

Series: Psalm

Title: Hate Lying; Love God's Law

Text: Psalm 119: 113

Date: February 27, 2014

Place: SGBC, New Jersey

For those who read the daily reading I mailed out for today, then you know it is from **Psalm 119:113: I hate vain thoughts: but thy law do I love.**

Tomorrow's daily reading is found in the same Psalm verse 163. Tomorrow you will get to read it, tonight you will get to hear it preached. **Psalm 119:163: I hate and abhor lying: but thy law do I love.**

Is there anyone that does not hate for others to lie to us, even in secular things? To be lied to hurts. Usually, lies hurt worse than the thing being covered by lies. The worst of all lying is those who lie against our God and our Savior.

In fact, lying is one of the worst sins there is because God is Truth. God is Light. There are no lies in God. Therefore, lying is the exact opposite of God.

1 John 1: 5: God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6: If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 7: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Title: Hate Lying; Love God's Law

Proposition: Believer's not only dislike lying, we hate lying and we not only like the commands of our God, we love the law of our God.

I. FIRST, HATE AND ABHOR LYING—Psalm 113: 163: I hate and abhor lying:...

The first lie led to separation and death. It was one lie that set things in motion for the whole world to be plunged into separation from God and death by sin. God spoke the truth when he said to Adam, "of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." (Gen 2: 17)

But Satan, the father of lies, came along and "the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty." (2 Cor 11: 3) He told Eve this lie, "Ye shall not surely die. For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." (Gen 3:

Through the lie, Eve began to flirt with temptation: first she only looked, "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she" thought, what harm could come by merely holding the fruit? After all, she had not been forbidden to hold the fruit. So she flirted with temptation a little more. She went a step further, she "took of the fruit thereof." Isn't this what lies open us unto? Then holding the fruit what did Eve do? "and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat." (Gen 3: 6) So one lie led to all being separated from God into sin and death by Adam's one transgression.

But lying never ends with one lie. Lies require lies to cover lies. Adam became a liar when he disobeyed the truth of God. Then their fig leaf apron was a lie to cover the first lie. On and on the lies go, down to us, where their lies brought forth spiritually dead liars like you and me, "The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies." (Ps 58: 3)

So lies accomplish nothing good. Lying separates man from God and separates man from man. Lies never make things better, only worse. They draw us into further temptation and bring forth death. Only truth makes alive.

James 1: 12: Blessed *is* the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. 13: Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God:

We are apt to excuse our lies using God's providence. Was God providentially ruling all things in the garden? Yes. But was God to blame for Satan's lie, for Eve's lust and Adam's disobedience? No!

James 1: 12:...for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: 14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

Notice these steps.

James 1: 15: Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

First sin is conceived in the mind, then sin comes forth in the act, then sin produces death. So

James 1: 16: Do not err, my beloved brethren.

Do not err from the truth of God.

James 1: 17: Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. 18: Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

We imagine a vain thing if we imagine we can save ourselves by lying whether it be our jobs, our marriages, our reputation, ourselves from shame and worst of all, if we think we can save our souls through a false gospel.

Lies may save from temporary suffering, but lying never saves in the long run. Whether we are found out by men or not, by lying we have forsaken the truth. By lying we no longer are in the realm of God and Light and Truth, but walk in darkness.

Proverbs 12: 19: The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment.

That moment may last for a while, in fact it may last a life time. The rest of our lives men may regard us as just and good and holy. We may be a preacher or regarded a saint, a faithful husband and father or a faithful wife and mother or a faithful son or daughter. We may be honored and praised by men. But soon, that moment shall pass with the swiftness of our life, then we shall meet the Truth face-to-face.

In Psalm 101, David's hatred of lying is typical of God's hatred of lying—of Christ's hatred of lying. In the day of judgment the liar shall not enter God's house, "He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight." (Ps 101: 7)

Revelation 21:27: And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Someone may say, "Have we not all told a little white lie now and then?" That is the way we vainly justify ourselves? By making ourselves to be one in a million we soothe our conscious. Such lying to our own conscious makes us go on, boldly, without fear, lying to God and men, insisting that our lies are the truth. All our ways if not in accord with God's word are lies.

