

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Liars

"A liar will not be believed, even when he speaks the truth." – Aesop

"If lying were a capital crime, the hangman would work overtime." – Anonymous

"No man has a good enough memory to make a successful liar." – Abraham Lincoln

"He who is false to his fellow-man is also false to His maker." – Stahl

It was Sam Greenspan who revealed that Americans tell an average of eleven lies per week. On his website 11points.com, he says that January is the worst month where the average person tells 217 lies (about seven per day).

What this does tell us is that lying is common and acceptable. And what makes it even more palatable is to say that it is a "little white lie." It is an idiom that suggests that such a lie is usually harmless, so how can one object.

Isn't it interesting that the very ones who would say that their lies are harmless, get greatly offended when someone lies to them? In reality, all of us get upset when someone lies to us.

From of old, the children of Israel were admonished to be truthful. "You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another" (Lev. 19:11). Even the general principle was laid down, "A faithful witness does not lie, but a false witness will utter lies" (Prov. 14:5).

In the New Testament, Paul admonished Christians, "Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds" (Col. 3:9). And the apostle John reveals the end for those who would be liars, "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" (Rev. 21:8).

We must be careful also that we do not spread half-truths. Remember that a half-truth is also a half-lie. It was Benjamin Franklin who once said, "Half the truth is often a great lie." The danger in it is that half-truths are often spoken with the intent to deceive.

One of the great examples from Scripture is that of Abraham. Even though he was referred to as a "friend of God" (James 2:23), he was still fallible and found under pressure the temptation to veil the truth. Sarah was his half-sister, and because she was beautiful, he sought to tell half-truths on two occasions to hide that she was his wife; to Pharaoh (Gen. 12:10-20), and later to Abimelech, King of Gerar (Gen. 20). On both occasions, Abraham was chastised verbally for his effort to deceive.

We must always strive to tell the truth, and be careful that we don't seek to deceive others.