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THE BIBLE VIEW

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The Whole Truth, and Nothing but the Truth

Bill Brinkworth

There was a time when a person's words were trustworthy and binding. Most assumed when someone spoke that it was the truth they were speaking. Written contracts were not that common; as once a person gave his word and shook hands on the matter, it was most likely as good as done. When someone gave his word, the matter was just assumed to be taken care of.

Lying got the small child a spanking or in the corner by mom or dad. A lie about not doing one's homework because the "dog ate it" got smirks from the class and an unforgettable brand that would follow him for years as a liar. Saying one would do something, and not do it, was breaking of one's word and would also cost him future trust from his peers. Job promotions were often denied because of one's not being "good to his word". Social repercussions would taint one's character, when a person uttered non-truths.

Being a liar was a disgrace. Now it seems it has little impact on one's character, as few are noted for their honesty.

People are surprised when a politician actually does what he said he would as he was running for office. Dishonest leaders, and professionals are no longer fired for their falsehoods and deceptions. Some liars are even re-elected and given promotions.

Promises are made, and not kept. People lie to the police, teachers, parents, friends, and others and seldom reap social consequences for their lies. I have even heard a government employee tell me that when dealing with a suspected criminal it was okay to lie to them, in hopes to sway them in giving a confession of guilt. It seems lying does not carry the stigma it should or once held.

However, even though society's value on honesty has changed, the never bending yardstick for morality has not wavered. God's Word still declares lying, deception, falsehood, "little white lies," or whatever it is labeled so it does not seem that bad, as sin.

Here is some of what the Bible teaches about lying:

According to God's Word, all people are liars, and always have been.

"God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged." Romans 3:4

"... 13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:" Rom. 3:12-13 Also: 1 John 2:21.

Lying is okayed in one's mind, which gives the mouth the permission to speak falsehoods.

“Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: 23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.” Mark 7:22-23
Also: Gen. 8:21, Mat. 15:19, Jer. 17:9

When one's heart is bent to lying, it is not unusual that the devil uses this to further destroy one's character and get him further away from obeying God. Satan is the originator of lying and will use it to his advantage every chance he can.

“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” John 8:44

Even though our flesh will always want to lie, we are still commanded to be honest. We are always to tell the truth; no “buts”, no excuses!

“Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;” Col. 3:9

“Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another.” Lev. 19:11 Also: Ex. 20:16, Eph. 4:22-25.

There is a lot of lying involved even in “religion”, especially unbiblical ones. That is why the only safe way to obey and worship God is found in God's Word, the Bible. Man's ways and philosophies are not trustworthy.

“He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his [God’s] commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.” I John 2:4 Also: I John 4:20.

“Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.” I John 2:22

“Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.” Rev. 3:9 Also: Titus 1:14.

“Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. 6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.” Prov. 30:5-6 Those that alter God’s words are liars! Also: Rom. 1:25.

God is the only one that can always be trusted. He never has or will lie. That is why His preserved Word is the only source of spiritual, life-guiding truths.

“That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:” Heb. 6:18 Also: Ps. 25:10, Ps. 119:142, Ps. 119:151, John 17:17, Titus 1:2.

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” John 14:6

Morality kept much lying in check in the past. Most were “moral”, even the unsaved. Now that the common source of morality, the Bible, has been ignored and its value neutered by society, there are no rules. Ethical rules have

been disregarded by society, and man is doing what he thinks is right. If lying will get him what he desires, then dishonesty is justified by the “ends justify the means” philosophy.

The world’s dark view of old-fashioned Biblical morals and telling the truth should not alter a Christian’s tongue. What comes out of his mouth should always be right and true. We are of the few remaining that live by God’s standards.

Our words must always be honest; no matter what it costs us. Instances where our honesty is challenged and expensive could be:

- When pulled over by a policeman for speeding, we must answer” Yes, officer, I was speeding,” when asked.
- Did you do your homework, “No, maam. I did not”.
- “Did you report all your earnings to the IRS? No sir, I did not.”

There will be a high cost for telling the truth. However, that cost may help others see that the truth can still be told, and our word and name will have more value.

God will bless the truth and not the sin of lying — no matter how “small” one colors the sin. Others may even notice that the teller-of-truth, is a Christian, and once again Christians will regain reputations of being honest and Christ-like. Many may even want to read and trust God’s Book of Truth,

the Bible, because of a Christian's trustworthy testimony. Be honest!

“Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight.” *Prov. 12:22*

Reward of Honesty

Edited from an Article by F. W. Robertson

Christian businessmen often complain that their honesty is a hindrance to their success. They see the amount of money that pours into the coffers of less scrupulous businessmen, while they have much longer to wait for their honest living to come.

Do you think that God is going to reward honor, integrity, and honesty with this world's coin? Do you believe that He will pay spiritual excellence large amounts of money?

Now consider the price that the immoral, less scrupulous businessman is paying for his “success”. Perhaps he is paying for his dishonesty by having mental degradation and inward dishonor. Maybe he has to take pills to sleep at night. His advertisements are all deceptive. His treatment of his workmen is poor. His cheap prices are made possible by inferior articles. Sow that man's seed, and you will reap that man's harvest. Cheat, lie, advertise dishonestly, be unscrupulous in your business transactions, and money will come to you, but at what price?

If the price that he will pay is too much for you to pay, let him have his harvest, and take your own reward. Yours will be a clear conscience, a pure mind, pride in what you are doing, no guilt, and God's hand of blessing. Will you part with that for his pittance? Then why do you complain? He will pay his price. Hopefully, you will not choose to pay his price also.

“The liar's punishment is not in the least that he is not believed, but that he cannot believe anyone else.” — Shaw