



Contact Us:

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Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study9:45 AM
Worship10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service 2:30 PM
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class.10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Don Smith

James Thomas

Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children
Gospel Broadcast Network
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)
House to House, Heart to Heart
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
The Truth in Love
World Bible School

Let us know if you want to study
the Bible to know more about
Christ and His Church.

Did God Approve of Rahab's Lie?

Whereas many Bible passages in both the Old and the New Testament indicate that lying is sinful (Ex. 20:16; Lev. 19:11; Prov. 6:16-19; Eph. 4:25; Col. 3:9; Rev. 21:8), critics of the inspiration of the Bible contend that the biblical teaching on this subject is contradictory. The most frequently cited example revolves around Rahab's lie in the book of Joshua and two separate, favorable comments about Rahab in the New Testament (Heb. 11:31; Jas. 2:25).

Although some well-meaning Christians may creatively contend that Rahab did not lie in Joshua 2, a simple, straightforward reading of the biblical text indicates that she did. After Rahab hid the Israelite spies on her roof among the stalks of flax (Josh. 2:6), she told the messengers of the King of Jericho (who were pursuing the Israelites) that the men in question had already left, and exactly where they went she did not know (2:4-5). However, (1) the Israelites had not left, and (2) she knew exactly where they were. In fact, after speaking to the king's men, she went back up to the roof to speak with them and to help them safely escape (2:8-21).

According to Bible critics, God is inconsistent in His condemnation of dishonesty. How can "lying lips" be "an abomination to the Lord" (Prov. 12:22), while at the same time God spared Rahab from the destruction of Jericho (Josh. 2:9-21; 6:22-25). How is it that "all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone" (Rev. 21:8), and yet Rahab be commended twice by New Testament writers?

By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace (Heb. 11:31).

[W]as not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way (Jas. 2:25)?

Is the Bible inconsistent on this subject? And do these verses not prove that lying is approved in some situations?

First, simply because the Bible commends an individual for a righteous act does not mean that God condones everything the person ever did. Just as husbands and wives can be faithful to each other **despite** their short comings, and just as children can be submissive to their parents and yet have fallen short of their parents' expectations many times while growing up, every accountable soul has the potential to be faithful notwithstanding their regretful sins and imperfections.

Keep in mind that Jesus was the only accountable Person ever to live Who never sinned (Rom. 3:23; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2:22). Though Noah, Abraham, Moses, and many others were counted **faithful** (Heb. 11:7-29), they occasionally disobeyed God's will (Num. 20:1-12) and acted foolishly or cowardly (cf. Gen. 9:21; 12:12-20; 20:1-18). The apostle Peter, who also served as an elder in the early church (1 Pet. 5:1), was guilty at one time or another of having a lack of faith (Matt. 14:31), denying that he knew the Lord (Matt. 26:69-75), and hypocritically withdrawing himself from Gentiles (Gal. 2:11-14). Yet God chose Peter to be a preacher of the Gospel and to pen two of the New Testament epistles. He was **not** chosen **because** of his sins; he was chosen **in spite** of them (and because he repented of his sins and sought to walk in the light rather than wander habitually and rebelliously in the darkness – cf. 1 John 1:5-10). Every saved soul is a former coward, murderer, blasphemer, adulterer,

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And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

Matthew 26:6-28



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thief, or liar, etc. Every faithful Christian who is walking in the light is tempted to sin, and sometimes (or far more often than we might like to admit) we think, say, or do unchristlike things. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). All faithful followers of God still make mistakes, have moments of weakness, and struggle in a variety of ways, yet they can still "do justly," "love mercy," "walk humbly" (Micah 6:8), and "persevere" faithfully (Rev. 3:10).

Second, keep in mind that Rahab was a Canaanite harlot. The people of Canaan were (generally) extremely wicked. They practiced "abominable customs" (Lev. 18:30) and did "detestable things" (Deut. 18:9). They attempted to cast spells upon people and call up the dead (Deut. 18:10-11). They would "burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods" (Deut. 12:30). They were so nefarious that God said they defiled the land and the land could stomach them no longer – "the land vomited out its inhabitants" (Lev. 18:25). This statement summarizes the level of depravity in Canaan (of which Jericho was a part). Whether Rahab had fully embraced her culture's debauchery or whether she was more of a victim of her circumstances (as many women have been throughout history), she nevertheless is described in Scripture as a "harlot" who lied (Josh. 2:1-8; 6:17, 25). Such sinfulness in the life of a Canaanite woman should come as no surprise. But thankfully, the life of Rahab did not continue to parallel her pagan culture. She wanted out, and the Lord provided a way – which leads us to a third point to consider.

