

TO TELL THE TRUTH

By

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(Emphasis added)

This teaching may be one of the most important concepts for salvation and our relationship with the Lord and each other. In the Bible, God, especially through Jesus, said that the two most important commandments are that we should love the Lord with all our heart, all our soul, and with all our strength, (see Deut. 6:5, Matt. 22:37, and Mark 12:30), and to love our neighbor as ourselves, (see Leviticus 19:18, Matt. 19:19, 22:39, Mark 12:31, Romans 13:9, Galatians 5:14, and James 2:8). We show our love for God by obedience and it is necessary for our salvation, (see Deut. 11:13-15, 26-28, chap. 28 & 30, John 14:15 & 15:14, Acts 5:29-32, and Hebrews 5:8-9). We show our love for one another by treating each other as we would like to be treated, even our enemies, (see Luke 6:27-36, 10:25-37).

How does it make you feel when someone tells you something and then does not follow through? There is no way to justify doing this. It is a lie and it is hurtful! God has spoken in various scriptures about this, (see Exodus 20:16, Lev. 19:11, Deut. 5:20, Prov. 6:16-19, 14:5, 19:5 & 9, 21:28, 25:18, Matt. 15:16-20, 19:18, Mark 10:19, Luke 18:20 and Romans 13:8-10). Love does not lie, but rejoices in the truth, (see I Cor. 13:6). If we are to be perfect in the eyes of God, we must speak the truth in love, (see Ephesians 4:11-16, and Rev. 14:5).

Salvation depends on our receiving and believing the truth, (see II Thessalonians Chap. 2, esp. vv. 13-15).

II Thessalonians 12-15 -

Believers Should Stand Firm

¹³ As for us, we always thank God for you, dear brothers and sisters loved by the Lord. We are thankful that God chose you to be among the first to experience salvation, a salvation that came through the Spirit who makes you holy and by your belief in the truth. ¹⁴ He called you to salvation when we told you the Good News; now you can share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁵ With all these things in mind, dear brothers and sisters, stand firm and keep a strong grip on everything we taught you both in person and by letter. ¹

It is by grace through our faith in Jesus Christ that we are saved, (see Rom. 10:5-13 and Eph. 2:1-10).

Romans 10:5-13 -*Salvation Is for Everyone*

⁵ For Moses wrote that the law's way of making a person right with God requires obedience to all of its commands. ⁶ But the way of getting right with God through faith says, "You don't need to go to heaven" (to find Christ and bring him down to help you). ⁷ And it says, "You don't need to go to the place of the dead" (to bring Christ back to life again). ⁸ Salvation that comes from trusting Christ—which is the message we preach—is already within easy reach. In fact, the Scriptures say, "The message is close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart."

⁹ For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.

¹¹ As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who believes in him will not be disappointed." ¹² Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They all have the same Lord, who generously gives his riches to all who ask for them. ¹³ For "Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."²

Ephesians 2:1-10 –

¹And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ²in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, ⁷that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.³

Even though we are saved initially by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, in order to hold on to our salvation, we must work toward perfection by obeying God through the power of the Holy Spirit. God will do the work in us, if we will just yield to Him.

Just because there is grace from God, (i.e., unmerited favor in this case), we cannot continue to deliberately sin, (see Romans chap. 6, Philippians 2:12-18, and Hebrews 6:1-12 and 10:19-39).

²*Holy Bible, New Living Translation*, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.) 1996.

³*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

Romans 6 -

Sin's Power Is Broken

6 Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more kindness and forgiveness? ² Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? ³ Or have you forgotten that when we became Christians and were baptized to become one with Christ Jesus, we died with him? ⁴ For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

⁵ Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised as he was. ⁶ Our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. ⁷ For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. ⁸ And since we died with Christ, we know we will also share his new life. ⁹ We are sure of this because Christ rose from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. ¹⁰ He died once to defeat sin, and now he lives for the glory of God. ¹¹ So you should consider yourselves dead to sin and able to live for the glory of God through Christ Jesus.

