

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

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## "Lying"

Abraham Lincoln once said, "No man has a good enough memory to make a successful liar." George Washington was quoted as saying, "I hope I shall always possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man." In a time in which lying to one another (and to ourselves) seems to be in epidemic proportions, it is only natural for us to look at the Bible and see what God says about lying.

If there is anything the Bible talks about, it is the subject of lying and dishonesty. God consistently condemns lying in both the Old and New Testaments. Looking to the Old Testament we read, *"Let the lying lips be put to silence; which speak grievous things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous"* (Psalm 31:18). David also prayed that God would consume those who sinned by lying and cursing with their mouth (Psalm 59:12). Proverbs 6:17 reveals that God hates a *"lying tongue."* Solomon also said, *"Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight"* (Proverbs 12:22). The righteous man will hate lying (Proverbs 13:5). Jeremiah says that *"lying words"* are words which *"cannot profit"* (Jeremiah 7:8).

Looking to the New Testament, we learn the Christian must put away, *"lying"* and *"speak every man truth with his neighbour"* (Ephesians 4:25). In Colossians 3:10, Paul says to *"lie not."* Could a Scripture be any plainer than this? In a very well known account, we read in Acts 5 of Ananias and Sapphira who lied to God (Acts 5:1-11). As a result of their deception, and lying to God, they were struck dead (v. 3-5, 10)!! Jesus said, *"But the fearful, and*

*unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, **and all liars**, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death"* (Revelation 21:8).

Could there be any plainer language used? What else needs to be said to get it across to people that God demands honesty? It is a sad situation when we see so many people who not only lie, but PREFER hearing a lie rather than the truth! Consider the polls that come out from time to time saying that a great number of people are dishonest, and not only this, but consider others dishonest as well. As if because people expect dishonesty, this gives them the license to be dishonest themselves.

"The truth hurts" is an accurate statement at times. But, isn't greater damage done when we lie to others (or to ourselves)? Isn't it a far worse thing to be found out as a liar and a dishonest person than if you'd just told the truth in the first place? TV shows give the impression that lying "a little bit," or simply "bending the truth" (?) is an acceptable thing. However, when it comes down to it, isn't it better, and so much easier, to always tell the truth? As Mr. Lincoln said, "No man has a good enough memory to make a successful liar." Make no mistake, *"your sin will find you out"* (Numbers 32:23). If it doesn't come in this life, it will come on the day of Judgment (2 Corinthians 5:10; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14). What then, friend? Consider the consequences of your choices before it is too late. *"It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment"* (Hebrews 9:27). Are you ready for the Judgment Day? Can you honestly say that you have obeyed Christ and are a Christian (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 22:16)? Or, have you been lying to yourself all this time? The truth is that Jesus Christ is "the author of eternal salvation to all them that obey Him" (Hebrews 5:9). Don't deceive yourself by thinking that simply hearing His word is enough. You must obey His will today (James 1:22-25).

✍ Jarrod Jacobs



## Americanism Versus Christianity

Many Christians today are blessed to live in the United States of America. This country has been religiously tolerant for its entire history,

and has one of the highest standards of living in the world. We, as Christians, are able to go about our daily lives unimpeded from many of the troubles that beset others in different countries.

For all of its blessedness and freedoms, however, America also poses a stumbling block for Christians. Many of the ideals of American society are completely contrary to the ideals of the Christian. Let us look at how becoming too deeply imbued in American society will lead to great conflict with Christ:

**1. Money.** The United States of America does have a national religion, and its idol is the money sign. In America, everything has a price; how many people have been led into miserable lives due to the desire for money? Paul writes to Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:9-10: *"But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."*

Therefore, the Christian in America must be on guard, forsaking the attitude of wealth and to aspire for what Paul urged Timothy to in verse 11: *"But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness."*

**2. Pride.** The United States of America is a country full of pride, some of which is not unjustified. The U.S.A. has risen from thirteen small colonies to the leading power of the world in only two hundred years. Unfortunately, however, the pride of America has become overweening, preventing the country to admit when it is at fault. The Christian must stay away from such pride, and act humbly, as Jesus illustrates in a parable of Luke 18:9-14: *And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!' I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."*

**3. Selfishness.** America is very much a "me" country. Everyone is out

for him or herself; to most, little matters except for reaching their goals and being seen as "successful." Care for others is only secondary, if that. The Christian, however, should think of himself last if he is to be considered great, as Christ did in John 13:12-17: *So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."*

These attitudes are unfortunately deeply-rooted into the American culture, and it is easy to fall prey to them. We, as Christians, must remain diligently on guard to follow Christ over the United States of America. In closing, we must remember that the poorest of Americans is more often than not richer than most people on other continents. Every Christian living in America would be wise to heed this advice from Paul to Timothy, 1 Timothy 6:17-19: *Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.*

✍️ Ethan R. Longhenry

<h2><b>Belleville church of Christ</b></h2> <p>5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258 <a href="http://www.bellevillechurch.net">www.bellevillechurch.net</a></p>		
<h3><b>Schedule of Services</b></h3>	<h3><b>Elders</b></h3>	
Sun. Bible Study. . . . . 9:30 a.m.	Charles Carpenter. . . . . (317) 839-3873	
Sun. Morning Worship. . . . . 10:30 a.m.	James Hahn. . . . . (317) 745-1507	
Sun. Evening Worship. . . . . 5:00 p.m.		
Wed. Bible Study. . . . . 7:00 p.m.		
<h3><b>Evangelist</b></h3>		<h3><b>Deacons</b></h3>
James Hahn. . . . . (317) 745-1507	Leon Nevins . . . . . (317) 272-2966	
	Don Perry. . . . . (765) 676-5825	
	Alvin Stanley. . . . . (317) 831-3514	