Prov. 19:5, 9, 22: A false witness will not go unpunished, & he who breathes out lies will not escape . . . [9] A false witness will not go unpunished, & he who breathes out lies will perish . . . [22] What is desired in a man is mercy, & a poor man is better than a liar.

Intro: Has anyone ever lied to you? Have you ever told a lie? Believed a lie? (More lies than ever!)

Webster 1828: To utter falsehood with an intention to deceive, or with an immoral design. To exhibit a false representation; to say or do that which deceives another, when he has a right to know the truth, or when morality requires a just representation.

God is the God of Truth: Heb. 6:17-18: So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, [18] so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie . . . .

<u>God will punish all liars, so tell the truth because God is truth.</u>

<u>1. Why Do People Lie?</u> (What is the sin behind the sin? What is the heart of the matter?)
a. People lie because they are wicked: The devil deceived Eve: "You shall not surely die"; The false witnesses at Jesus' trial were wicked. **<u>GOSPEL!</u>**

b. People lie to keep themselves from getting in trouble: Cain: "Am I my brother's keeper?"; Peter lied about knowing Jesus; Joseph's brothers lied about what happened to Joseph (Lies can't stop God's purposes!) (Be sure your sin will find you out – Num. 32)

c. People lie to get what they want: Jacob deceived Isaac to get the blessing. Jezebel instructed false witnesses to lie about Naboth to get his vineyard. Gehazi lied to Elisha about getting presents from Naaman because he was greedy & wanted the presents. <u>(Children, why do you lie?)</u>

d. People lie to make themselves look better in the eyes of others: Ananias & Sapphira's lie

e. People lie because they are afraid: Sarah lied about laughing because she was afraid.

f. People lie to flatter others: The Pharisees did this to Jesus "Teacher we know that you are true"

g. People lie not to offend others: "How was dinner?" "Oh! It was great!"; Transgender lies

h. People lie to cover up other lies: Once you tell one lie, you have to keep it going to cover up!

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<u>2. What Are Some Of The Different Ways We Lie?</u>
a. We say we will do something & then we don't do it: Prayer? We make promises & don't keep them. We say we will be here or there at such & such a time & then don't show up or we are late.

b. Hypocrisy: We profess one thing with our lips, but we live a different way. We live a double life. In public we might put on the resemblance of a Christian, but in our private life, we live a different way. My statement last Sunday: Church is more important than all other religious duties.
- 1 Jn. 4:20: If anyone says, "I love God," & hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

c. We tell half truths to cover up something: Abraham lied about Sarah being his wife.

d. We make excuses & talk around something: We are purposely vague. We say a lot of words & hope the person we are lying to or not telling the truth will get lost in our words. We don't just use straight talk.

e. We lie by omission: We leave out certain important details & hope the person won't notice.

f. We lie by exaggeration: We overstate the facts, amplify a story, or make something seem much more significant or dire than it actually is.

g. We lie by minimization: We downplay the severity of a situation, our own fault, or the impact our actions have on someone else.

h. We lie by paltering: We use completely truthful statements to intentionally lead someone to an incorrect conclusion. It is the act of telling the truth in a misleading way. (Abraham & Sarah)

i. We tell white lies: Deceptions told with the intention of being helpful or sparing someone's feelings rather than causing harm (saying a terrible meal is delicious).

j. We lie by plagiarism: We turn in school work that someone else did. Young people are using AI to write papers & do their work.

k. We can be self-deceived – we lie to ourselves & don't even know it: Deut. 11:16: Take care lest your heart be deceived, & you turn aside & serve other gods & worship them
- 1 Cor. 6:9-11: Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. [11] & such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.
- 1 Cor. 15:33: Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."
- Gal. 6:7: Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.
- 2 Cor. 13:5: Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? – unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

<u>God will punish all liars, so tell the truth because God is truth.</u>

3. God Will Punish Those Who Tell Lies

Prov. 19:5, 9: A false witness will not go unpunished, & he who breathes out lies will not escape . . . [9] A false witness will not go unpunished, & he who breathes out lies will perish . . .

a. God will punish liars in this life: Deut. 19:15-20: A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established. [16] If a malicious witness arises to accuse a person of wrongdoing, [17] then both parties to the dispute shall appear before the LORD, before the priests & the judges who are in office in those days. [18] The judges shall inquire diligently, & if the witness is a false witness & has accused his brother falsely, [19] then you shall do to him as he had meant to do to his brother. So you shall purge the evil from your midst. [20] & the rest shall hear & fear, & shall never again commit any such evil among you.

