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THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

ARE YOU A LIAR?

One of the most common occurrences in modern society is the telling of a lie. Lying has always plagued mankind even from the very beginning of his existence. The first lie recorded in the Bible is that of the Devil who lied by adding to the Word of God. God told Adam and Eve that if they ate of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil they would surely die. The Devil added just one word in his lie to deceive Eve into sin – “you will **NOT** surely die” (Genesis 3:1-4). Sadly, Eve believed the lie of the Devil and sin entered the world. Jesus called the Devil “a liar and the father of it” (John 8:44). It follows that if one chooses to tell a lie he or she is imitating the great deceiver of mankind – the Devil.

To tell a lie is to fail to speak the truth. When one serves as a witness in the courts he is required to “swear or affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help me God.” If one fails to tell the truth on the witness stand he may be charged with the very serious crime known as perjury. However, the fact is that lying under any circumstances is a very serious violation of an even higher law with even greater consequences. The New Testament tells us that “**all liars** shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone which is the second death” (Revelation 21:8).

Some feel justified in lying to keep from hurting another’s feelings, to avoid conflict or to avoid doing something one does not want to do. These are often referred to as “little white lies” as if the consequences of telling such lies are different from other types of lying. Yet, consider these words from God: “Therefore, putting away lying, ‘Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,’ for we are members of one another.” (Ephesians 4:25). “Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds” (Colossians 3:9). It is obvious that these prohibitions include all lies whatever the motivation may be for telling them. To tell a lie is to violate God’s law which results in sin and sin separates one from God (Isa. 59:1-2; 1 John 3:4). Keep in mind Revelation 21:8 which uses the inclusive phrase “all liars” (no exceptions) will experience the second death.

Lying is serious business but so is believing a lie (2 Thess. 2:11-12). That is why it is so important to study the Bible for oneself rather than to simply accept what another person teaches without question. It is vital to one’s salvation to make sure that one is believing the truth and not a lie. Follow the example of the noble Bereans who “searched the scriptures daily whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11).