

---

# From the Pastor's Desk

Pastor Gerald (Jerry) Morris

January 2017

---

## *The Truth Is...*

On a talk show a few weeks ago one of the guests airily dismissed the fact-based arguments of the other guests by noting that we're in a "post-fact society" anyway. He didn't make up that idea, or even the phrase. There are a lot of people talking about this. Indeed, there's a recent book by Farhad Manjoo called *True Enough: Learning to Live in a Post-Fact Society*. What is that supposed to mean? Those who talk about "post-fact society" don't mean a world without facts, but rather one where all facts are equally suspect. They're talking about a world in which millions of (largely conservative) people can discount the facts – agreed upon by 97% of scientists – that indicate that humans are causing global warming. They're talking about a world in which thousands of (largely liberal) parents believe that giving their children vaccines is bad for their health, despite the overwhelming facts supporting the opposite view.

They're talking about a world where there is no perceived distinction between a fact and an opinion, so you can choose whatever facts you like. Yes, there have always been liars. Yes, it has always been the case that if you repeated a lie loudly and often enough some people would believe you. But it used to be the case that once they were shown clear and reliable facts proving that the lie was a lie, most would rethink their opinions. Not any more. Now they can just go to the internet and find their own facts. Scientists – who for 500 years have been listened to because truth was believed to be confirmed by the facts of science – don't know how to respond to this new world. Facts are their only weapons in the fight for truth. If facts are now a designer item, chosen to suit one's own life-style, they have no real power.

There is a part of me that wants to tell those scientists, "There! See how it feels!" You see, I believe some things are true that cannot be confirmed in the laboratory, cannot be verified by facts. I believe that there is a God, who created all that is. I believe that God is good and actually loves us. I believe that God became a man, Jesus of

---

Nazareth, died, and rose again from the dead. I believe those things are true because I read them in a book that I believe is true and even more because I have experienced that God in ways consistent with the book's testimony. But none of that can be proven by science, so all my life I have been told by some scientists that I was a fool. Truth, according to science, is based on fact. My sources of authority – scripture and personal experience – were invalid. Well, now facts are considered invalid. How do you like them apples, Sir Isaac?

But I can't go there. The thing is, I like science. Furthermore, I trust it. No, it's not the only sort of truth, but when it comes to things like global warming and vaccines, it's the sort of truth that matters. But wait! If there are different sorts of truth, isn't that the same as saying we get to choose which truth we want? Is that any better? Well, let's think about it together. Starting January 8, I'm going to be preaching about Truth. Where do we find it? Are there, in fact, different sorts of Truth, and if so how do know each type? Do the different sorts have limits? If it's limited, is it really True? Maybe this sounds complicated. That's because it is. But it matters. It matters a lot.

Precisely because so many people today don't think it does.