

Parent Seminar

The  
Time  
Is Now

# THIS JUST IN

Responding to the news with a timeless perspective



Parent Seminar  
**The  
Time  
Is Now**

# THIS JUST IN

---

**Responding to the news with a timeless perspective**

---

## **DINNER QUESTIONS AT YOUR TABLES**

- 1. Share about your family – Age of kids, school, etc.**
- 2. What was the most memorable thing you did this weekend?**
- 3. Come up with a list of all the different places you get your news from. Which one is your primary source?**

HOW IS THE WAY WE ARE CONSUMING THE NEWS FORMING  
OUR FAMILIES, SHAPING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS AND  
IMPACTING HOW WE LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS?

Jeffrey Bilbro

# Reading the Times

A Literary and Theological  
Inquiry into the News

# THE PACE OF THE NEWS

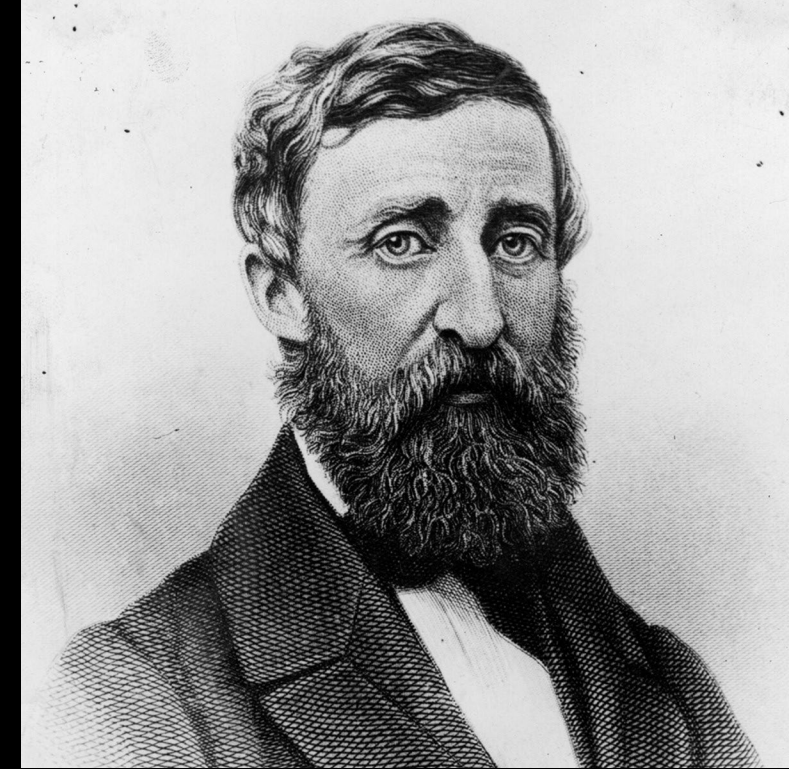
Parent Seminar

The  
Time  
Is Now

**THIS JUST IN**



Thoreau warns that the increased abundance and speed of the news threaten to fragment our attention and damage our ability to see what is really happening and to think rightly about these events. As Josef Pieper puts it, in making a parallel argument, “The average person of our time loses the ability to see because there is too much to see!”



“I believe that the mind can be permanently profaned by the habit of attending to trivial things, so that all our thoughts shall be tinged with triviality.”

- Henry David Thoreau

What does our daily reading look like?  
What do we turn to when we're bored?  
How many hours a day are we attending to the  
news?



“We should treat our minds, that is, ourselves, as innocent and ingenuous children, whose guardians we are, and be careful what objects and what subjects we thrust on their attention. Read not the Times. Read the Eternities.”

- Henry David Thoreau

<sup>1</sup> You, God, are my God,  
earnestly I seek you;  
I thirst for you,  
my whole being longs for you,  
in a dry and parched land  
where there is no water.

- Psalm 63:1

# PASSIVE CONSUMERS OF THE NEWS

Parent Seminar

The  
Time  
Is Now

**THIS JUST IN**



<sup>4</sup> Then he taught me, and he said to me,  
“Take hold of my words with all your heart;  
keep my commands, and you will live.

<sup>5</sup> Get wisdom, get understanding;  
do not forget my words or turn away from them.

<sup>6</sup> Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you;  
love her, and she will watch over you.

<sup>7</sup> The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom.  
Though it cost all you have, get understanding.

- Proverbs 4:4-7

# LOCATION OF THE NEWS

“All people should be loved equally. But you cannot do good to all people equally, so you should take particular thought for those who, as if by lot, happen to be particularly close to you in terms of place, time, or any other circumstances.”

- AUGUSTINE



# GOD'S CONTROL OVER THE NEWS

1 God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever-present help in trouble.

2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way  
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea

- Psalm 46:1-2

*sancta indifferentia*

- Blaise Pascal



“We act as if it were our mission to make truth triumph whilst it is only our mission to combat for it.”

- Blaise Pascal

“Christians should have quiet homes” and beware of the TV and radio [and internet!] with their incessant chatter: “Those who love God should attempt to preserve or create an atmosphere in which He can be found.”

- Thomas Merton

“When we leave the outcome in God’s hands, we receive the courage to do what is right regardless of the consequences. A contemplative response to the news, then, depends on eschatological hope, on fixing one’s identity in a victory that lies outside the vicissitudes of daily news and politics.”

- Jeffrey Bilbro



“Right now your brain is like a sieve with the news pouring through. Start reading something substantial, and you’ll lose all interest in watching journalists write in the sand.”

