

# 7

## DEADLY LIES THAT THE DEVIL WANTS EVERYONE TO BELIEVE

“One that believes lies hates his own soul, and the one who exposes lies is hated by those that deceive themselves. There is an enmity between the one that believes lies and the one that exposes lies; they cannot walk together and, sooner or later, one or the other shall be driven away” – David Collins.

### Introduction

1. By its very nature a lie is untrue. It is a falsehood: (i) A lie is “...a false statement made with deliberate intent to deceive...” (Random House College Dictionary), and, (ii) Deceit is an “act or practice... intended to... mislead by a false appearance or statement” (Ibid.). The difference is that a lie is generally spoken, but deceit includes anything, whether words or deeds, that are intended to lead people to believe what is not true.
2. I would dare to suggest that each one of us has told a lie at least once in our lives. Some might even deny ever having told one lie in their lives, but then they might have a rather narrow definition of a lie. A lie can be...
  - a. A clear statement of untruth: both Ananias and his wife Sapphira lied about the price they received from selling a possession. When Peter asked Sapphira, “Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?” She answered, “Yes, for so much” (Acts 5:1-10).
  - b. A half-truth: when Abraham came to Gerar, he told Abimelech the king regarding Sarah, “She is my sister” (Genesis 20:1-2). Well, Sarah was Abraham’s wife, but she was also his half-sister (Genesis 20:12). But even a half-truth is a lie because the purpose of a half-truth is to deceive.
  - c. Deceitfulness, which includes anything, whether words or deeds, that are intended to lead people to believe what is not true.
3. Once a person – and it can be a Christian as well as a non-Christian – comes to realise the many ways in which he can lie and that he is guilty of lying, he may try to brush it aside by saying, “Everybody tells lies!” I suppose the idea is that if lying is universally practiced, then it must be natural; it must be that we just can’t help it because that’s the way we have been made. “Lying is natural and we can’t be condemned for doing what is natural”. One might as well argue the same about sin in general!
  - a. But all of man’s attempts to justify or trivialise sin do not change the truth: “He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and **all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone**, which is the second death” (Revelation 21:7-8).
  - b. Yes, lying, like many sins, is universal, but we shouldn’t be surprised because “the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one” (1 John 5:19). Indeed, Jesus says, “He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it” (John 8:44). Jesus makes it very clear that the devil is the father of lies, and whenever we tell a lie we are making the devil our father or whenever we refuse to stand on the truth of God’s word we are making the devil our father.
4. Do we believe lies that others have told us? Do we believe lies that we have told ourselves? “A man is bound to say that he seeks the truth, but it is a man’s desires and motives that reveal whether he loves the truth or seeks to justify his own opinions. Yet who is able to see into the heart of man but God? The wheat and the tares grow together, but the Lord will separate them at the Harvest” (David Collins). In this lesson we shall examine some common lies that some people – believers and unbelievers – choose to believe.

“People do not believe lies because they have to, but because they want to”  
– Malcolm Muggeridge.

**7 DEADLY LIES THAT THE DEVIL WANTS EVERYONE TO BELIEVE**

1. God's word is not true (**Genesis 3:1-5**).
2. God will make an exception in my case (**Joshua 7:21**).
3. You don't have to go to church to be a faithful Christian (**1 Kings 12:25-33**).
4. Being a Christian means you can't have fun (**1 Corinthians 6:9-10**).
5. All roads lead to heaven (**Ephesians 2:8; John 4:24**).
6. There isn't going to be a judgment day (**2 Peter 3:3-4**).
7. You have plenty of time to obey God (**Acts 24:25**).

**7 DEADLY LIES THAT THE DEVIL WANTS EVERYONE TO BELIEVE**

**1. THE WORD OF GOD IS NOT TRUE** (**Genesis 3:1-5**)

- a. Jesus said of the Devil, "When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it" (**John 8:44**). The first recorded lie of the Devil is seen in Genesis, which he spoke to our parents:

"Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which Jehovah God had made. And he said to the woman, Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'? And the woman said to the serpent, We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' Then the serpent said to the woman, You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil" (**Genesis 3:1-5**).

