

The Oologah Informer

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The Bible on Lying **By Jeremy Northop**

The writer of the book of proverbs profoundly declared: “These six things the Lord hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren” (Proverbs 6:16-19). Among the seven things that God hates, the sin of lying is mentioned twice. Many people can quote Revelation 21:8 where the Bible teaches that all liars will suffer eternity in Hell. Lying takes place often and most times without remorse in the culture of the United States. It has become completely accepted in some circles. Lying is still an abomination to the Lord.

One person pointed out some eight different situations in which people generally lie. Some are very much accepted and some are not. (1) Some lie out of habit. It is ingrained early in life, and some people never stop regardless of the situation. (2) Some lie out of malice. Paul alluded to these people in Romans 1:28-29. It was something that went on in Corinth (2 Corinthians 12:20). (3) Some lie out of fear. This is perhaps one of the most accepted motives for lying. Someone might justify truth being told by saying something like, “people should not have to tell the truth if it is going to hurt or kill someone.” (4) Some lie out of carelessness. They do not want to find out the truth for themselves before repeating it to someone else, so he may lie in a careless fashion. (5) Some lie to boast. Some want to appear better than they really are, so they lie about their character or actions. (6) Some lie for profit. The adage is that there are no honest car salesmen. It is almost expected for them to lie about what they are trying to sell or how good of a deal they are trying to give someone. (7) Some lie for propaganda purposes. Some say statistics in advertisement are nothing but a bunch of lies covered up by numbers. It is interesting how people can make the same numbers give two different messages.

The Bible frequently points out lying is wrong and truth-telling is commendable. The prophets were instructed never to speak or teach with lying in the process (Ezekiel 13:9; Isaiah 9:15; Jeremiah 14:14; Zechariah 10:2). John reveals the mind of God on the subject when he says of the home of God, “...And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life” (Revelation 21:26-27). It is interesting to note that in order to cover up sin, lying often has to be involved. History proves that it is a true statement that lying generally leads to more lying. One good biblical example of this is the sin of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:1-11.

The bottom line is this: lying is never right and never does any good. It is amazing how a liar never wants to be lied to. Such inconsistency is hypocritical! It is also interesting that most of those

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Service Times

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.
Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

Preacher:

Russ Earl

AM Sermon:

Listen to God (Psalm 81:12-13)

PM Sermon:

Worthy

Sunday AM Bible Class:

The book of Proverbs – D. Jackson

Wednesday Bible Class:

Acts 3 – V. Smith

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who are not even religious want and desire for truth to be told. They understand the consequences that come from lying. Epicurus was not a religious man and in fact did not believe in any god or superior being of any kind. Yet, he argued that truth must be told simply from a practical point of view. The person who lies will not have many friends, certainly not one he can trust. Fascinatingly, this philosopher noted that a liar will also have a nagging fear in the back of his mind that he will be found out. Lying comes with too many negative consequences for one to even want to be involved in it.

“A good name is better than precious ointment” (Ecclesiastes 7:1a). “A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold” (Proverbs 22:1).