

Lying to Ourselves
8-25-13

I hate being lied to. I hate the idea that politicians lie to me; I hate the idea that my kids lie to me. But according to the Bible, there is one liar that seems to always trick me no matter what:

Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; who can know it?"

Did you think it was Satan? He is the father of all lies, but we can be on the guard to his deceit. No, there is really one liar that gets us every time. Our own heart. In Jeremiah's time the people had gathered up the prophets who told them the things they wanted to hear. While the false prophets were anathema to God, it was the people who permitted, and even desired them. Jeremiah 23:25-32

"People of the Lie" – some people lie to themselves in order to satisfy their guilt (a proof man is innately good). They create an image that is simply not true, and do whatever they can to justify it. No one wants to see themselves as evil. The Bible commands us to constantly be examining ourselves.

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? --unless indeed you are disqualified.

Let us use the Scriptures to look at some ways that we might be deceiving ourselves

1. The Denial of our sins, both past and present

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

2. Not doing the things we read or hear

James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

3. Not controlling our mouths

James 1:26 If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.

4. Believing we have amounted to much for God

Galatians 6:3 For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

5. Believing we are wise

1 Corinthians 3:18 Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.

We risk eternal condemnation by believing the lies we tell ourselves.

Revelation 22:15 But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

2 Thessalonians 2:11-12 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.