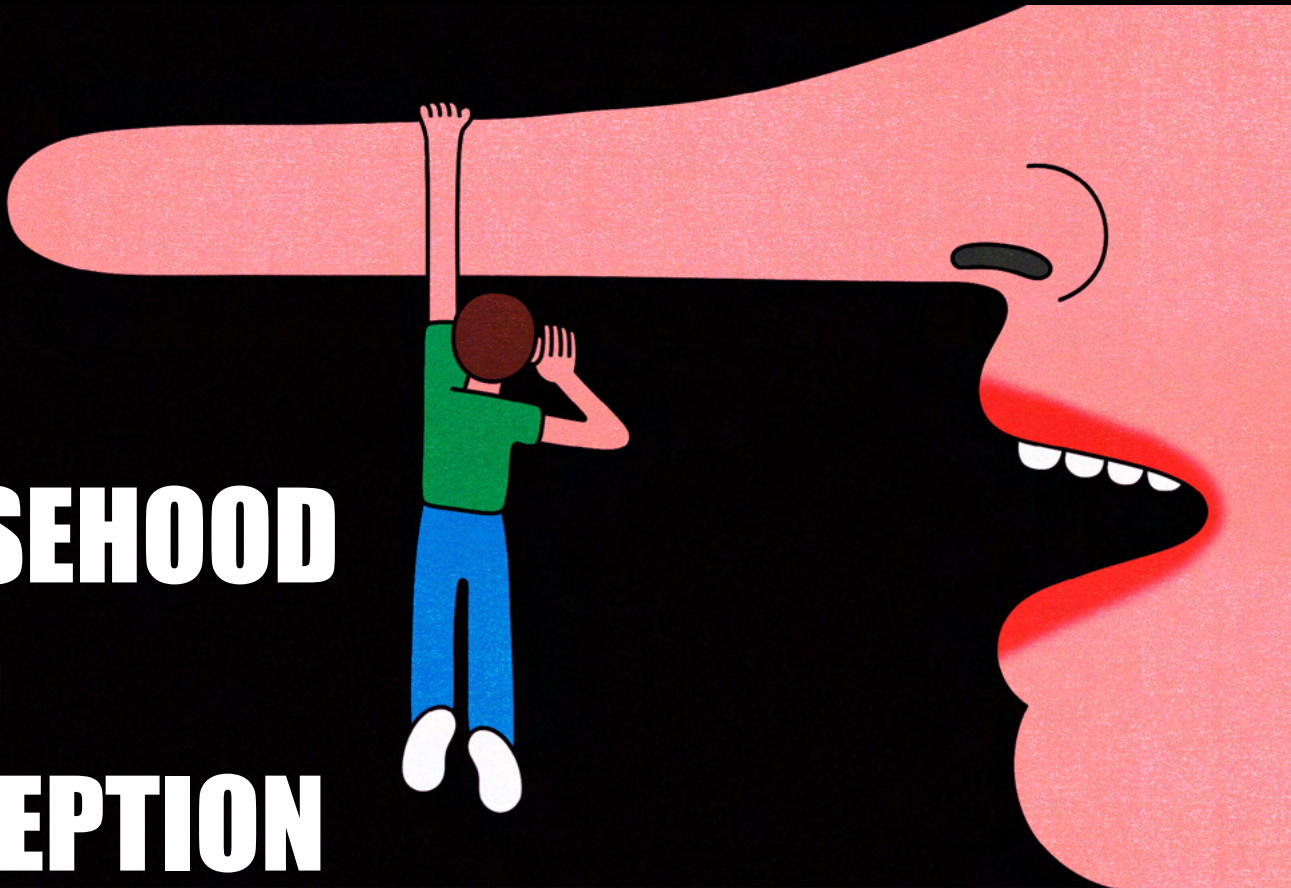


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FALSEHOOD AND DECEPTION



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GOSPEL

WHY GOD?

GRACE & PEACE

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“FALSEHOOD AND DECEPTION”



By Nelson Thomas

Once an Indian politician said, ‘not to believe everything that the media says.’ To prove her point, she referred to her own practice as a journalist!

It is not just about media; even a casual look around us reveals that there is so much falsehood and half-truths making rounds, and we are slowly getting accustomed to such a lifestyle. From the common man to the rich and powerful, everyone tries a lie here and there to achieve their agenda.