¹² Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to its lustful desires. ¹³ Do not let any part of your body become a tool of wickedness, to be used for sinning. Instead, give yourselves completely to God since you have been given new life. And use your whole body as a tool to do what is right for the glory of God. ¹⁴ Sin is no longer your master, for you are no longer subject to the law, which enslaves you to sin. Instead, you are free by God's grace.

Freedom to Obey God

¹⁵ So since God's grace has set us free from the law, does this mean we can go on sinning? Of course not! ¹⁶ Don't you realize that whatever you choose to obey becomes your master? You can choose sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God and receive his approval. ¹⁷ Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you have obeyed with all your heart the new teaching God has given you. ¹⁸ Now you are free from sin, your old master, and you have become slaves to your new master, righteousness.

¹⁹ I speak this way, using the illustration of slaves and masters, because it is easy to understand. Before, you let yourselves be slaves of impurity and lawlessness. Now you must choose to be slaves of righteousness so that you will become holy.

²⁰ In those days, when you were slaves of sin, you weren't concerned with doing what was right. ²¹ And what was the result? It was not good, since now you are ashamed of the things you used to do, things that end in eternal doom. ²² But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.⁴

⁴*Holy Bible, New Living Translation*, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.) 1996.

Philippians 2:12-18 -

¹²Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. ¹⁴Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain. ¹⁷Yes, and if I am being poured out *as a drink offering* on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.⁵

And this scripture again in the New Living Translation...

Shine Brightly for Christ

¹²Dearest friends, you were always so careful to follow my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away you must be even more careful to put into action God's saving work in your lives, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. ¹³For God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey him and the power to do what pleases him. ¹⁴In everything you do, stay away from complaining and arguing, ¹⁵so that no one can speak a word of blame against you. You are to live clean, innocent lives as children of God in a dark world full of crooked and perverse people. Let your lives shine brightly before them. ¹⁶Hold tightly to the word of life, so that when Christ returns, I will be proud that I did not lose the race and that my work was not useless. ¹⁷But even if my life is to be poured out like a drink offering to complete the sacrifice of your faithful service (that is, if I am to die for you), I will rejoice, and I want to share my joy with all of you. ¹⁸And you should be happy about this and rejoice with me.⁶

Hebrews 6:1-12 -

6 So let us stop going over the basics of Christianity again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don't need to start all over again with the importance of turning away from evil deeds and placing our faith in God. ²You don't need further instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. ³And so, God willing, we will move forward to further understanding.

⁴For it is impossible to restore to repentance those who were once enlightened—those who have experienced the good things of heaven and shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the power of the age to come—⁶and

⁵*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

⁶*Holy Bible, New Living Translation*, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.) 1996.

who then turn away from God. It is impossible to bring such people to repentance again because they are nailing the Son of God to the cross again by rejecting him, holding him up to public shame.

⁷ When the ground soaks up the rain that falls on it and bears a good crop for the farmer, it has the blessing of God. ⁸ But if a field bears thistles and thorns, it is useless. The farmer will condemn that field and burn it.

⁹ Dear friends, even though we are talking like this, we really don't believe that it applies to you. We are confident that you are meant for better things, things that come with salvation. ¹⁰ For God is not unfair. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other Christians, as you still do.

¹¹ Our great desire is that you will keep right on loving others as long as life lasts, in order to make certain that what you hope for will come true. ¹² Then you will not become spiritually dull and indifferent. Instead, you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God's promises because of their faith and patience.⁷

Hebrews 10:19-39 -

A Call to Persevere

¹⁹ And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. ²⁰ This is the new, life-giving way that Christ has opened up for us through the sacred curtain, by means of his death for us.

²¹ And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's people, ²² let us go right into the presence of God, with true hearts fully trusting him. For our evil consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.

²³ Without wavering, let us hold tightly to the hope we say we have, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. ²⁴ Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds. ²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near.

