

“If I’m Lying, I’m Dying!”

By Tony Melton

The line “If I’m lying, I’m dying” is sometimes used by teenagers to emphasize the truthfulness of something they have previously said. Some, also, say, “I cross my heart and hope to die if I’m lying.” They use these oaths in order to convince others that they are telling the truth.

Older folks have devised a more sophisticated way to try to prove they are not lying. They swear by putting their hand on top of a Bible. If people always told the truth, there would be no need for this. It is ludicrous to think that using oaths or swearing on the Bible will cause a dishonest person to tell the truth.

Jesus said, “But I say to you, do not swear at all . . . But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one” (Matthew 5:34,37). In other words, if we have to use some kind of oath to prove we are telling the truth, then it’s a bad reflection our integrity. If we must swear before people will believe us, then they must doubt our honesty in the first place. Because of his or her honest character, a Christian should have to say no more than “no” or “yes.” Unfortunately, lying has become an acceptable practice even among those who claim to be Christians. Because of this, people no longer even trust the words of a Christian. Some Christians view lying like the little girl who got the Scriptures mixed and said, “A lie is an abomination unto the Lord and a very present help in time of trouble.”

Many people do not really believe that lying is offensive to God. But, in reality, it is a serious offense! In fact, the Bible says that “all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death” (Revelation 21:8). The Bible also says that God hates lying (Proverbs 6:16, 17). Lying is a sin, and it will cause one to lose his or her soul eternally.