Many tend to think that tricks and tactics are more valuable than honesty and openness. For them, truthfulness and sincerity are old-fashioned, not respected virtues!

What should a believer’s attitude be to such a mindset of the modern man? If we are not clear about it, chances are that we too may be influenced by this worldly attitude and begin to simply follow the crowd. Let us consider six things about falsehood.

1. Falsehood and deception are marks of Satan. (John 8:44)

“He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

We can notice the deceptive work of the devil from the Garden of Eden. Satan lied to Eve about God’s truthfulness,

righteousness, and goodness. In Job 1:10, 11, we see him lying to God about the man.

Thus, throughout history, we can notice the way Satan used falsehood to accomplish his evil schemes. The word of God also tells us that in the future, the devil will energize the antichrist to speak lies. 1Jn 2:22.

2. Deception is one of the features of a sinful life. (Romans 3:13)

“Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive.” “The venom of asps is under their lips.”

As man became a slave to Satan, it is no wonder that he is just imitating the devil, ‘the father of lies.’ As referred to earlier, today man has found many excuses to whitewash his lies. Many people think there are even white lies!

We should not forget that exaggeration, flattery, half-truth, hiding a fact, slander, tale-bearing, fabricated stories to tarnish the reputation of another, etc., are all different aspects of a lie and they come from Satan. Leviticus 19: 16; 1Timothy 5:13; Psalms 55: 21; 101:5; Jude v. 16; etc. God’s people must be aware that anything other than truth is evil and we cannot be part of it.

3. Deception affects generations. (Genesis 27: 24; 37: 32)

Abraham lied about his wife; his son Isaac repeated the same thing. Jacob, Isaac’s son, in a very treacherous manner, deceived his father, brother, and father-in-law. Jacob’s sons also continued in the same way. See, how the habit of falsehood spreads to generations. David’s dishonesty passed on to his son, and it was so terrible for David to bear. 2Samuel 13:6.

This is something we should be careful about because our children notice our hypocrisy and follow it. Sad to notice that despite the numerous examples before us, we refuse to learn and amend our ways. Oh, how much we ought to be true and sincere even before our children, at least for the sake of their blessed future!

4. The outcome of lying is destructive. (Proverbs. 21:6)

“The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a snare of death.”

The consequences of any falsehood are far-reaching. Not only does falsehood spread to generations, but it also damages the lives and reputations of many.

Think of the result of Haman’s lie in the book of Esther. The King made a decree to destroy an entire community. It was the false allegation of Nero that resulted in the persecution of Christians in the first century.

The result of unfaithful and fraudulent dealings will never be good for anyone.

5. Liars do not last. (Proverbs 12:9)

“Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment.” Whether it is the liar himself or the beneficiaries or whatever was achieved dishonestly, they cannot last for long. It is foolishness to think that we can succeed with falsehood forever.

We know the lie of Gehazi and the results. (Cf. 2 Kings 5:22) The lie of Haman did not survive either. (Esther

3:8) No one can continue forever with their deceptive lifestyle.

“Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD.” (Proverb 12:22) Our God hates any form of falsehood. Some, with sweet talk and diplomatic dealings, gain the confidence and goodwill of many. Alas! One day, God almighty Himself will intervene and reveal the deception. The Bible says that one day He will punish all the liars. (Revelation 21:8)

6. There is power and safety in truthfulness.

Throughout the Bible, we see how much God values truthfulness and hates deceitfulness, for He is a God of truth. (Genesis 3: 9, 10; 4:10; 17:1; Deuteronomy 13:3; 32:4; 2 Chronicles 29:17; Psalm. 51:6; Isaiah 1:13ff; 59:14, 15; Zechariah 8:16; John 14:6; 18:31, etc.)

