Faith in a Post Truth World
John Ryland's Library, Deansgate, Manchester
Rylands Fragment

Oldest fragment of New Testament in the world – dated 125 AD
“You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.” “What is truth?” retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him.”
Faith in a post truth world

- What truth isn’t!
- Why truth matters to Christians
- How we can live truth
What truth isn’t – Fake News

- A female cyclist is verbally abused by a van driver in London
- He tries to touch her and offers to ‘buy her a drink’
- All this is videoed by a motorcyclist behind...
What truth isn’t – Fake News

- At the next set of lights the cyclist catches up with the van and rips off its wing mirror!
- The motorcyclist behind videos it all and shouts ‘You deserve it, you scum!’

But, this was a staged event to attract viral social media coverage!
Faith in a Post Truth world

What truth isn’t – Alternative facts
Kellyanne Conway: defended President Trump’s account of his inauguration attracting more people than ever before. Denying that the statement was false she said she was quoting ‘alternative facts’.
The BBC Failed Its Viewers In Its Coverage Of Brexit, Says John Simpson

“People on both sides lied their heads off.”

EU Referendum: National press biased in favour of Brexit, says study

Of the articles analysed 45 per cent were in favour of leaving the EU while 27 per cent were in favour of staying

Boris Johnson claimed the BBC was “shamelessly anti-Brexit”. David Cameron also raised concerns about the BBC’s coverage of the EU referendum
What truth isn’t - Bias

- ‘Cloth nappies are cheaper, easy to use and more environmentally friendly than disposable nappies’

- Real Nappy Week is promoted by County Councils and financed by Detergent companies!

- ‘A study for disposable and reusable nappies found that reusable nappies had a slightly higher carbon footprint than disposable nappies, when laundered under typical household conditions’

- Study financed by Kimberly-Clark!
Truth matters!

When the Spirit of Truth comes He will guide you into all truth

You will know the truth and the truth will set you free

Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth

John 16:13
John 8:32
Ephesians 6:14
Christians are passionate about truth!

Christianity is strongly **fact** and **history** based

We believe that Jesus

- **Lived:** 4 reliable independent gospel accounts
- **Died:** Over 2/3rds of the gospels cover His death

- **Rose again:** All four gospels – and 1 Corinthians 15

**Faith in a Post Truth world**
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Paul says the resurrection is true!

He was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. Last of all... I also saw him.

1 Corinthians 15:5-8
...and if it isn’t true we are to be pitied!

If Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.

But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead.

1 Corinthians 17-20
Jesus says I am the truth

I am the way, the truth and the life.
No one can come to the Father except by me.  John 14:6
The truth will set us free – but it’s uncomfortable!

We have all sinned and fallen short of God’s standards
Sin separates us from God
Our sins will be punished – we will perish eternally
The truth will set us free – but it’s uncomfortable!

God sent His own son Jesus to rescue us
Jesus died ‘in our place’ on the cross
He rose again from the dead – and so can we
Salvation is putting faith in Jesus – and gaining eternal life
Truth seems strange to a ‘post truth’ world

- In a ‘post modern’ world people don’t believe in absolutes
- Truth is viewed as relative - ‘your opinion’ maybe not mine!
- People form opinions based on impressions
- People respond best to stories and images
1. How to ‘live truth’ - Integrity

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people Proverbs 14:34

- Over two-thirds of the 176 countries fall below the midpoint corruption scale
- The global average score is just 43 out of 100.
Corruption in Romania

Faith in a Post Truth world
1. How to live truth - Integrity

- Honesty and openness should be our watchword
- We should never lie
- We should never take bribes
- We should never be unfaithful
- We should never mislead people or bend the truth
2. How to ‘live truth’ – Honouring our word

Let your yes be ‘yes’ and your no be ‘no’ Matthew 5:37

- We should be reliable
- We should be people of our word
- We should honour our commitments
3. How to live truth – Speak the truth in love

We will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ  Ephesians 4:15

- We should avoid being ‘judgemental’
- We should balance ‘honesty’ with ‘kindness’
- We shouldn’t do it by e-mail!

Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words may be an encouragement to those who hear them  Ephesian 4:29
Summary: Faith in a Post Truth World

- Truth Matters! It matters to God and it matters to us
- Be aware of false truths – be wise!

- In your daily life:
  - 1. Demonstrate absolute integrity
  - 2. Honour your commitments – keep your word
  - 3. Speak the truth kindly