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THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

“LIAR, LIAR PANTS ON FIRE”

The phrase that is the title of this article is said to have originated in a poem written by William Blake entitled “The Liar.” Of course, this phrase has been used by children down through the years to mock their peers for telling a lie. Sadly, lying has become so common place in our society that many people lie to others without even thinking about it. When was the last time that YOU told a lie?

God has always forbidden lying. In the Old Testament God instructed His people, “You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, **nor lie** to one another” (, Leviticus 19:11). God demanded that His people be honest and deal with others without deception. The Psalmist penned God’s view of lying in Psalms 101:7, “He who works deceit shall not dwell within my house; He who tells lies shall not continue in my presence.” The Proverb writer declares that one of the things God hates is “a lying tongue” (Prov. 6:16-17).

Telling a lie under any circumstance is clearly condemned in the New Testament as well. Ephesians 4:25 reads, “Therefore, putting away lying, ‘Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,’ for we are members of one another.” To Christians the inspired Paul wrote, “Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him” (Colossians 3:9-10). Again, inspiration declares that “no one should take advantage of or defraud his brother for the Lord is the avenger of such....” (1 Thess. 4:6). To lie is a sin for it is a clear violation of these passages.

The Bible teaches that it is impossible for God to tell a lie, while the devil is “a liar and the father of it” (Numbers 23:9; Hebrews 6:18; John 8:44). When one tells a lie then, who does he or she most resemble – God or the devil?

The consequences of telling lies are severe. Telling one lie usually leads to telling another to cover up the first. This vicious cycle will only end when one decides to acknowledge his lies, repent and tell the truth (Acts 17:30; John 8:32). The eternal consequences of lying are clearly stated as, “...all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death” (Revelation 21:8).

Lying is never acceptable to God under any circumstances. Always tell the truth. Dear reader, don’t let it ever be truthfully said of you, “Liar, liar, pants on fire.”