God looks at our hearts and intentions and even reveals them before our eyes. If we live with falsehood, He cannot associate with us or bless us. How often the Lord Jesus Christ rebuked the hypocrisy of the Pharisees, for

their religious activities were just a show. (Matthew 23:25 – 28) At the same time, He commended Nathanael for his sincerity saying, “Behold an Israelite, in whom is no deceit.” (John 1: 47)

Not only we must be true to God, we ought to be true even to one another in our words and deeds. (Isaiah 33:15; Psa. 15:2; Eph. 4:25; 1 John 3:18; Tit. 2:7) There should not be any hidden motive in our dealings with others. (Philippians 1:16) About our Lord the Bible says, “There was no deceit found in His mouth.” (Malachi 2:6; 1Peter 2:22)

Remember, sooner or later others will come to know the reality, and that will affect our relationship with one another. On the contrary, a sincere, truthful life gives credibility to a believer, and that gives him a good standing before God as well as man. Even we will feel a kind of boldness and strength, which otherwise we would never have experienced. (1 John 3:21)

No wonder Paul presents truth as a belt to be used by a spiritual warrior. (Ephesians 6:14a) This means that when we fasten truth around our waist like a belt, we are gripped

and guarded by truthfulness, which in turn, makes us equipped to face spiritual warfare effectively.

God will never forsake those who are true and sincere. He will stand with those who stand for the truth. He will not withhold any good from those who walk uprightly, even to their generations. Let us shun everything false, but love and promote truth.

OUTLINE :

KNOWLEDGE OF TRUTH

– 1 TIMOTHY 2:3,4

By Bro. David Manchala, Hyderabad

This is good and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

God's plan is that every believer should know the Foreknowledge of God; so, let us look at the Seven Truths that every Christian should know:

1. Truth about God the Father – Romans 1:25
 - Attributes and Characteristics of God
2. Truth about Christ, God the Son – John 14:6; 2 Corinthians 2:11
 - Virgin Birth, Virtuous Life, Voluntary Baptism, Vicious Temptation, Vital Transfiguration, Vicarious Death, Victorious Resurrection, Valedictory Ascension, Valuable Presence, Valid Advocacy, Visible Return, Vigorous Reign
3. Truth about Holy Spirit – John 16:13
 - Personality, Ministries, Types, and Names of the Holy Spirit
4. Truth about Gospel – Gal. 2:14; Col. 1:5
 - Gospel of the Kingdom, Gospel of Grace, Gospel of Peace, Gospel of Christ, etc
5. Truth about Church – 1 Timothy 3:15
 - Foundation, Formation, Functions of the Church, etc.
6. Truth about Judgement of God – Romans 2:3
7. Truth about the Word of God – John 17:17; Psalm 119:160; 2 Timothy 2:15

How to overcome deception?

1. Love the truth. 2Thess 2:10
2. Learn the truth. Phil 4:8
3. Live the truth. Eph 4:25.

THE LIE THAT HELD HIM CAPTIVE

By Craig Groeschel

When legendary magician Harry Houdini came into a town to do his show, he often went to the local jail, gathering a crowd of people along the way. To get buzz going about his upcoming performance, he asked the jailer to lock him in a cell. Time after time, jail after jail, town after town, Houdini escaped within minutes. But one jailer had heard that Houdini was coming, and the jailer was ready.

When Houdini closed the cell door, the jailer put the key in the lock and secretly turned it in the wrong direction. He then removed the key, and everyone watched as Houdini struggled to escape—by unknowingly locking himself in repeatedly. Finally, in frustration, Houdini admitted he could not escape. The jailer then revealed his deception. Houdini had believed a lie, and the lie had held him captive.

BUSINESS TRICKS

Source: International Business

A shopkeeper heard his assistant telling a customer, “No, ma’am, we haven’t had any for a while, and it doesn’t look as if we’ll be getting any soon.” Horrified, the shopkeeper came running over to the customer and said, “Of course we’ll have some soon. We placed an order last week.”

Then the trader took the assisting boy aside. “Never,” he snarled, “Never, never, never say we’re out of anything- say we’ve got it on order and its coming. Now, what was it she wanted anyway?” The boy said, “Rain!”

FALSEHOOD AND TRUTHFULNESS



By Bro. Paulson Joshua, Kochi

False reports and lies are affecting many people today; some even become sick mentally as well as physically. Fabricated stories about a good person, will affect his normal life. He or she will lose interest in proper food, and sleep and it will in turn affect their career.

Among God's people also we see a similar scenario.
Let us consider four things in this regard.