No, we have not all told a little white lie now and then! Before God there are no little white lies only big, bold, black lies. Truth is, all the natural man is, is a liar and all the natural man does is lie. Lies ooze from the natural man's tongue like puss from a gangrene-wound. But the fact we are all liars, by nature, justifies none of us for lying.

God said this of Israel because of their daily lies; it is true of God's spiritual Israel by our first birth in our sin nature—this is us we must be saved from

Jeremiah 9: 5: And they will deceive every one his neighbour, and will not speak the truth: they have taught their tongue to speak lies, and weary themselves to commit iniquity. Thine habitation is in the midst of deceit; through deceit they refuse to know me, saith the LORD. Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, I will melt them, and try them; for how shall I do for the daughter of my people? Their tongue is as an arrow shot out; it speaketh deceit: one speaketh peaceably to his neighbour with his mouth, but in heart he layeth his wait. Shall I not visit them for these things? saith the LORD: shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?

If we are born of God then we hate and abhor lying and love the word of God. Yet, even in us, believer, who hate lying, do we not yet find ourselves lying in some capacity? We lie by omitting the truth; we lie by putting on a fake face; we lie with flattery; we lie to prevent personal suffering. When tempted we are sometimes like Balaam, instead of telling the Moabites, "No! I cannot go with you. Do not return because God has said, thou shalt not go with them; thou shalt not curse the people: for they are blessed." Instead, there was a "yes" in his "no." Is that not all the same as a lie with the God of truth?

Brethren, as saints of God, we are commanded:

Colossians 3: 5: Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: 7: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. 8: But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. 9: Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10: And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: 11: Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond *nor* free: but Christ *is* all, and in all.

John Gill—"In times of trouble there are two things to be done, the first is to hope in God, and the second is to do that which is right. The first without the second would be mere presumption: the second without the first mere formalism."

But where is our strength to mortify the deeds of our flesh and follow the word of our God?

II. NOW FOR THE SECOND PART OF OUR TEXT, Psalm 113: 163:...but thy law do I love.

Our constant need is that by the Truth, by every Word of God in these scriptures, God will bring us to continually repent from lies and make us cry out in truth, saying, "**I hate and abhor lying: but thy law do I love.**"

God does so by making us know the Truth in the new man, in the heart he has made new, by his grace.

Psalm 51: 6: Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. 7: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8: Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. 9: Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. 10: Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

What is the Truth God puts in our inward parts? What is this Wisdom, God makes his child know in the hidden part? How is it God can blot out all our iniquities? The answer is the message of the law of God which we love, the message of the whole word of God. God in Truth makes us behold Christ on the cross:

Psalm 85: 10: Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Brethren, when we lie it is usually because we do not want to suffer the consequences of the truth. But think on this: yes, truth may cause us pain and suffering. It did our Substitute on the cross. But suffering for the Truth, was the only way of upholding the Truth and the only way of redeeming God's elect from lies.

God's elect are saved from the consequences of that great lie in the garden, and from all our sins and all our personal lies, because Christ bore the vengeance of God for every lie of his people because every lie is against God's own soul!

But because God chose his people in Christ, Christ the Truth, laid down his spotless life to be the sin bearer of elect liars. He took all our lies upon himself when "he made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin." (2 Cor 5: 21) Christ said to God, "Charge their lies to my account." And God "numbered him with the transgressors; he was made a curse for us." (Is 53: 12; Gal 3: 13) So he bore the vengeance of God for his people. Doing so he upheld the Truth—the Righteousness of God. Now, God in Truth can be merciful to us who are by nature liars.

Do you see how truth is always the best way no matter the suffering? Truth may mean necessary suffering but Truth always prevails over suffering. Two great things are accomplished by Truth: 1) By Truth God is just and the Justifier of his people. 2) By Truth God makes us depart from our darkness into his marvelous light.

Proverbs 16:6: By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.

When David says, "thy law do I love." it is this Word of Truth, every Word this book declares:

- Total depravity
- Unconditional election
- Limited Atonement/Particular Redemption
- Irresistible grace
- Preservation of the saints

The law of God which believers love is "the gospel of God (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh." (Rom 1: 1-3) Jesus Christ the Truth who upheld the Truth and conquers all liars.

