

The Liar's Punishment

by Wayne Goff

George Bernard Shaw once said, “The liar’s punishment is not in the least that he is not believed, but that he cannot believe anyone else.”

Shaw’s comments reflect the self-inflicted punishment that sin brings upon the sinner. He is not talking about eternal judgment. The apostle John wrote: “...and **all liars** shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death” (Rev. 21:8). Interestingly enough, John is known as the apostle of love, and yet he used the word “*liar*” more often than any other writer of the Bible! But let’s get back to Shaw’s comment.

“He Cannot Believe Anyone Else”

Indeed, a man who is a *habitual liar* is one who is unreliable, untrustworthy, and undependable. You cannot believe a word he says, and he even knows better than to believe himself. Therefore, assuming that everyone else is somewhat like himself, his greatest earthly punishment is he suspects that all men are liars and dishonest.

Sometimes we can become cynical of mankind. The psalmist said, “*I said in my haste, ‘All men are liars’*” (Ps. 116:11). When one is being opposed by his enemies, it can seem that way. Fortunately, the Lord delivered that psalmist!

Many years ago I heard the statement: “When you hear a man say ‘Every man has his price,’ you know that such is not true, but that the man making the statement does!” Once again, the sinner is trying to justify himself by making everyone else like him. Jesus Christ did not compromise Himself by selling out! His twelve apostles (minus Judas) did not “have their price.” Many men have lived and died in this world while remaining true to their character. But you know you cannot trust the man who has unwittingly told the world that he can be bought! Beloved reader, do not become a “Judas.” He is the perfect example of one who had a price, and it was not worth what he received! Jesus said it would have been better if Judas had not been born, Matt. 26:24. The Bible teaches us to *think the best of others!* (cf. 1 Cor. 13:5; Phil. 1:7). You may occasionally be harmed by those you tried to help, but at least you’re not the cynical, spiteful one.

More On Liars

*“An evildoer gives heed to false lips; a **liar** listens eagerly to a spiteful tongue”* (Prov. 17:4).

*“What is desired in a man is kindness, and a poor man is better than a **liar**”* (Prov. 19:22).

These two proverbs tell us that if we delight in listening to evil, spiteful, lying people, then we are not good ourselves! Beware that to which you listen!

People who are liars are not good company. Jesus said that the Devil “*is a **liar** and the father of it*” (Jn. 8:44). When people tell **lies** — that is, make false statements to persons or a group knowing they are not the whole truth, *intentionally* — they harm others and themselves.

Man Versus God?

“For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: ‘That You may be justified in Your words, and may overcome when You are judged’” (Rom. 3:3-4). Paul is explaining in these verses that when a conflict arises between God and man, then man will be wrong **every time!** Now think of all the times that man has accused God. Either man’s information was wrong, or his motive was wrong, or heart was wrong! We do not know more than God. We are not as wise as God. We certainly are not perfect like God is perfect. So with His matchless character, knowledge, wisdom and power — God will be **true** and every man who accuses Him will be a **liar**. John used this logic in 1 John 1:10 when he wrote: “*If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a **liar**, and His word is not in us.*” Be careful you do not accuse God in either word or deed. 291202