



Bethany Lutheran Church  
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## Viewpoints

*Observing events in our modern world from the viewpoint of our ascended Savior.*

### Fake News ~ December 8, 2016

*Christians aren't surprised when the news about Fake News is... fake!*

[Online Version & Archive](#)

What's the favorite food of someone who condemns others for an action, and then engages in that same action? Could it possibly be a Hypocrite Burger? According to lingo used among collegiates, a Hypocrite Burger is a veggie burger topped with lots of bacon.

And what does someone eat after they're been caught and exposed as a hypocrite? Crow, of course! *Eating Crow* is a common idiom applied to someone who's humiliated when forced to admit he was completely wrong.

Could it be that social media and news media are feeding us a bunch of baloney?

For example... Remember the August 2014 Ferguson, MO riots which popularized the meme "Hands Up - Don't Shoot"? Protestors claimed that an officer shot and killed a man while he innocently raised his hands in an act of submission. How quickly the "Hands Up - Don't Shoot" narrative was broadcast as fact across social media and the news media.

There's a problem, however. That was fake news.

So fake, in fact, that five months later (on March 15, 2015) the Washington Post published a thoroughly researched article entitled "'Hands up, don't shoot' did not happen in Ferguson." You can read it by [clicking here](#). Here's a summary quote.

"Investigators tracked down several individuals who, via the aforementioned media, claimed to have witnessed Wilson shooting Brown as Brown held his hands up in clear surrender. All of these purported witnesses, upon being interviewed by law enforcement, acknowledged that they did not actually witness the shooting, but rather repeated what others told them in the immediate aftermath of the shooting..."

In its summarizing closure, the Washington Post states: "[We]... care about setting the record straight... 'Hands up, don't shoot' did not happen in Brown's killing, and it is a characterization that deserves Four Pinocchios." Four Pinocchios is the equivalent of Fake News.

That's quite an accomplishment for the Washington Post to publish a truth that many might suggest is not politically correct. But before you elevate the Washington Post to level of

Gospel Truth, you might want to know that it's currently receiving harsh criticism from its media peers for publishing fake news.

Recently (on November 24<sup>th</sup>) the Washington Post published a story entitled "Russian propaganda effort helped spread 'fake news' during election, experts say." People ate it up and quickly spread the story, turning it into "...one of the most widely circulated political news articles on social media over the last 48 hours, with dozens, perhaps hundreds, of U.S. journalists and pundits with large platforms hailing it as an earth-shattering exposé."

There's a problem, however. That was fake news.

So fake, in fact, that two weeks later (on March 15, 2015) the Washington Post published a lengthy editor's note. In the apology, the editor backs away from the trustworthiness of the so-called experts who served as the source of the news, "in effect admitting the entire story may have been, drumroll 'fake news.'"

What a paradox! On one hand the Washington Post forces other news outlets to eat crow for peddling false news about "Hands Up – Don't Shoot" and on the other hand it's caught red-handed eating a Hypocrite Burger of fake news.

We shouldn't be surprised to discover that the news about "Fake News" is fake. Sin has perverted all mankind. Lies that so easily pepper conversations can also penetrate the news media. As we realize this anew, the shock of it may cause us to wonder if there's anyone who really knows how much news is False News. God does. And he's given us refuge in the Bible.

I know the world considers the Bible to be Fake News. Yet, isn't it interesting that when the people of the world want to assure you that they're speaking the truth, they'll use the idiom, "It's the gospel truth."

- In its narrow sense, the gospel is the good news about Jesus, our Savior. This gospel of Christ is perfectly true and accurate news of the Savior who paid for our sins.
- In its broad sense, the gospel encompasses all of scripture, from the history of Genesis, to the psalms of David, to the prophecy of Revelation. That's all 100% real news, not Fake News, because the source of it is God himself. "For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21).

If you put your faith in the news media, you might be putting your trust in people who consume Hypocrite Burgers. Or you might believe a news pundit who later eats crow. But when you put your trust in the Bible, you have the gospel truth, all the time, every time. No wonder the Psalmist invites you to "**Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him**" (Psalm 34:8).

*Source Material (Links may become inactive over time.)*

['Hands Up, Don't Shoot' was built on a lie](#) @ WashingtonPost.com

[WaPo appends Russian propaganda story: admits it may be fake](#) @ zerohedge.com

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*Blessings to you and your loved ones, Pastor Mike Nitz*