1 Remember, the foundation of Christian life is what God did for us.

- a. Jesus Christ is Truth. "I am the way, the truth, and the life," (John 14:6). Notice His prayer for us, "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth." (John 17:17).
- b. Bible, the word of God is Truth. "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15).
- c. The Holy Spirit is truth. (1 John 5:6) Jesus Christ talks about the Holy Spirit, "when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth." (John 16:13).

We must understand that those who have received Jesus Christ have received the truth. They are born of the Spirit, and the Holy Spirit dwells in their heart to guide them into all the truth. Our soul gets purified by obeying the truth. "Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit." (1 Peter 1:22).

So those who are members of the church, the

body of Christ, their life should witness the Truth, Jesus Christ. They should not tell lies and are not to believe false reports.

2 Warnings to those who speak lies and spread false information.

If anyone speaks lies and propagates false reports, they are not the members of the church. They are the children of Satan! Jesus Christ says, "You are of your father the devil, who was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it." (John 8:44). Ananias and Saphira both died on the spot in the church when they were telling lies (Acts 5).

3 Reasons why those who are in fellowship, become liars.

- a. They do not practice the truth. (1 John 1:6)
- b. They do not keep His commandments. (1 John 2:4)
- c. They accuse their brethren. (Revelation 12:10)

4 Throughout history, we see that falsehood hurt the saints.

- a. Job experienced this in his life from the brethren. “How then can you comfort me with empty words, since falsehood remains in your answers?” (Job 21:34).
- b. David prayed to God. “Rescue me and deliver me from the hand of foreigners, whose mouth speaks lying words, and whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood.” (Psalms 144:11). David says,
 - c. Naboth the poor man was killed by creating the false witnesses of Ahab’s wife Jezebel (1 Kings 21:13).
 - d. The chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death (Matthew 26:59).
 - e. The first martyr Stephen was killed by false witnesses (Acts 6:13).

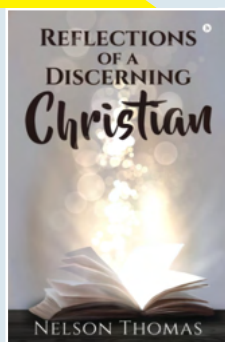
Very sad, today many of the believers who have a good position in this world and in the church as elders or evangelists, tell lies and believe in false reports to hurt the brethren and even send them out from the church.

Therefore, putting away lying, “Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbour,” for we are members of one another (Ephesians 4:25). May Lord help us to realize our position and to admit our faults.

“*The deceitfulness of sin is seen in that it is modest in its first proposals but when it prevails it hardens men’s hearts, and brings them to ruin.*”

-John Owen

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Book From Grace & Peace

WORLDWIDE SELF-DELUDED ALLIANCE! (1 KINGS 22:4,22)

By Stanley K Sam, Secunderabad

God sometimes allows the forces of darkness to perform what is natural for evil to do. Because God knows all things (1 John 3:20) He knows who would step forward to fall for the deceiving (Acts 4:27-28). But though He knows, He is not the One who forces anyone to sin.

Here God allowed evil things to happen as Ahab took the counsel of his false prophets. Ahab loved evil rather than righteousness. And God decided not to alter things as Ahab continued to exercise his free choice. As the lying spirit infested the mouths of these four hundred false prophets, all their hearts were further hardened.

These are solid examples to examine our hearts and make sure we do not get deceived or allow our hearts to be hardened.

When we persistently reject the truth, the enemy will open the door to lies. Every fleshly action and every disobedience against God's laws will open up the door to the enemy. God will give us what we want if we continue to refuse and heed God's promptings through His Word.

When we do not retain the knowledge of God's Word, then we'll be given over to a depraved mind to do things because of a strong delusion. (2 Thessalonians 2:10) This chapter reveals a most relevant lesson to us today: if what's happening around is in conflict with God's Word, then trust God's Word only.

We should not believe lies and allow the natural fallen state of evil to rule our lives. We live in a day when the deceiving activities of Satan are frequent and worldwide.