- 1) The Devil knew that God didn't say, "You shall not eat of every tree of the garden", but his question was simply a device to provoke a response (or some say it was test how well she knew the word of God). Since the Devil knew what God had said, we can see he is already practicing deceit.
  - 2) So Eve set the Serpent right, saying, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die'". The Serpent immediately contradicts what God had said, "You will not surely die", and then he gave an explanation for "God's lie", "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil". Remarkably, both Adam and Eve believed the Serpent's lie and ate the fruit (**Genesis 3:6**).
- b. Today, there are millions of people that do not believe the Bible is the inspired word of God. The god of this age (**2 Corinthians 4:4**) has promoted this lie through several avenues by which he maintains his sway over the entire world<sup>1</sup> (**1 John 5:19**). Satan's influence has even reached into the "Christian" realm: John Pavlovitz is the Pastor of the North Raleigh Community Church. On his website, he states, "**I don't believe the Bible was dictated by God**. The sixty-six books comprising the Bible were composed by flawed, imperfect, emotional, very *human* beings who never claim to have been fully possessed by God or robbed of their faculties as they wrote. This means that however virtuous or well-meaning or inspired they might have been, they can't help but have brought some of *themselves* into the writing".
- 1) The consequences of denying the Bible's inspiration and rejecting its standard of morality are clearly seen in our society: blasphemy, gossip, slander, abortion, homosexuality, drunkenness, gluttony, etc. We are, indeed, living in terrible times (**2 Timothy 3:1-5**). So what will be the consequences if Christians deny the Bible's inspiration? Apostasy and an increase in immorality (**1 Timothy 4:1-3**).

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<sup>1</sup> The onus is on each one of us to discover the seven avenues through which Satan maintains his sway over the entire world, that we might protect ourselves against his influence and, in some cases, break free of them completely.

- 2) Not only are there consequences to suffer in this life, there are consequences to suffer in the next life! The scriptures set forth (i) the only solution to the sin problem (**Romans 3:21-26; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38**), (ii) the only way of salvation, and (iii) Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life (**John 14:6; Acts 4:12**). Literally thousands of people die every day and millions every year, and the majority are lost (**Matthew 7:13-14**). Every lost soul will say, "I am tormented in this flame" (**Luke 16:24**). How terrible it must be for one that does not believe the Bible is the inspired word of God and that has rejected the gospel as foolishness, to pass from this life into a place of eternal torment. It's a sobering thought!
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- c. "The word of God is not true" is a lie that millions of people believe and, no doubt, the devil would be happy if everyone believed this lie.
- 1) Paul said that the church of the living God is "the pillar and support of the truth" (**1 Timothy 3:15**). A "pillar" is literally a column that supports a building (CWSD) and a "support" refers to a "stay, a prop" (Wuest). Both words are used metaphorically to emphasize the responsibility of a local church to support, defend, and propagate the truth.
  - 2) Both a local church and individuals must support, defend, and propagate the truth. This is the only way we can fight against the lie that the devil is propagating throughout the world.
- d. Is God's word true? We don't have the time or space to deal with this topic in any depth, and so I will just present the four lines of evidences from a brochure titled "Is The Bible The Word Of God?"
- 1) The Bible is unique in its continuity, circulation, translation, survival, teachings, and influence on surrounding literature. Each of these is a subject to be studied on its own, and together prove the Bible to be unique.
  - 2) The reliability of the Bible is confirmed by the historical text and archaeology. The same tests which are applied to any piece of literature to determine its reliability show the Bible to be historically accurate. Also, many places and persons named in the Bible, previously thought to be fictional, have been confirmed by archaeology.
  - 3) Internal scientific knowledge. The Bible touches on many aspects of science (though it is not a scientific book), and in each case this knowledge has proved to be accurate. How could the Bible writers have obtained such knowledge without the benefit of modern instruments and technology?
  - 4) Bible writers claim to be inspired. The writers of both the Old and New Testaments make this claim.

## 2. GOD WILL MAKE AN EXCEPTION IN MY CASE (**Joshua 7:21**)

- a. When Joshua led his people against Jericho, he ordered them, saying, "Now the city shall be doomed by Jehovah to destruction, it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent" (**Joshua 6:17**). He also warned them, saying, "And you, by all means abstain from the accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are consecrated to Jehovah; they shall come into the treasury of Jehovah" (**Joshua 6:18-19**).
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- 1) Despite the clear instructions and warnings, we find that "Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed things; so the anger of Jehovah burned against the children of Israel" (**Joshua 7:1**).
  - 2) Did Achan really think he would get away with it? Perhaps he thought the Lord would make an exception in his case! Well, he was found out and confessed, "When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it" (**Joshua 7:21**). He was then taken and put to death (**Joshua 7:25**). Note: his confession did not exempt him from suffering the consequences of his sin.