²⁶ Dear friends, if we deliberately continue sinning after we have received a full knowledge of the truth, there is no other sacrifice that will cover these sins. ²⁷ There will be nothing to look forward to but the terrible expectation of God's judgment and the raging fire that will consume his enemies. ²⁸ Anyone who refused to obey the law of Moses was put to death without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ Think how much more terrible the punishment will be for those who have trampled on the Son of God and have treated the blood of the covenant as if it were common and unholy. Such people have insulted and enraged the Holy Spirit who brings God's mercy to his people.

³⁰ For we know the one who said,

“I will take vengeance.
I will repay those who deserve it.”

He also said,

“The Lord will judge his own people.”

³¹ It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

³² Don't ever forget those early days when you first learned about Christ. Remember how you remained faithful even though it meant terrible suffering. ³³ Sometimes you were exposed to public ridicule and were beaten, and sometimes you helped others who were suffering the same things. ³⁴ You suffered along with those who were thrown into jail. When all you owned was taken from you, you accepted it with joy. You knew you had better things waiting for you in eternity.

³⁵ Do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord, no matter what happens. Remember the great reward it brings you! ³⁶ Patient endurance is what you need now, so you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.

³⁷ “For in just a little while,
the Coming One will come and not delay.

³⁸ And a righteous person will live by faith.
But I will have no pleasure in anyone who turns away.”

³⁹ But we are not like those who turn their backs on God and seal their fate. We have faith that assures our salvation.⁸

In these scriptures we see that God warns us that we cannot continue living in sin after we have been saved, or else we will lose our salvation, because the covering blood of Christ will no longer be available to us, as we are trampling it underfoot. Even Jesus warned that we can have our name blotted out of the Book of Life, (see Revelation 3:1-6).

Revelation 3:1-6 –

¹“And to the angel of the church in Sardis write,
‘These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: “I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. ²“Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. ³“Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. ⁴“You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. ⁵“He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. ⁶“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’⁹

This is a warning to God's people that they need to shape up before it is too late. Time is short and we need to move toward perfection according to the Word, (see the handout

⁸*Holy Bible, New Living Translation, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.) 1996.*

⁹*The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.*

'The Path to Perfection', and Matthew 5:48). One of the biggest problems in the church today is people who lie. It does not matter whether it is a small lie, or a big one, to the Lord it is all the same. Hypocrisy also falls into this category. Paul speaks of this growing up into perfection and tells us to stop lying, (see Ephesians 4).

Ephesians 4 –

¹I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ²with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴*There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

⁷But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore He says:

“When He ascended on high,
He led captivity captive,
And gave gifts to men.”

⁹(Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) ¹¹And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

¹⁷This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; ¹⁹who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. ²⁰But you have not so learned Christ, ²¹if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²²that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

²⁵Therefore, putting away lying, “Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another. ²⁶“Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, ²⁷nor give place to the devil. ²⁸Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. ²⁹Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is

good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³²And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.¹⁰

The Bible, especially Jesus gives a special warning to people who lie, especially the hypocrites, (see Isaiah 9:13-17, Matthew 15:1-20, 23:1-36,24:45-51, Luke 12:1-3, Revelation 21:1-8, verse 27 and 22:12-28) .

Isaiah 9:13-17 -

¹³ For the people do not turn to Him who strikes them,
Nor do they seek the LORD of hosts.
¹⁴ Therefore the LORD will cut off head and tail from Israel,
Palm branch and bulrush in one day.
¹⁵ The elder and honorable, he *is* the head;
The prophet who teaches lies, he *is* the tail.
¹⁶ For the leaders of this people cause *them* to err,
And *those who are* led by them are destroyed.
¹⁷ Therefore the LORD will have no joy in their young men,
Nor have mercy on their fatherless and widows;
For everyone *is* a hypocrite and an evildoer,
And every mouth speaks folly.
For all this His anger is not turned away,
But His hand *is* stretched out still.¹¹

