

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

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Beware of Lying

Did you know that lying is as old as sin itself? You see, the lie that Satan told Eve in the garden of Eden was the beginning of lies (Genesis 3:4), and it was used as a tool to deceive Eve into ultimately committing sin. This is why Jesus would later refer to Satan as the “father of lies” (John 8:44). However, the fact of the matter is, lying is dangerous, and although many take the sin of lying lightly, we all need to consider the seriousness of it, and we need to beware of lying. So, with that thought in mind let’s consider the need to beware of lying.

God Punishes Those Who Lie.

First of all, we need to beware of lying because of the fact that God punishes those who lie. In 2 Kings 5, we read about Gehazi, the servant of Elisha, who ran down Naaman to receive the gifts that Elisha declined to receive for healing the leprosy of Naaman. You see, Gehazi thought that he could receive the gifts from Naaman, and greatly gain without anyone knowing about. However, when Gehazi returned, Elisha asked him, “Where did you go, Gehazi? Then Gehazi (lied) and said, “Your servant did not go

anywhere” (2 Kings 5:25). However, Elisha the man of God, knew that Gehazi had lied to him, and because Gehazi lied he and his descendants were punished with the leprosy disease forever (2 Kings 5:26-27).

Another example of God punishing those who lie is found in Acts 5. There, we read about were Ananias and Sapphira lied about keeping back part of the proceeds from the land they sold. Therefore, the apostle Peter would confront Ananias and ask, “...*why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit...*” (Acts 5:3). In Acts 5:4, Peter still speaking to Ananias said, “*You have not lied to men but to God.*” After hearing those words Ananias fell to the ground and breathed his last (Acts 5:5). We go on to read were Ananias’s wife Sapphira was also punished by death for lying (Acts 5:7-10). So, you see, God hates lying (Proverbs 6:16-19), He takes it seriously, and just as He punished those of old who were guilty of lying, he will likewise eventually punish all those who are guilty of lying (Proverbs 19:5, 9)

The Bible Instructs Us Not To Lie To One Another.

We also need to beware of lying, for God’s all inspired word (2 Timothy 3:16) strictly teaches against it. For instance, the apostle Paul in reference to lying told the saints in Ephesus, “*Therefore, putting away lying, Let each one of you speak truth to his neighbor, for we are members of one another*” (Ephesians 4:25). Also, Paul, guided by the Holy Spirit, instructed those in Colosse, “*Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds...*” (Colossians 3:9). You see, in the context of these two texts, Paul expresses that lying is not to be associated with the life of a Christian. Therefore, take heed to those inspired words my beloved brethren, and always strive to refrain from lying.

Liars Will Not Inherit Heaven.

Last, but certainly not least, we need to beware of lying because of the fact that liars will not inherit heaven. John, in reference to a heavenly city wrote, *“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 Lambs Book of Life”* (Revelation 21:27). You see, lying lips are an abomination to God (Proverbs 12:22), and those who are guilty of lying will not dwell in the presence of God (Psalm 101:7). So, if liars will not inherit heaven, where will liars spend eternity? Well, John penned, *“But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death”* (Revelation 21:8). My friend, we learn that all liars will be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, and spend their eternity in hell. However, John, went on to pen, *“Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city”* (Revelation 22:14). Friends, do not forget those inspired words of John, refrain from lying, and strive to be one who inherits eternal life in heaven.

Once more, my friend, take lying seriously, and beware of lying. For, my friend, when we lie, we not only damage our reputation by not being respected as trustworthy, but more importantly we sin, and sin separates us from our God (Isaiah 59:2). Therefore, know that even that “little white lie” is unacceptable to God, and always remember, “Honesty Is The Best Policy.

✍️ Brad Phillips

They Need to Repent Also

“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to REPENT” (Acts 17:30).

This statement by the apostle Paul is as wide in scope as the whole world. Included in it is every accountable person that has set foot upon earth since that time. There is no way that we can escape it.

Some people do not think they need to repent. They are religious people who are in error, but the very people to whom the apostle addressed these words were religious people. In fact, they were more religious than the average person today; but it was in ignorance, and as a result, they needed to learn the truth and repent of their idolatry and serve the one true God.

“But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men” (Matt. 15:9). The words of Jesus describe the condition of many today. Their desire to satisfy “self” rather than God has placed them in rebellion against Him, as they make their own religious laws. Of this THEY need to repent.

✍️ Arthur M. Ogden

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Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

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