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Viewpoints

Observing events in our modern world from the viewpoint of our ascended Savior.

What is a Lie? ~ November 8, 2013

Defining a lie is the easy part. But escaping a lie's results takes Christ!

[Online Version & Archive](#)

Do you know someone who's had their health insurance cancelled due to the Affordable Care Act? I do.

And I think it's fair to say that this family was all for the ACA until it caused their plan to be cancelled. And who wouldn't be all in for the ACA if all you knew were the promises that it would bring insurance coverage to all Americans, while assuring that if you like your current plan and doctors, you can keep them.

But then news organizations recently discovered that already in 2010 the Administration's internal documents forecast that millions (34 to 52 million, according to McClathey DC) would lose their plans.

Blah, blah, blah, blah. You're probably just as tired of hearing/reading about the ACA situation as much as I am. But hang with me for another minute, please. This national news item has exposed a huge hole in the soul of America, a pus-filled puncture wound in moral understanding. Basically, it's this: Americans readily use lies for personal gain, but hate being lied to. Do you sense the hypocrisy?

The ACA situation has opened a deep debate across our land as people wrestle to define what is a lie. Here's a summary one supposed authority offers: "In the realm of politics, it's acceptable to deceive by stretching the truth, hiding the truth and spinning the truth because it's one politician battling another, or one party battling another. But when an elected official promises something directly to the people, with the purpose of being deceitful, now that's a lie."

Really? Is America's soul really this lost? Because this is not how God sees it! God's basic definition is still (amazingly!) reflected well in the dictionary's definition of a lie: "a false statement made with deliberate intent to deceive; an intentional untruth; a falsehood."

Now this does not include when a country, for national security reasons, guards its secrets by deceit and falsehood from an enemy. God himself instructed his Old Testament people how to use military deception on the battlefield against its foe (Joshua 8:1-27). But other than the need to keep national secrets from our country's enemies, using a false statement to deliberately deceive is breakage of the First Commandment.* In fact, it's a form of idolatry to

rely on flesh—whether my own or another’s-- to manipulate with falsehood, rather than to trust God by speaking the truth. Such is ultimately a worship of the devil whose vernacular is deceit. Jesus proclaims, “When [the devil] lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and *the father of lies*” (John 8:44).

“All who live by the lie, will die by the lie,” if I may borrow from Jesus (Matt 26:52). This is a sobering realization because it means that my government, my American way of life, my neighborhood, my livelihood, my health insurance, my family and my very soul are in grave danger whenever I personally lie, or when my life is afflicted by lies. “Dear Gracious Lord, keep my tongue from speaking Satan’s language and wash me clean in the blood of your Son, Jesus, for all the times I have spoken falsehood.” And from this prayer of repentance, our heavenly Father raises us up in this assurance: “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Cor 7:17).

We can control our own tongues, but otherwise we have little control over the lies happening all around us—the lies that put our families and futures at risk of Satan and his wicked purposes, for Satan is the father of lies. Thus our hope and confidence, as always, lies beyond sinful flesh, and must be in the perfect human, our Savior Jesus Christ. It is he who tells the truth, without any embellishment or error, when he says: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light” (Matt 11:28-30).

[Source Material](#) (Links may become inactive over time.)

*The First Commandment: You shall have no other gods. What does this mean? We should fear, love and trust in God above all things.

[Tens of millions could be forced out of the health insurance they had](#) @mclatchydc.com

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Blessings to you and your loved ones, Pastor Mike Nitz