- b. There are non-Christians that know there is a coming judgment and they know they ought to get their lives in order, but they never get around to it. They know they have sinned but believe that God will overlook their sins. There are Christians that are walking in a particular sin, which they know will bar them from eternal life, and yet they somehow manage to persuade themselves that God will understand and make an exception in their case. This is a lie of the devil that - if believed - will cost you your soul!
- c. All believers (whether they are Christians or not) must break free of this lie (i) by understanding that any sin will disqualify a person from inheriting the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9-10), and that all sinners will be cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 21:8), and, (ii) by understanding that God will show no partiality (Deuteronomy 10:17; 2 Chronicles 19:7) to anyone at the judgment (Romans 2:1-11). Meditating on these facts will drive out the foolish notion that we can remain in sin and that “God will make an exception in my case”.

### 3. YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO TO CHURCH TO BE A FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN (1 Kings 12:25-33)

- a. God chose Jerusalem as the place where He would place His name – thus the Temple was built there (2 Chronicles 6:1-42) and He commanded the Israelites, saying, “Three times a year all your males shall appear before Jehovah your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before Jehovah empty-handed” (Deuteronomy 16:16).
- b. Jeroboam was the first king of the northern kingdom of Israel after the revolt of the ten northern tribes against Rehoboam that put an end to the United Monarchy.
  - 1) The Temple of the Lord was located in Jerusalem, in the southern kingdom of Judah. This was a concern to Jeroboam: “And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now the kingdom may return to the house of David: if these people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of Jehovah at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn back to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and go back to Rehoboam king of Judah” (1 Kings 12:26-27).
  - 2) So, on the advice of his counselors, he “made two calves of gold, and said to the people, **It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem.** Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt! And he set up one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan” (1 Kings 12:28-29).
- c. Jeroboam is saying that (i) **worshipping God is the essential thing**, not the *place* of worship, and, (ii) **worshipping God is the essential thing**, not *how* you worship. He is basically saying that it is perfectly acceptable to worship God *where* you choose and *how* you choose; in this case through the golden calves he had set up.
  - 1) Bearing in mind Jeroboam’s motives (1 Kings 12:26-27), do you think he would have suggested - if he thought the people would have listened - that “You don’t have to attend services at any place to be a faithful Jew”? I think he refrained from saying this because he knew it would be going too far.
  - 2) Today, however, making such a statement is exactly what many want to hear! John said, “I have been a Christian for twenty-three years and I rarely set foot inside a church building. I read the Bible and worship God whenever and wherever I want to and I have experienced more spiritual growth than I would at a building. In many ways I think not going to church makes you a better Christian”. This is what John teaches all his “Christian” friends.
- d. “You don’t have to go to church to be a faithful Christian”. Those that make such statements are either ignorant of what the scriptures teach or simply seeking to justify their disobedience. A faithful, knowledgeable Christian will easily be able to refute such a lie. The following scriptures, properly linked together, reveal that it is God’s will for Christians to assemble together. There was: (i) an expectancy of coming together (1 Corinthians 11:17, 18, 20, 33; 14:23, 26), (ii) a habit of coming together (Acts 2:46; 5:42; 19:9; 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:26), (iii) reasons for coming together (1 Corinthians 11:26; 12:1-26; 14:26; 16:1-2).



#### 4. BEING A CHRISTIAN MEANS YOU CAN'T HAVE ANY FUN (1 Corinthians 6:9-10)

- a. This kind of statement usually comes from a worldly-minded person that has an erroneous understanding of sin and the Christian life:
- 1) This person sees things like (i) sleeping around, clubbing, getting paralytic, (ii) lying, gossiping slandering, (iii) gambling, reading horoscopes, etc., as fun. Solomon wrote, "To do evil is like sport to a fool, but a man of understanding has wisdom" (Proverbs 10:23).
  - 2) If this is what they think is "fun", then their view of what being a Christian is all about should come as no surprise, which is usually based on what they have seen among Catholicism and Protestantism: (i) dark buildings, men dressed in funny clothes, boring lectures, bowing down to statues, (ii) people rolling around on the floor claiming to be filled with the Spirit, disturbing scenes of demons being cast out of people, (iii) praying all day, studying the Bible (which no one can understand), helping old ladies cross the road, etc. For the worldly, unspiritual person sees church as either boring or full of crazy people.
- b. Many religious leaders, it seems, believe the lie (that being a Christian means you can't have any fun and that Christianity is boring) and mistakenly think that they ought to make Christianity exciting to attract worldly people, and so they introduce meals, clowns, theatre, concerts, quizzes, games, etc. Thus, the leaders are worldly-minded and those that attend are worldly minded, fleshly, and sensual.
- c. The spiritually minded person has his mind set on the things of the Spirit (Colossians 3:2) and it is this spiritual mindedness that brings life and peace (Romans 8:5-6). Does this mean that such a person has no fun and will be bored for the rest of his life? If a person has *truly* been converted and *sincerely* walks by faith, then no!
- 1) If by "fun" we mean walking in the sins we mentioned earlier, then no, we do not participate in that kind of "fun" (Romans 13:12; Ephesians 4:25-31; Colossians 3:8-9). However, Christians may still have fun playing sports, board games, going to parties, etc. Jesus came that we might have life, and that we may have it more abundantly (John 10:10). It is also true that living a godly life brings persecution (2 Timothy 3:12). And who is it that persecutes the godly? Often times those that view Christianity as fun-denying and boring!
  - 2) What about reading and studying, singing and praying, listening to sermons and participating in Bible classes, and participating in the work of the church, etc, is all this boring? For those that are worldly-minded, no doubt, but a *sincere* Christian finds joy in all these things. Indeed, there is a joy in believing (Romans 15:13).  
  
