

1 Timothy 4.7 and “FAKE NEWS in 2021”

1 Timothy 4.7a – *Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths.*

- **What were these irreverent, silly myths?**

The Greek word for *myth* is only used in the Pastoral Epistles and 2 Peter.

- 1 Timothy 1.4 – myths and endless genealogies
- Titus 1.14 – Jewish myths
- 2 Timothy 4.3-4 – wander off into myths
- 2 Peter 1.16 – cleverly devised myths
- R.T. France defines myths as “fables that are both unhistorical and untruthful.”
- Can we compare this to **Colossians 2.8**?
- Paul was concerned with BOTH heresy and false doctrine coming up from within the church and also invading from outside the church.

I believe that the warning against irreverent, silly myths in 1 Timothy 4.7a is applicable to the “fake news” situation in our day.

What is “fake news?” –

false news stories, often of a sensational nature, created to be widely shared or distributed for the purpose of generating revenue, or promoting or discrediting a public figure, political movement, company, etc.¹

Fake news is false or misleading information presented as news. It often has the aim of damaging the reputation of a person or entity, or making money through advertising revenue.²

The only thing that I would add is that sometimes the purpose is simply for disruption (ex. Russian fake news).

ANY lie, no matter the form (theological or current events), is a concern for a Christian because Christianity is built on the TRUTH!

- We are called to “speak the truth” – **Ephesians 4.15**
- We are called to “think the truth” – **Philippians 4.8**

So... how do we navigate the reality of our current “fake news” situation?

1. Remember that anybody can say / claim anything.

- a. That includes someone saying, “that’s just fake news!”
- b. **Proverbs 26.18-19** – Deceiving one’s neighbor intentionally is considered “crazy” in Proverbs!
- c. The question that we have to ask is whether or not the person making the claim is “showing their work.” (giving verifiable evidence)
- d. **Proverbs 12.14** – Providing verifiable evidence is actually Biblical!

¹ <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/fake-news>

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fake_news

2. Be aware of human biases, including our own. – Jeremiah 17.9

- a. There are things that we all WANT to be true.
- b. The problem is that our hearts will deceive us into believing something is true just because we WANT it to be so.
- c. We have to test our hearts and force ourselves to look at the evidence.
- d. **example** – Christians WANT Jesus to return! But too many Christians have been deceived into thinking that a false prophet has revealed when Jesus will return.
- e. **another example** – Many of us are conservatives here. (We generally desire small government and individual responsibility.) So when we hear something bad about a political liberal, we kind of automatically want to believe it.
 - But the question is not whether or not we WANT to believe it.
 - The question is not whether or not their liberal agenda would be bad for the country.
 - The question is whether or not there is any evidence for the accusation that is being presented.

1. A certain kind of tolerance is Biblical.

- a. **Example** – COVID 19 vaccine
 - I have friends and loved ones who were vaccinated just about as soon as they were eligible.
 - I have other friends and loved ones who say: “it’s just so new, I’d prefer to wait.”
 - Christians really shouldn’t judge either one. Its just not that important.
 - This is part of “Christian tolerance.”
- b. **Romans 12.10, 16, 14.13**

2. We should stay away from extremes.

- a. **Philippians 4.5**
- b. **example:**

the unvaccinated are
“grandma killers”



microchip in
vaccine shots

- c. Remember, many extreme statements are made simply because they make good clickbait.

3. Verification of OUR responsibility. – Proverbs 14.15

Philippians 4:8 - Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.