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A LYING TONGUE

Abraham Lincoln once said, "No man has a good enough memory to make a successful liar." George Washington was quoted as saying, "I hope I shall always possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man." In a time in which lying to one another (and to ourselves) is in epidemic proportions, let us see what God says about lying.

God consistently condemns lying. Looking to the Old Testament we read, "*Let the lying lips be put to silence...*" (Ps. 31:18). David prayed that God would consume those who sinned by lying and cursing with their mouths (Ps. 59:12). Proverbs 6:17 reveals that God hates a "*lying tongue.*" Solomon said, "*Lying lips are an abomination to the*

LORD..." (Prov. 12:22). The righteous man will hate lying (Prov. 13:5). Jeremiah says that "*lying words*" are words which "*cannot profit*" (Jer. 7:8).

Looking to the New Testament, we learn we must put away, "*lying*" and "*speak truth*" (Eph. 4:25). In Colossians 3:9, the apostle Paul says to "*lie not.*" Could a Scripture be any plainer than this? In Acts 5, we read of Ananias and Sapphira who lied to God (Acts 5:1-11). As a result of their deception, they were struck dead (v. 3-5, 10)! Jesus spoke of, "*all liars*" and said they, "*shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death*" (Rev. 21:8). What else needs to be said to get people to understand that God demands honesty?

Why talk about dishonesty? Perhaps we can answer this question by considering our advocate, Jesus Christ (I Jn. 2:1) and our adversary, Satan (I Pet. 5:8). Our Lord Jesus is "*the truth*" and God's word is truth (Jn. 14:6, 17:17). Satan, on the other hand, is the father of lies (Jn. 8:44). He introduced lies into the world (Gen. 3:4) and has been lying ever since. Therefore, when we are dishonest, who are we following? When we are honest, who are we following? Answer those questions, and we will see why honesty is imperative with God!

"The truth hurts" is an accurate statement at times. Yet, isn't greater damage done when we lie to others (or to ourselves)? Isn't it a far worse thing to be found out as a liar and a dishonest person than to have just told the truth in the first place? This world encourages us to lie "a little bit," or "bend the truth" (?) at times. Yet, isn't it better, and so much easier, to always tell the truth? As Mr. Lincoln said, "No man has a good enough memory to make a successful liar." Make no mistake, "*your sin will find you out*" (Num. 32:23). If it

doesn't come in this life, it will come on the Day of Judgment (II Cor. 5:10; Ecc. 12:13-14). What then, friend? Consider the consequences of your choices before it is too late. "*It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment*" (Heb. 9:27). Are you ready for the Judgment Day? Can you honestly say that you have obeyed Christ and are a Christian (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38, 22:16)? Or, have you been lying to yourself all this time? The truth is that Jesus Christ is "*the author of eternal salvation to all them that obey Him*" (Heb. 5:9). Don't deceive yourself by thinking that simply hearing His word is enough. You must obey His will (Jas. 1:22-25). – Jarrod Jacobs

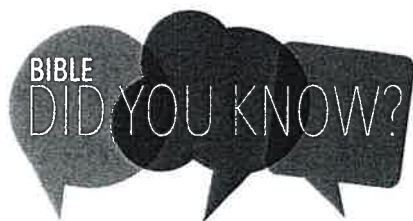
The apostle Peter wrote, "*According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue*" (II Pet. 1:3). As Christians, we're in the habit of saying that God has given us everything essential to life and godliness. We recognize God as the giver of all good things, and we know He blesses us daily. In this letter, Peter goes farther than

just saying that God has given us those things “essential” for life and godliness. He affirms that God has given us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness! Yes, there is a difference between things “essential” to something and things that “pertain” to something.

To illustrate: If you own an automobile, but only have the things *essential* to the automobile, what do you have? You'll truly have the “bare-bones” of the car! In contrast, what if you owned an automobile and had everything that *pertains* to the car? What would you have then? Would there be room to sit in a car that possessed everything pertaining to a car? Think about what Peter wrote – God hasn't merely given us all things that are essential to life and godliness, but He's given us all things that pertain to life and godliness! Remember the words of Christ in John 10:10!

Do we believe this? If so, are we thankful to God? If we believe the words of II Peter 1:3, why do we act

as if everything depends on us when we know God has given all? Read II Peter 1:3 again and notice that God has given us all of these things through the knowledge of Christ. In other words, through the gospel of Christ. Therefore, through the gospel, God has given us “*all things that pertain unto life and godliness.*” If there is, therefore, anything in our religion that didn't come through the gospel, then it doesn't pertain to life and godliness. Is it not time to check ourselves and see if we're following anything we can't find in the New Testament (II Cor. 13:5; I Pet. 4:11)? – Jarrod Jacobs



“Better is a dry morsel and quietness with it than a house full of feasting with strife. A servant who acts wisely will rule over a son who acts shamefully, and will share in the inheritance among brothers. The refining pot is for silver and the furnace is for gold, but the LORD tests hearts. An evildoer listens to wicked lips; a liar pays attention to a destructive tongue.”

Proverbs 17:1-4



DIRECTIONS: Each first Sunday of the month, we will have challenges that you should attempt to complete by the end of the month. If we all, as members, complete these challenges, our church will grow in spirit and in number.

1) Bible Reading Challenge

Ephesians 3:4-5 *"By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit."* It is amazing how simply by reading the word of God we can have the same insights and understanding as the apostles! That means that when we read, we can have the same level of faith and courage and patience and strength as the apostles as well! This month the challenge is to read as many new testament books in their entirety as you can. By reading the whole book, you will be able to see a fuller context which provides a richer meaning and bring a stronger level of understanding to gain all the insights into spiritual wisdom they had. What a blessing! Start reading and see how much your understanding grows!

2) USING YOUR BIBLE IN THE WORLD

Share the following verses with someone who does not attend this congregation at least twice this month:

John 10:7-17

"So Jesus said to them again, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, even as the Father knows Me and know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again.'"