Rahab's recorded words and actions in Joshua 2 reveal a woman in transition – from living like a pagan harlot to embracing the One true God and His ways. Notice her statements to the Israelite spies:

I know that the Lord has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea... and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites.... And as soon as we heard these things our hearts melted...for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on Earth beneath (Josh. 2:9-11).

Rahab then coupled her confessed belief in the existence of Jehovah and His mighty works **with action** (Josh. 2:6-24). She

courageously hid the two Israelite spies from the King of Jericho. She treated the spies kindly. She helped them escape the city. She gave them specific instructions on what to do after they made it out of the city (so that they would not be caught by the king's men). Rahab and her family kept secret the Israelite plan to destroy Jericho. And, as directed, Rahab bound the scarlet cord in her window, and gathered her parents and other family members in her house (according to the spies' commands) in order to be spared from Jericho's destruction. Indeed, as the New Testament rightly recognizes, Rahab actively demonstrated her faith in Jehovah (however so uninformed, inexperienced, and flawed her faith still was).

Fourth, **Rahab's dishonesty is never condoned in Scripture.** She was no more commended in the Old Testament or the New Testament for lying than she was for her harlotry. She was commended and graciously spared from the destruction of Jericho because of her **overall** faith and works at the time – despite the fact that her newly found, courageous faith (which was quickly emerging out of a heavily pagan culture) was **still a work in progress**. Yes, she lied to the king's men, but she also (1) confessed belief in Jehovah, (2) appealed to Him for help, (3) showed kindness to the Israelite spies, (4) courageously hid them and helped them escape, etc. There is no logical or biblical reason either to deny Rahab's lie or to criticize her overall, emerging faith in God. If we would rightly commend a newly recovering alcoholic, pornography addict, or covetous individual who has a temporary set-back in a moment of trying temptation in the midst of a grueling attempt to repent and live a righteous life, could the merciful and gracious God of the Bible not rightly commend Rahab for her overall faith and works in her newfound walk with the Lord?

Can we ever lie to protect others?

Scripture reveals that everything about God is true. His Spirit, Son, law, commandments, judgments, and works are all true – 100% true (1 John 5:6; John 14:6; 2 Sam. 7:28; Ps. 119:14, 151; 19:9; Dan. 4:37). The simple fact is "God...cannot lie" (Titus 1:2). "It is impossible for God to lie" (Heb. 6:18). His perfectly truthful nature will not allow Him to lie. Furthermore, throughout God's truthful Word honesty is commended, while dishonesty is condemned (Lev. 19:36; Ps. 15:2; Prov. 16:11; Eph. 4:28). So, if God is always truthful, and if His Word teaches us to be honest, then how can a faithful child of God ever believe we have a God-approved license to lie, even if a lie is told for the purpose of trying to help others? A person may **feel** like he

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Television

The Truth In Love (Robert Dodson)

Sunday @ 7:00am on KTAB

In Search of the Lord's Way (Phil Sanders)

Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB

Life In The Light (Chris McCurley)

Sunday @ 10:30am on KTAB

Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)

Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

Internet

TheGospelRadioNetwork.org

Gospel Broadcasting Network (Gbnv.org)

God's Plan for Redeeming Man

Hear Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).

Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)

Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)

Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)

Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being **baptized** for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)

Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)

Bible Reading Schedule

July 16 Psalms 111-113; 1 Thess. 1-2
July 17 Psalms 114-116; 1 Thess. 3-4
July 18 Ps. 117-119; 1 Thess. 5; 2 Thess. 1
July 19 Psalms 120-121; 2 Thess. 2-3
July 20 Psalms 122-123; 1 Tim. 1-2
July 21 Psalms 124-125; 1 Tim. 3-4
July 22 Psalms 126-127; 1 Tim. 5-6
July 23 Psalms 128-129; 2 Tim. 1-2

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."



Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **29 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **James Fuller will be bringing the lesson this evening.** Johnny is off to camp.
- ◆ Several of our teachers will be attending the **Central Texas Bible Teacher's Workshop** in Austin this Friday and Saturday. We wish them safe travel and look forward to reaping the benefits of what they learn.
- ◆ The **Wedding Shower for Garrett & Megan** will be a **brunch at 11:00am, Saturday, July 29th**, at the Bang's church building. Selections are at Pampered Chef, Bed Bath & Beyond, Wal-Mart and Target.
- ◆ **Senior camp begins today.** Please keep the campers and staff in your prayers.
- ◆ **No SYS this week**, due to camp.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ August 8—We host Summer Youth Series
- ◆ August 12—Back to School Family Game Night
- ◆ October 15-18—Fall Gospel Meeting w/ Dave Rogers
- ◆ November 4—Ladies' Day w/ Lasha Dennis

Other Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ August 2-4—VBS @ Hamilton (All ages)
- ◆ August 4-6—Discipleship U @ Dripping Springs. *"EXILES—Holy Faith in a Hostile World."* 6th grade and up. Registration deadline—July 28th.
- ◆ August 6-9—Gospel Meeting @ North Main (Weatherford) w/ Wade Webster
- ◆ August 18-24—Polishing the Pulpit
- ◆ September 15-17—Marriage & Family Seminar @ Granbury Street (Cleburne) w/ John & Carla Moore
- ◆ October 5-7—Texas Ladies in Christ Retreat @ Brady. See bulletin board for registration information.

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or she is doing a good thing, but no God-given authority exists for lying (for whatever "noble" reason).

One important lesson that we can learn from God is that we can be perfectly honest and yet not reveal everything we know. God is omniscient (Ps. 139) and has obviously not told us "everything." We don't even know everything about the 33-year life of Jesus on Earth (John 21:25). Most of what God knows He has not shared with mankind, but those things that He has truthfully revealed to us are for our eternal benefit (Deut. 29:29). Similarly, whatever situation that we are in, we are to be truthful, but we do not have to say everything that we are thinking or everything that we know about a particular matter. Parents should show maturity and wisdom if their five-year-old son asks them where babies come from. Children's Bible teachers should show discretion if they are asked point-blank questions about sensitive, sinful matters such as pornography, adultery, homosexuality, abortion, or even bestiality (Lev. 18:23). We may struggle with the best way to address a sensitive topic (which may "get us in trouble" with various ones), but we have no right to lie. We may tell children to ask their parents at home in private. We may speak in broad, truthful generalities. We may let children know that we will plan to talk with them about various matters on a different occasion (i.e., years from now). We may attempt to distract the questioners and pray that God will providentially deliver us from the uncomfortable situation. Whatever course of action the Christian takes, it should be done (1) honestly, (2) wisely (Matt. 10:16), and (3) with sincere and loving motivations (Matt. 6:1-4; 1 Cor. 13:1-3).

But what if a person's life is at stake? What if you could save a life by lying? Answer: Although human life is an extremely valuable gift from God (Gen. 1:26-27), the most important thing in this life is not merely to live, but to be faithful to God, regardless of the situation. Jesus could have lied and worked things out to

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Celebrate

"Rejoice with those who rejoice..." (Romans 12:15)

July Birthdays: Laura Huckaby (6), Jason Warman (6), Chase Churchwell (11), Cindy Fuller (12), Tre' Rayon (24), John Barnum (26), Jack Hill (26).

July Anniversaries: Allen & Karen Bland (27).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	July 2, 2017	July 9, 2017
Bible Class	44	45
AM Worship	59	62
PM Worship	44	38
Wednesday PM	35	51
Contribution	\$1.945	\$1.991