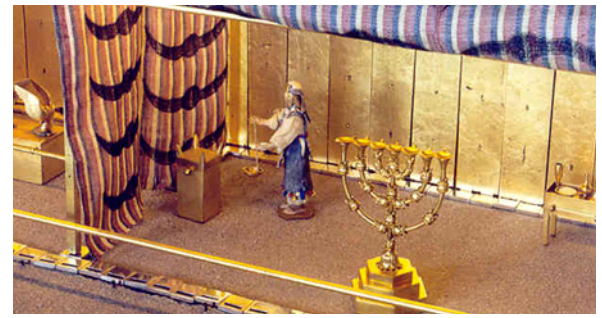
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“A little lie can travel half way ‘round the world while Truth is still lacing up her boots.”

- Mark Twain

”

Notes on Tabernacle – 20: THE HOLY PLACE



By Charles E. Wigg, Australia

As the priest entered the Holy Place, a sight of the most exquisite beauty and glory met his eyes. Psalm 29;9 says that in His temple, everything speaks of His glory. So also in the Tabernacle's Holy place, everything spoke of His glory.

As the priest looked around, he would see the boards, or frames that made the walls of the Tabernacle, covered with pure gold. If they were solid boards, then it would appear as walls of solid gold. If they were frames, then he would see the beautiful curtain, with its figures of cherubim embroidered in threads of pure gold, framed in the frames of pure gold.

If he looked up, he would again see that beautiful curtain, because it formed the ceiling of the Tabernacle. If he looked to the North, he would see the second veil in all its glory, and before it on the right hand, the golden table of shewbread, in the centre, the lovely golden altar, and on the left side, the beautiful golden lamp stand, with its seven golden lamps shedding a soft and flickering light over all, and making all the gold to shine and to sparkle.

What a sight it must have been, enough to fill the soul with awe, and the heart with worship, yet all was but a tiny manifestation of the glory of the One whose house it was. Let us now look at each thing in detail, and see what they will teach us.

“If a man deceived me once, shame on him. If he deceived me twice shame on me.”

- Italian Proverb

”

WHY GOD?

By AbyKuruvilla, Mumbai

Is God relevant in this post-modern age when man is reaching the pinnacle of his existence? “Why God?”, one may ask. The question may seem genuine. But it’s clearly not the question of the seeker of God. We see in the Bible that there were at least five such groups of people who reflected on this same question.

THE
WICKED
ASKED,

???

“Why God?” Read Job’s detailed observation on this matter from Job 21:7-15. In short, he says that the wicked having enjoyed all the pleasures of life, said unto God, “Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways. What is the Almighty, that we should serve him? and what profit should we have, if we pray unto him?” For such, God is unnecessary.

THE
FOOLISH
ASKED,

???

“Why God?” The fool without considering anything about God and his works, said in his heart, “There is no God” (Psalms 14:1). For such, God is non-existent.

THE
RELIGIOUS
ASKED,

???

“Why God?” The unregenerate Jews after having religiously served God, said, “It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts?” (Mal. 3:14). For such, God is transactional.

THE
FEARFUL
ASKED,



“Why God?” During the time of Jesus, there was a group of people who when they suffered losses, ‘came out to meet Jesus: and when they saw him, they besought him that he would depart out of their coasts.’ (Matt. 8:34). For such, God is undesirable.

THE
CARELESS
ASKED,



“Why God?” Despite the gospel being preached to them, those that died in the great flood ‘were before the flood... eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away...’ (Matt 24:38-39). For such, God is unimportant.

The Bible doesn’t butter words when it labels those who do not seek after God. That is because, it is not the words of a politician, or a philosopher, but words inspired by the Spirit of God written according to the holy standards of God. From God’s perspective, the real reason behind man’s rejection of God is that ‘Men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved’ (John 3: 19-20).

Alas, but this is the truth. It’s because of our sins that we ask, “Why God?” But know this that “God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil” (Eccl. 12:14). There is a dreadful day of judgment after this life. If we acknowledge our sins, we must immediately come to the Saviour for forgiveness, lest that day of judgment overtake us, and we be condemned eternally. God has made Christ Jesus the Saviour of the world. He alone can save us from our sins. In his death and resurrection, we have a sure provision for the forgiveness of our sins.

Are you fearing to come to that light? Are you running away from God because you are too filled with the things of this world and do not need God? Or are you just procrastinating that decision for some other day? Now is the time. Now is that acceptable day of salvation. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved.

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