"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. **In this you greatly rejoice**, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, **yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible** and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith - the salvation of your souls" (1 Peter 1:3-9).
- d. If you are considering becoming a Christian and someone says to you, "Being a Christian means you can't have any fun", then you can be sure that this is Satan seeking to prevent you obeying the gospel. Satan is seeking to focus your thoughts on the "fun" you have been having and contrasting this with a false image of Christianity. If you are a Christian and having such thoughts, then you can be sure that Satan is seeking to lure you back into the world. The kind of "fun" that the world offers leads to death, but the promise of God is eternal life (Titus 1:1-2; 1 John 2:25). Those who live a faithful life to God and do not seek the passing pleasures of sin (Hebrews 11:25) can enjoy a great peace in their lives knowing that heaven will be their home (Romans 5:1). Christians should also be happy knowing that if they do sin that they can be forgiven of their sin (1 John 1:5-10).

## 5. ALL ROADS LEAD TO HEAVEN (Ephesians 2:8; John 4:24)

- a. Who would believe this lie? In my experience it is those that have a basic desire to be spiritual, and, closely related, those in a false religion that have no love of the truth; they are saying this to justify continuing in their error. It is a lie that is often resounded (remember: repetition creates persuasion) to dissuade and prevent seekers from finding the true religion.
- b. In the “Christian” realm people will resound this lie to justify denominationalism. They will argue that one is saved by faith only (quoting Ephesians 2:8) and that as long as we worship God in sincerity (quoting John 4:24), then that’s all that matters. Anyone that accepts this argument is then told to “join a church that preaches from the Bible and worships God and honors Jesus as Lord”. If one should express some concern about the many churches, he might be directed to John 15:5 and told that the vine is Jesus and that the denominations are the branches.
- c. This lie is widely believed and millions have been led astray by it. However, there may be those who (although having been led astray) sense that “something is wrong” – sincere believers that will respond to the truth. I would suggest the following teaching plan to bring a person to a knowledge of the truth:
  - 1) The creation of the universe, the creation of man, the fall of man, the promise of a redeemer (Genesis 1-3).
  - 2) Jesus is the only redeemer and the only way to the Father (John 14:6; Acts 4:12).
  - 3) Jesus’ promise to build His church (Matthew 16:18) and His desire for believers to be one (John 17:20-21).
  - 4) Paul’s teaching on unity (Ephesians 4:1-6) and his attitude toward division (1 Corinthians 1:10-13).
  - 5) The identifying marks of the Lord’s church.

## 6. THERE ISN’T GOING TO BE A JUDGMENT DAY (2 Peter 3:3-4)

- a. There are those that deny the coming judgment:
  - 1) There were those in Peter’s day that were scoffing and sneering at the idea of a coming judgment: “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation” (2 Peter 3:4), and, no doubt, there are those today that mock the idea of a coming judgment.
  - 2) Unbelievably, there are those today, claiming to be members of the Lord’s church, that deny the coming judgment! Preterism is a view in Christian eschatological<sup>2</sup> which holds that all the prophecies regarding the second coming of Christ and the final judgment occurred in A.D.70., which means, according to them, that there is no future second coming or judgment<sup>3</sup>.
  - 3) There are some religious groups that affirm the second coming and the final judgment, but comfort the hearts of many in their denial of the existence of Hell. Instead, they teach that all the wicked will be annihilated. Both Jehovah’s Witnesses and Seventh Day Adventists teach this doctrine. For example, the Seventh Day Adventists teach: “It is not true that sinners will burn forever in hellfire. The Bible teaches that, yes, the wicked will be punished, but only for a relatively short time - and then they will perish and no longer exist. No one sins enough in this life, to deserve eternal burnings on his body!”<sup>4</sup>
- b. For many people the *no coming judgment* lie is a great comfort.
  - 1) For non-Christians it means they are relieved of their guilt and fear of punishment, and for Christians it means they don’t have to worry about overcoming sin in their lives.
  - 2) Such a doctrine may even cause some Christians to abandon their faith! One could argue that it sorts out the wheat from the chaff.

