

# PROVERBS: *Truth vs. Falsehood*

## **INTRODUCTION:**

The Scriptures teach that God is characterized by truth and cannot lie (Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18). He is faithful despite the unfaithfulness of man (2 Tim. 2:13). One would expect God's inspired proverbs of wisdom to include admonitions to truthfulness and condemnations of falsehood.

- I. LIES AND TRUTH - RULERS AND NEIGHBORS
  - A. Lying lips are an abomination to Jehovah, but dealing truly is Jehovah's delight (12:22).
  - B. Lips of truth are established forever, but a lying tongue is only for a moment (12:19).
  - C. Lying lips are not becoming to a prince (17:7).
  - D. A king desiring falsehood will receive falsehood from servants (29:12).
  - E. Lying lips hurts our neighbors (26:18-19; 26:28).
  
- II. FALSE WITNESS - BACKBITER - SLANDERER AND FAITHFUL WITNESS
  - A. Faithful witness will not lie, but a worthless witness mocks at justice (14:5; 19:28).
  - B. Harmful deceit is the character of the false witness (12:17; 14:25).
  - C. The false witness wounds his neighbor (25:18; 24:28).
  - D. The false witness will suffer (19:5, 9; 21:28; 25:23).
  
- III. LYING LIPS AND HATRED
  - A. Hidden hatred leads to lying lips (10:18).
  - B. Though guile hides hatred for a time, it will come out (26:24-26).
  
- IV. FALSE AND JUST BALANCE AND WEIGHTS
  - A. Just weights are part of God's law (16:11).
  - B. False weights are an abomination to Jehovah, but just weights are His delight (11:1; 20:10; 20:23).
  - C. Deceitful trade practices condemned (20:14; 20:17; 21:6).

## **QUESTIONS:**

1. How is God affected by the truthfulness of our words?
  
2. How long do truth and lies last?
  
3. What is not becoming to a ruler?
  
4. What effect does the King desiring falsehood have on his servants?
  
5. What is not lessened when deceit is manifested in jest?

6. If we lie concerning the actions of others, what do we actually feel?
7. Why is a witness worthless who mocks justice?
8. What will we manifest if righteousness is our goal?
9. What is a false witness in regard to his neighbor?
10. What can cause one to speak lies against his neighbor?
11. What is another way of saying that a false witness will not escape?
12. In 21:28, why will a man who "heareth" speak words that will endure?
13. A backbiting tongue will bring *what* from *whom*?
14. Express the following in other words: "*He that hideth hatred is of lying lips?*"
15. Are our business affairs outside of God's law?
16. How is God affected by our standards in business?
17. Does God forbid "haggling" over a price in 20:14? Explain.
18. Describe what it is like to gain something in business by deceit.