- John Sommerville

# NEWS IN THE LIGHT OF ETERNITY

Parent Seminar

The  
Time  
Is Now

**THIS JUST IN**

<sup>4</sup> But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. <sup>6</sup> Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

- Galatians 4:4–7

**21** Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away...

- Revelation 21:1



# A FEW PRACTICAL QUESTIONS

1. Fake news versus real news. Media bias.
2. Objective truth versus the need to belong
3. The news and young kids

WHAT NOW?

Parent Seminar  
The  
Time  
Is Now

**THIS JUST IN**

1. News media fast: TV news, push news, Twitter, etc.
2. Be local. Be involved.
3. Pray the news.
4. Slow down.
5. Walk challenge
6. Learn a skill, craft. Wash the dishes by hand. Turn off the TV.
7. Search out news from a Christian perspective.



ad fontes media

# The Media Bias Chart®

Version 9.0 January 2022 Edition – Combined Web, Podcast, and TV

Most Extreme    Hyper-Partisan Left    Skews Left    Middle    Skews Right    Hyper-Partisan Right    Most Extreme

Fact Reporting

Mostly Analysis OR Mix of Fact Reporting and Analysis

Analysis OR High Variation in Reliability

Opinion OR High Variation in Reliability

Selective, Incomplete, Unfair Persuasion, Propaganda, or Other Issues

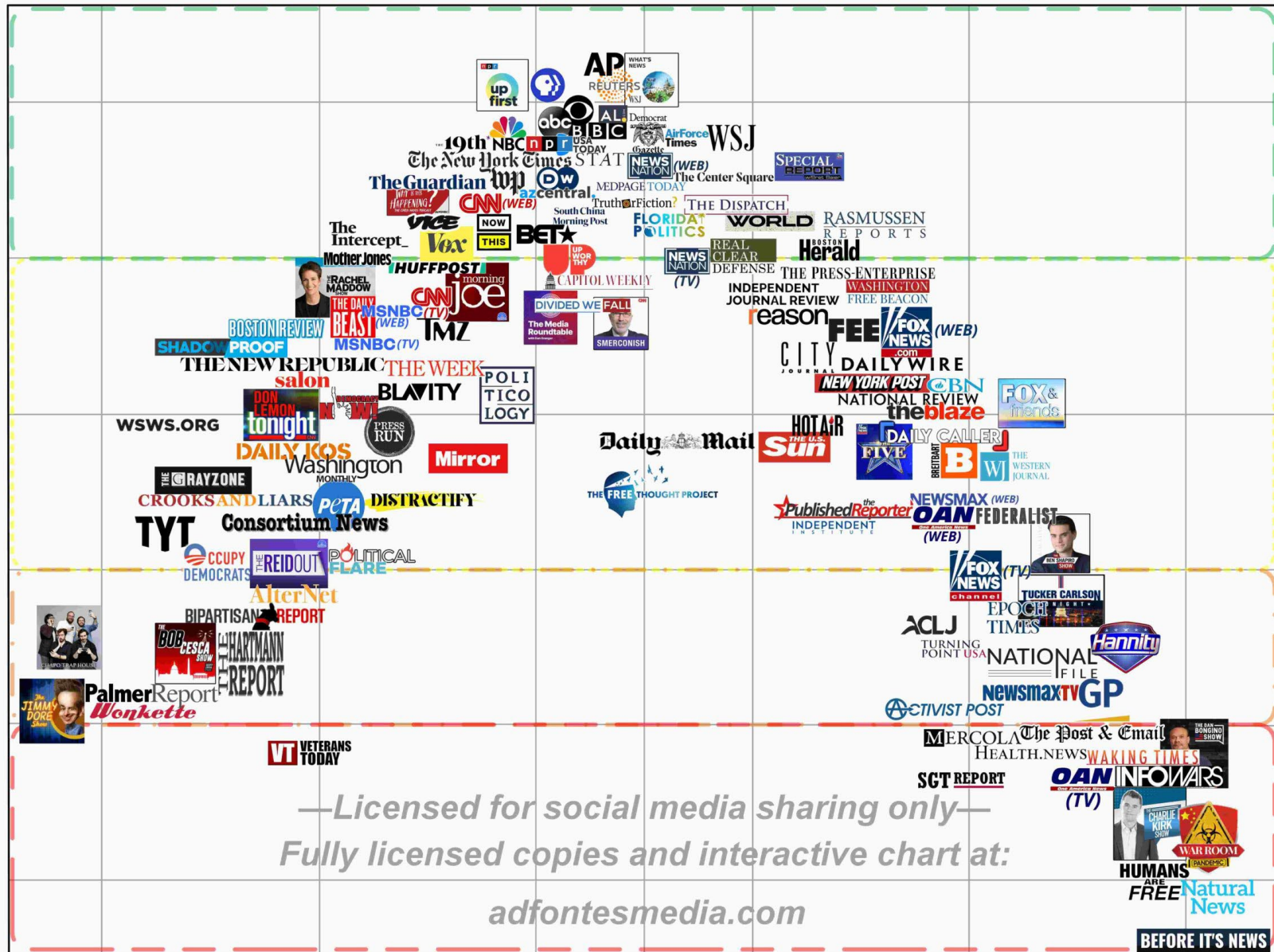
Contains Misleading Info

Contains Inaccurate/ Fabricated Info

MORE

News Value and Reliability

LESS



—Licensed for social media sharing only—  
Fully licensed copies and interactive chart at:

[adfontesmedia.com](http://adfontesmedia.com)

← LEFT Bias RIGHT →