<sup>2</sup> Eschatology is “a branch of theology concerned with the final events in the history of the world or of humankind” (Merriam-Webster).

<sup>3</sup> <http://evangelicaluniversalist.com/forum/viewtopic.php?f=74&t=5677>

<sup>4</sup> [www.champs-of-truth.com/lessons/tract\\_12a.htm](http://www.champs-of-truth.com/lessons/tract_12a.htm)

- c. So one can understand why the devil would want to promote such a lie. The truth, though, is that there will be a judgment. There are many passages that teach this but we will list just a few:
- 1) Regarding those that scoff, saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation” (2 Peter 3:4), Peter replies, “For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up” (2 Peter 3:5-10). Three points: (i) We must not forget the past judgments of God (the flood, Sodom and Gomorrah) because they are our assurance that God is just and will bring judgment upon the ungodly, (ii) Time is relative – from a human point of view a great deal of time has past, but from God’s perspective only a short time has passed, and, (iii) The delay in judgment is due to God’s mercy – The Lord doesn’t want anyone to perish and is giving men time to repent.
  - 2) Jesus spoke of the coming judgment (John 5:21-31).
  - 3) Paul spoke of the judgment to come to Felix (Acts 24:25), and to the men of Athens, Paul said, “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead” (Acts 17:30-31).

## 7. YOU HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO OBEY GOD (Acts 24:25)

### a. Bad attitudes and assumptions:

- 1) Luke records that Paul reasoned with Felix about “righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come”, and he responded, saying, “Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you” (Acts 24:25). Perhaps Felix thought he had plenty of time to hear and obey the gospel.
  - 2) I was talking to a 19 year old girl about faith, repentance, and obeying the gospel, and while she agreed that she needed to be saved, she said, “I’m still young and I want to have some fun first, but I’ll probably become a Christian when I’m fifty or something like that”. There are several wrong attitudes and assumption here, aren’t there? This young lady assumed she would live until she was fifty and that she had plenty of time to repent.
- b. In a way, I can understand why people assume they have plenty of time... (i) Over 2000 years have passed since Jesus promised to return and, (ii) Generally speaking a young person expects to live to a good old age. They are rarely aware of people their own age dying. If they do happen to hear of someone their own age being killed, they might have the attitude, “It couldn’t happen to me”.
- c. The truth is we just don’t know if we will be among that number of people that are murdered, killed in an accident or die of a disease in any given year. And of course, we just don’t know if Christ might return today! The scriptures urge us to hear and obey the gospel today!

“Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away” (James 4:14).

“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up” (2 Peter 3:10).

“Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation” (2 Corinthians 6:2).

## Conclusion

1. Today we have considered seven deadly lies that the devil wants everyone to believe. They are lies because they contradict what the scriptures teach and they are deadly because, if believed, they will result in the loss of the soul. The lies are: (i) God's word is not true, (ii) In regards to sins in which I walk, God will make an exception in my case, (iii) You don't have to attend the weekly meetings of the saints to be a faithful Christian, (iv) Being a Christian means you can't have fun and you'll be bored for the rest of your life, (v) It doesn't matter to what religious organisation you belong because all roads lead to heaven, (vi) You don't have to worry about sin because there isn't going to be a day of judgment, and, (vii) If you're thinking of becoming a Christian, you have plenty of time to think about it.
2. The devil wants everyone to believe these lies and, indeed, he has been promoting them through the avenues available to him since the world began. He lied to our parents (Adam & Eve) and he has lied to every human being since that time. He keeps telling the same lies century after century because he knows that repetition creates persuasion (even advertisers know it!).
3. If you have managed to reject the lies we have discussed in this lesson, then you have done well. But there are a myriad of lies being resounded in the world and the only way to prevent ourselves being deceived is to study the word of God (1 Peter 2:1-2) and to "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" (Colossians 3:16). It is essential, too, that we examine carefully everything that we are taught (1 John 4:1) and "Test all things; hold fast what is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ - from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love" (Ephesians 4:11-16).