun. In the case of the statement made by Jesus, the noun is truth. Truth is specific and the truth of which Jesus speaks is singular. Now toss in what Jesus stated in John 14:6, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.” Singularity of way, life, access to the Father and of course truth.

Truth is mentioned one hundred nine times in the New Testament. While today people talk about “my truth” and “your truth”, basically truth is conformity with fact. Fact is defined as that which is proven; reality. The truth of events (or statements) as opposed to interpretation. Note what Peter writes in 2Peter 1:20-21. “But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.” In conjunction with this consider what Jesus said as seen in John 16:13. “But when He, the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth; for

He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.” (see also John 14:17 and 15:26)



Truth is so precious indeed. George Orwell is quoted as having said, “In a time of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act.” Revolutionary or not, the thought is nevertheless profound. We are called upon to “fact check”, especially when it comes to matters that pertain to one’s salvation. “But examine everything carefully; hold fast to

that which is good.” (1Thessalonians 5:21) Notice Ephesians 5:10 as it is seen in the King James Version, “Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. “

It is so striking, after reading what Paul had written to those in Thessalonica as noted above, then to look back at Acts 17:11. Paul had left Thessalonica and journeyed to Berea and Luke recounts the attitude of those in both cities. “Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, so see whether these things were so.” The Bereans were lauded for their “fact checking”.

“If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:31b-32) While holding that statement in mind, remember back to what Jesus said in John 14:6 as noted earlier, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life...” Inseparable. Jesus and truth, for He is the embodiment of truth. The only way to the Father is through Jesus, who is also referred to as the Word and the Word is Truth. What is seen in John 1:14, “And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” (wbe)