	This Week: 7/16/17	Next Week: 7/23/17		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	July 2017 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Johnny & Cindy McCaghren Clean Building: Johnny & Cindy McCaghren August 2017 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Randy & Laura Huckaby Clean Building: Dennis Family	
Greeters	John Barnum Family	Tom Wilcox, Hank Wheeler		
Opening Prayer	John Barnum	Allen Griffith		
Communion	Allen Griffith*, Hank Wheeler Joe Dennis, Caleb Dennis	Tom Wilcox*, Allen Bland Larry Petty, Randy Huckaby		
Closing Prayer	Randy Huckaby	Gene Bannister		
Attendance Cards	Jaceten Evetts	Aaron Smith		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	James Fuller		
Scripture Reading	Don Smith	John Barnum		
Communion	Allen Griffith	Tom Wilcox		
Closing Prayer	Ryan Rudloff	James Thomas		
Wednesday Devotionals:	July 19 Rafe Smith	July 26 Tom Wilcox	August 2 Prayer Night	August 9 Don Smith

Search the Scriptures

Be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)

Studies for the week of July 16, 2017

Sunday Class **Romans 7:5ff**
 Wed. Class **Christian Morals**

The Lord's Supper – Matthew 26:26-30

During His last week, Jesus observed the Passover for the last time. On this occasion Jesus instituted what we call the Lord's Supper. It is of utmost importance that we observe the Lord's Supper properly.

I. The Meaning of the Supper.

A. It Is a Memorial.

1. Bread in memory of His body; cup in memory of His blood (1 Cor. 11:23-25).
2. We commemorate the death of Jesus on the cross (28).

B. It Is a Proclamation.

1. We proclaim our faith in the effectiveness of the Lord's death (1 Cor. 11:26).
2. We proclaim our faith in the Lord's return.
3. It is observed those who trust in His redemption and anticipate His return!

C. It Is a Communion.

1. A fellowship or sharing in the blood of Christ (1 Cor. 10:16a).
2. A fellowship or sharing in the body of Christ (1 Cor. 10:16b-17).

II. The Observance of the Supper.

A. To Be Done with Reverence.

1. "In a worthy manner" (1 Cor. 11:27, 29 NKJV) – an adverb, describing how we take it, not whether we are worthy.
2. With respect for the supreme price Jesus paid for our sins.
3. Failure to observe with proper reverence brings condemnation.

B. To Be Done with Self-Examination.

1. Such as reflecting upon one's spiritual condition (1 Cor. 11:28).
2. Are we living in a manner that shows appreciation for His sacrifice?
3. Do we, by refusing to repent of our sins, "crucify again for [ourselves] the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame"? (cf. Heb. 6:4-6).

C. To Be Done with Other Christians.

D. To Be Done Often.

1. The Biblical evidence is that it was done weekly (Acts 20:7).
2. The earliest historical evidence outside the Bible confirms the day and frequency (The Didache [ca. 95 A.D.]; Justin Martyr [ca. 150 A.D.]).

"The Lord's Supper" is a very special memorial of His death for our sins. The first Christians "continued steadfastly" in its observance. Christians today should never lose sight of its significance for us.

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spare His own life, but He died (and rose) for a higher purpose. He submissively fulfilled His Father's will. Jesus and His inspired spokesmen could have instructed the early church to avoid persecution and death by lying for each other or by denying their own faith in Christ, but they didn't. In fact, to those first-century Christians who were suffering (or were about to face great tribulation), even to the point of death, Jesus declared, "Be faithful until death ["even to the point of death"], and I will give you the crown of life" (Rev. 2:10).

Whether a husband or a wife, a mother or a father, a saintly sister in Christ or a spiritual shepherd at a local church, in whatever dire situations people may find themselves, we can creatively attempt to protect families, friends, neighbors, and churches by saying and doing all sorts of things (even by remaining silent), but we should be willing even to die before sinning against the holy God of heaven. Like Samuel, who, with God's blessing, only told a part of the reason why he traveled to Bethlehem in tumultuous times (in order to protect his own life, 1 Sam. 16:1-13), we may truthfully only tell some of what we know about a particular matter in order to save our lives or the lives of others. But, we must be resolved to "be imitators of God as dear children" in all things at all times (Eph. 5:1). We must be resolved to put away lying (Eph. 4:28) and to be honest all day, every day.

The story of Rahab should not be used as a license to lie. Instead, we should retell Rahab's story to show the greatness of Jehovah over the false gods of this world and to inspire God's people to courageous acts – similar to many of those works demonstrated by a woman from the pagan city of Jericho some 3,500 years ago.

Eric Lyons (apologeticspress.org)