Matthew 15:1-20 –

¹Then the scribes and Pharisees who were from Jerusalem came to Jesus, saying,
²“Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.” ³He answered and said to them, “Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition? ⁴“For God commanded, saying, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’ ⁵“But you say, ‘Whoever says to his father or mother, “Whatever profit you might have received from me *is* a gift to God”— ⁶“then he need not honor his father or mother.’ Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition. ⁷“Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying:

⁸ ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth,
And honor Me with *their* lips,
But their heart is far from Me.
⁹ And in vain they worship Me,

¹⁰*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

¹¹*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

Teaching *as* doctrines the commandments of men.’ ”

¹⁰When He had called the multitude to *Himself*, He said to them, “Hear and understand: ¹¹“Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man.” ¹²Then His disciples came and said to Him, “Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?” ¹³But He answered and said, “Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴“Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.” ¹⁵Then Peter answered and said to Him, “Explain this parable to us.” ¹⁶So Jesus said, “Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷“Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? ¹⁸“But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. ¹⁹“For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. ²⁰“These are *the things* which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man.”¹²

Matthew 23:1-36 –

¹Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, ²saying: “The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. ³“Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, *that* observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. ⁴“For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay *them* on men’s shoulders; but they *themselves* will not move them with one of their fingers. ⁵“But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. ⁶“They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, ⁷“greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, ‘Rabbi, Rabbi.’ ⁸“But you, do not be called ‘Rabbi’; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. ⁹“Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. ¹⁰“And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. ¹¹“But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. ¹²“And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. ¹³“But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in *yourselves*, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. ¹⁴“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation. ¹⁵“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves. ¹⁶“Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obliged *to perform it.*’ ¹⁷“Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that sanctifies the gold? ¹⁸“And, ‘Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gift that is on it, he is obliged *to perform it.*’ ¹⁹“Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that sanctifies the gift? ²⁰“Therefore he who swears by the altar, swears by it and by all things on it. ²¹“He who swears by the temple, swears by it and by Him who dwells in it. ²²“And he who swears by heaven,

¹²*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

swears by the throne of God and by Him who sits on it. ²³“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier *matters* of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. ²⁴“Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel! ²⁵“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. ²⁶“Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also. ²⁷“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead *men*’s bones and all uncleanness. ²⁸“Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. ²⁹“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, ³⁰“and say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.’ ³¹“Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. ³²“Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers’ *guilt*. ³³“Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell? ³⁴“Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: *some* of them you will kill and crucify, and *some* of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, ³⁵“that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. ³⁶“Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation. ¹³

Matthew 24:45-15 -

⁴⁵“Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? ⁴⁶“Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. ⁴⁷“Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods. ⁴⁸“But if that evil servant says in his heart, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’ ⁴⁹“and begins to beat *his* fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, ⁵⁰“the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for *him* and at an hour that he is not aware of, ⁵¹“and will cut him in two and appoint *him* his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ¹⁴

Luke 12:1-3 –

¹In the meantime, when an innumerable multitude of people had gathered together, so that they trampled one another, He began to say to His disciples first *of all*, “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.” ²“For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known. ³“Therefore whatever you have

¹³*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

¹⁴*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops.¹⁵

Revelation 21:1-8 –

¹Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. ²Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. ⁴“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” ⁵Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.” ⁶And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. ⁷“He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. ⁸“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.”¹⁶

Verse 27 -

²⁷But 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 Lamb’s Book of Life.¹⁷

Revelation 22:12-17 -

¹²

“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to every one according to his work. ¹³“I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.*” ¹⁴Blessed *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. ¹⁵But outside *are* dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. ¹⁶“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.” ¹⁷And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.¹⁸

