

FAKE NEWS

Wednesday, February 7

Reading: Psalm 12

Psalm 12:1 *Help, LORD, for no one is faithful anymore; those who are loyal have vanished from the human race. 2 Everyone lies to their neighbor; they flatter with their lips but harbor deception in their hearts. 3 May the LORD silence all flattering lips and every boastful tongue—*

A big issue in our world today is fake news. It is difficult to trust anything you hear or read anymore, especially on the internet and social media. Fake news has the purpose of giving “facts” in order to hurt a person or organization and to gain financial or political gain. It twists facts or simply makes them up in order to manipulate people. In the final analysis, fake news items are basically lies.

In this psalm David is surrounded by lies to the point that he cries that people who are “loyal have vanished from the human race.” The words David uses in verses 2 through 4 are a good definition of liars.

The word “lies” literally means empty or worthless. “Flattering lips” indicate a smooth talker - one who draws people in by using insincere praise. “Deception” is literally translated as a double heart. These are people who double talk, which is defined as using language that appears to be true and meaningful but is in fact a mixture of sense and nonsense to confuse and deceive people. A “boastful tongue” refers to a person who claims great things about themselves in order to impress and manipulate others. These people ask, “Who is lord over us?” They feel that no one has the right to tell them that what they say is not true. In the last verse, David portrays these people strutting around because their vile and worthless words have given them just what they want - the praise of men.

The result of all this dishonesty is that “the poor are plundered and the needy groan.” No wonder David cries out that “no one is faithful anymore.” So what is the answer to all the lies that swirl around us? It is the Word of God. It is flawless. It is more valuable than purified silver and refined gold. God’s Word never fails. God’s Word will never lead us astray.

When we look at our media and politicians today these words really hit home. They all seem to distort the “facts” to fit their own agendas. It is hard to know what to believe. They are not as concerned about truth as they are about popularity or their personal power and position. But you can always trust God’s Word. It is truth. We need to read, study, meditate, and apply the Bible to our lives. It is the only real source of truth. It is the only truth that will help us recognize the fake news and lies in the world around us.