The Law of God spoken of in our text is the Wisdom God puts into our hearts when Christ the Truth is made Wisdom unto us, when Christ is formed in our hearts. And the sure, effectual result of God's irresistible grace, of Truth abiding in our hearts is this, the believer cries, "**I hate and abhor lying: but thy law do I love.**" (Ps 119: 163)

Therefore, each new morning, we need to beg God, "Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day." (Ps 25: 5) What is our constraint, as believers, to walk in the truth and speak the truth—before God and all men—the truth of the facts in every situation, and the truth of this gospel? We now know how important the Truth is. We now know how we depend upon Truth—Christ our Savior—not to forsake us but to keep us as the apple of his eye. We now know every word God speaks is holy, just and good and is for our good who follow him. That is why David said "my heart standeth in awe of thy word." (Ps 119: 161)

Consider what God's word is. First, God's word is the truth—the only solid truth there is. All other books were written by fallible men therefore they are fallible books—all books contain lies. But this book was written by God

and is all truth. Secondly, by God's word, through the gospel, God gives the revelation of the righteousness of God—Christ Jesus our Righteousness—how God is just to show us mercy by Christ's sacrificial, substitutionary, successful death on the cross. Thirdly, the words of this book are more needful at the beginning of each day than breakfast. Notice just in this Psalm alone how much David speaks of meditating on the word of God.

Ps 119:15: I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways....23: Princes also did sit and speak against me: but thy servant did meditate in thy statutes....48: My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy statutes....78: Let the proud be ashamed; for they dealt perversely with me without a cause: but I will meditate in thy precepts...148: Mine eyes prevent the night watches, that I might meditate in thy word.

Believer, do you meditate on the word of God? Not the silly things men call meditation. But if each morning, you read a verse from this book and think on it all day, you will be amazed how God will use the events of the day to teach you its meaning. I will walk around with a phrase from this book for weeks, months, sometimes over a year—then God will show me just what it means.

By God's grace, by the Holy Spirit teaching us in our hearts, the word of God will make us wiser than those who would turn us from Christ.

First, wiser than our enemies—Psalm 119: 97: MEM. O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day. 98: Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. David says—he is a type of Christ who is really speaking to us here—he was able to defeat all his enemies because God's Word was always with him, and he followed the word of God. If you want to overcome all who would bring a charge against you or lay a snare for you, before God and men, do not study your enemies, cast all your care into Christ's hand, read his word and walk in it.

Secondly, wiser than all false teachers—Psalm 119: 99: I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. Remember how Christ had more understanding than all the false teachers in his day? So did David. How so? "For thy testimonies are my meditation." It does not mean we will be able to overcome vain men in all their arguments against divine election, or predestination; against Christ's virgin birth, him being our rule through faith and love rather than law or when they renounce his resurrection; against their lying about the necessity of the Holy Spirit birthing us anew, guiding us into all truth, keeping us and raising us in the last day. But we will have understanding enough to stay away from foolish questions, to keep our mouths shut and to trust the Lord to overcome them on our behalf.

Thirdly, this word makes us wiser than old men—Psalm 119: 100: I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts. Men will try to shake you with ancient traditions—simply look to God's word to determine if it be true or not. You hear me quote ancient men—faithful men—but the way I discern if what those men said is worth repeating—is if it is confirmed in this book. Then there are ancient sinners. Old men who do not believe on Christ will try to turn a new believer from Christ using all their so-called wisdom. Keep to the word of God and you will understand more than old sinners. Paul told Timothy,

2 Timothy 3:15: And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

I have but two words for you to take home with you:

1) **Hate and abhor lying:** whether it be a false gospel or in our everyday lives. For God has taught us that there is no freedom in lying, only in truth.

2) **Love the word of God.** When God's word is the Life of our life, God, by his grace, will constrain us by His word. So God commands us,

Proverbs 3: 3: Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

Only when God has put Truth into our hearts will we understand what Christ meant in John 8: 31-31:

“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (Jn 8: 31-32)

I pray God will make us to say from the heart made new by grace, **“I hate and abhor lying: but thy law do I love.”** (Ps 119: 163)

Amen!