- Daniel's accusers; Jezebel; Gehazi; Ananias & Sapphira: You will reap what you sow!

What about those who do escape with their lies? Eric Lane: Many times God has said he will personally deal with liars who escape detection, whoever they are: national leaders (Isa. 9:14-16), prophets (Jer. 23:16-32), pastors (2 Pet. 2:1-3), people (Rev. 21:8) & devils (Rev. 19:20).

b. God will punish liars in the life to come: Rev. 21:8: But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, & all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire & sulfur, which is the second death.

God will punish all liars, so tell the truth because God is truth.

4. God Delights In The Merciful, Not In Liars

Prov. 19:22: What is desired in a man is mercy, & a poor man is better than a liar.

a. God (& people) delights in the merciful: Liars are an abomination to God; He will punish all liars; They will not escape; They will perish. But what is God's delight? He delights in those who show mercy – because He shows mercy!

Other people delight in merciful people too! And it's better to be poor than to be a liar.

John Kitchen: That which people long to find true in those they associate with is "kindness." This translates the rich Hebrew word *hesed*. The term is descriptive of covenant love & faithfulness. It is a mercy, kindness, love, & compassion that flows from an unalterable commitment made to another. It is not hard to see why this is a quality desirable in those with whom one builds relationships. Ultimately, this is God's kind of love for those who trust Him. This provides a suitable starting point from which to understand the second line, for here we meet "a liar." The term describes a person who perjures himself. In this instance, what it appears the man lies about is his inability to come to their aid, but deceitfully poses as unable to be of assistance. This not only provides a clear parallel to the first line, but such a contrast between covenant love & selfish

lying is found in the New Testament: “But whoever has the world’s goods, & beholds his brother in need & closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?” (1 John 3:17). For this reason, “it is better to be a poor man” (i.e. to actually share the fate of the impoverished one before you) & be unable to help, than it is to [richly abound] with money & bound by falsehood & selfish deceit. “Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity Than he who is perverse in speech & is a fool” (Prov. 19:1). “Many a man proclaims his own loyalty, But who can find a trustworthy man?” (Prov. 20:6).

b. God commands His people to tell the truth: Col. 3:8-10: But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, & obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices & have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.
- Eph. 4:25: Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

c. Remember Jesus Christ: 2 Tim. 2:8: Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel . . . .
- V. 5: A false witness will not go unpunished, & he who breathes out lies will not escape: Jesus never gave false testimony! Jesus always told the truth! Jesus is the truth (John 14:6)! Yet He did not go unpunished for our sins! Jesus never breathed out a lie, but He did not escape His Father’s curse, wrath, & judgment.
- V. 9: A false witness will not go unpunished, & he who breathes out lies will perish: Jesus did perish so that you might never perish! He was punished so that you will never be punished! Jesus did not escape so that you might forever escape! Hallelujah! What a Savior!
- V. 22: What is desired in a man is mercy, & a poor man is better than a liar: Jesus showed mercy like no man ever did! And He became poor so that you might inherit the whole world!

Christ Jesus: God Who Never Lies
He Does No Sin Or Acts Unwise
None Of His Character Denies
He’s Truest Witness – Breathes Out Cries
Of Truth And Mercy – Grace Supplies
Yet He Was Punished For Our Lies
He’d Not Escape God’s Curse And Dies
Perished Though He’s Heaven’s Prize
He’s Perfect, Wise, And Never Lies
He Conquered Death And Did Arise
Pours Mercy Out And Does Baptize
With His Own Spirit Makes Us Wise
And Now All Lies We Do Despise
On Christ Alone We Keep Our Eyes
Who Is Our All And Treasure Prize!
<u>God will punish all liars, so tell the truth because God is truth.</u>