

Speaking the Truth

By Mark Mayberry
8/3/2008

Ephesians 4:25 ... 25 Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. (NKJV)

Ephesians 4:25 ... 25 Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. (NASB95)

Speaking the truth was the duty of Israelites (Lev. 19:11; Ps. 101:7; Zech. 8:14-17), and also of disciples (Zeph. 3:12-13; Eph. 4:14-15; Col. 3:9-11).

David lied without malice (1 Sam. 21:1-10). Doeg lied with malicious intent (1 Sam. 22:1-19). While Doeg stood condemned for his malevolence (Ps. 52:1-5), David was not without fault (1 Sam. 22:20-23).

God's word consistently commends those who are truthful and condemns those who are liars (Ps. 15:1-5; Prov. 12:17-22; Jer. 9:1-6; Acts 5:1-11). Accordingly, all liars will be excluded from heaven, being destined for the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Rev. 21:7-8, 25-27; 22:14-15).

Malicious lies are obviously destructive, but even "white lies" may have adverse and untended consequences. Honesty is always the best policy. Therefore, let us strive to be truthful but tactful, not grating but gracious (Prov. 25:11; Eph. 4:29; Col. 4:6).