

LIARS ARE CONDEMNED

We live in a world and a society where lying is justified in the minds of men when it achieves a purpose they discern to be worthwhile. A lie is viewed as relative because men feel that circumstances and situations define it and classify the degrees of wrongness or rightness. Is not that situational ethics? Does the end justify the means? Among many leaders and influential men, lying is judged to be O.K. until it infringes upon their own ambitions and agendas or until they are caught in a lie. Interestingly, liars are angered when they are lied to.

God is very explicit in His condemnation of liars. "... *And all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death*" (Revelation 21:8). He hates a lying tongue; it is an abomination to Him (Proverbs 6:16-17). God has never lied, nor will He ever lie (cf. Titus 1:2; Hebrew 6:18). Lying is against His nature. He is "*a God of truth*" (Deuteronomy 32:4).

On the other hand, Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44). No truth is in the devil. From the beginning he has been lying to mankind. He lied to Eve in the garden (cf. Genesis 3:1-5). He lies to you and me. All of his lies are designed to bring us into bondage to him.

The Lord instructs Christians, "*Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds*" (Colossians 3:9). The "old man" is a Biblical description of the conduct and character of a person who is serving sin according to deceitful lusts. Lying is a deceitful lust. A believer does not learn to lie from Christ. Disciples of Christ cannot continue to lie and still walk in the light with God. "*If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth*" (1 John 1:6). Not only is it wrong to lie to others, we must not even lie to ourselves. Lying is an unfruitful work of darkness, and God has no fellowship with it. "*Therefore, putting away lying, 'Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,'*" (Ephesians 4:25).

Unrepented of and unforgiven lies have eternal consequences. Since light has no communion with darkness and God has no agreement with Satan, Christians must cleanse themselves of all falsehood. The saved are saved in the hope of heaven, but a liar will by no means enter in (Revelation 21:27). Believers who do the Almighty's commandments are blessed to enter through the heavenly gates, but whoever practices a lie will be left outside (22:14, 15).