¹⁵*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

¹⁶*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

¹⁷*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

¹⁸*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

We often think nothing about lying to people. For example, we may say to someone that we will meet them at such and such a time, and will, (sometimes with an apology), be late, or worse not show up at all. Other examples would include telling someone that we will do something and not do it. Even if we forget, it is still a lie and we need to repent to the person and to God, and ask God to help us not do it again. We must be persistent at asking God for His help to stop lying, until we only tell the truth. These are examples of what might be considered as unintentional lies, but they are lies just the same, and we need to stop doing it. Intentionally withholding information can also be considered lying in some cases. Sometimes however, it is appropriate to keep something to yourself

The Lord revealed to me that there are three reasons that people intentionally tell lies. These reasons that people intentionally lie are –

- 1. They want to justify their position, even if their position is wrong.*
- 2. They want to look good in the eyes of others.*
- 3. They want to get something that they think they will not get by telling the truth.*

We also lie to one another in 'jest'. For example someone may say something unkind to someone else, then lie and say, "Oh, I was just kidding". Jesus said that out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks. He also said that we will have to give an account for every idle word that we speak, (see Matthew 12:31-37).

Matthew 12:31-37 -

³¹“Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy *against* the Spirit will not be forgiven men. ³²“Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the *age* to come.

³³“Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by *its* fruit. ³⁴“Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. ³⁵“A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. ³⁶“But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. ³⁷“For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”¹⁹

Therefore, when someone says something unkind to someone else, and then says afterward that they were only joking or kidding, they are lying. The first cruel thing they said is the truth from their evil heart, the statement that they were only joking or kidding is the lie that tries to cover up their evil statement.

Often our verbal attack on others takes the form of 'sarcasm'. Sarcasm is a word that is derived from the Greek root 'saryx', which means 'flesh'. Sarcasm therefore is when

¹⁹The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

someone ‘tears away the flesh of another person’ with their words. This is unacceptable to God and we must not partake in this type of speaking. Most comedians use sarcasm extensively. We should not listen to or give support to these types of people.

It is important for us to come to the place of perfection with our tongues as soon as possible, since the end of days is upon us. There is only one way to escape the tribulation that is coming on the earth when Christians will be tortured, killed and put in jail, etc. It is to get to the place where we can claim Psalm 91’s promises, (i.e., dwell in the secret place of the Most High). Then ‘no evil shall befall us’. The only way that we can dwell in the secret place of the Most High is to have a pure heart, clean hands and never tell a lie, (see James 3:2, Psalm 15 and 24:3-6).

James 3:2 -

²For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.²⁰

Psalm 15 -

15 *A psalm of David.*

1 **Who may worship in your sanctuary, LORD?**
 Who may enter your presence on your holy hill?
 2 **Those who lead blameless lives**
 and do what is right,
 speaking the truth from sincere hearts.
 3 **Those who refuse to slander others**
 or harm their neighbors
 or speak evil of their friends.
 4 Those who despise persistent sinners,
 and honor the faithful followers of the LORD
 and keep their promises even when it hurts.
 5 Those who do not charge interest on the money they lend,
 and who refuse to accept bribes to testify against the innocent.
 Such people will stand firm forever.²¹

Psalm 24:3-6 -

3 Who may climb the mountain of the LORD?
 Who may stand in his holy place?

²⁰*The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.*

²¹*Holy Bible, New Living Translation, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.) 1996.*

⁴ **Only those whose hands and hearts are pure,
who do not worship idols
and never tell lies.**

⁵ **They will receive the LORD's blessing
and have right standing with God their savior.**

⁶ **They alone may enter God's presence
and worship the God of Israel.²²**

Not only is it necessary to come to this place to avoid persecution, but it is also necessary to insure that we make it into the New Jerusalem, (see I Peter 2:1-5 and Revelation 21 and 22).

I Peter 2:1-5 –

¹Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking,
²as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.

⁴Coming to Him *as to* a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God *and* precious, ⁵you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.²³

It is time to tell the truth. Let us begin to speak the truth in love. Amen!

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²²*Holy Bible, New Living Translation*, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.) 1996.

²³*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.