

## Computers and Fake News

Ponder: It sounds good, but is it true?

Scripture: "The simple believes every word, but the prudent considers well his steps" (Proverbs 14:15, NKJV).

Christians believe what the Bible says. That's entirely appropriate. And it's great when reliable outside sources corroborate the testimony of Holy Scripture. For example, skeptics used to say the Hittite people never existed, so the Bible was wrong in what it said about them. But archaeologists later found abundant evidence of the Hittites, proving that the Bible was right all along. However, remember this: the Bible was right long before the archaeologists made their discoveries. Christians didn't "need" archaeology to know God's word is true.

Unreliable outside sources are another issue. Since the 1970s a story has been making the rounds in church bulletins and elsewhere claiming that computer analysis proves the Biblical accounts of Joshua's long day (Josh. 10:12-13) and the ten-degree backward movement of the sun dial in Hezekiah's time (2 Kings 20:9-11). This is supposed to have involved NASA astronomers, no less! Who could doubt the veracity of such a respected American institution and its computers? Besides, wouldn't it be great if computer technology "proved" that the Bible is right?

I'm sorry to disappoint you, but the story is as fake as a four-dollar bill! Without getting into boring details, we must realize that we simply don't have the necessary starting and ending places to extrapolate backward in time like that. Computers only do what they're programmed to do with the data fed into them. And remember, we don't "need" a computer to tell us that the Bible is right.

Be prudent! Politics isn't the only realm infected with fake news!

Hymn: "We Saw Thee Not"

Prayer: Father, we know Your word is truth. We rejoice when reliable outside evidence corroborates it, but may we never become dependent on outside sources. In Jesus' name, Amen.