

## LIARS

Text: 1 John 2:22

INTRO: The time is near the end of the first century. The apostle James is dead, killed by Herod's sword. Simon Peter has put off his tabernacle of flesh. Paul has been poured out as a drink offering. According to fairly strong historical evidence, all the apostles have died except John. He is old, and he, too, will soon be gone.

With only one witness left to testify, some have come to deny that Jesus was the Christ, or that He even came in the flesh. Claiming a new enlightenment, the false teachers present themselves as having superior knowledge and experience to those who have relied on the teachings of John & the other eye witnesses. These antichrists have even come to resent and despise those who hinder their "progress" as they seek to lead Christ's church in new directions.

John's time is short. He does not mince words. He calls a spade a spade -- and a liar, a liar. Let us note John's forth-right dealings with the false teachers and those who are beginning to come under their influence.

### I. THE PERSON WHO CLAIMS FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD WHILE LIVING A SINFUL LIFESTYLE IS A LIAR.

1 John 1:6-7.

NOTE: It is said that the false teachers who troubled the church at that time were called Gnostics. Their primary theory was that human flesh is sinful, thus (1) either Jesus did not really come in the flesh, or (2) He was not really divine. For the most part, they did little to resist lustful temptation, for, after all, they were in the flesh, & flesh is evil. But, they reasoned, though their flesh was sinning, their spirits were not guilty nor in any way tainted by their fleshly sins.

### II. THOSE WHO DENY THAT THEY ARE GUILTY OF SIN ARE LIARS. TRUTH IS NOT IN THEM. 1 John 1:8-10. Rom. 3:23

### III. THOSE WHO CLAIM CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD BUT WHO WILL NOT OBEY HIM ARE LIARS. 1 John 2:3-6. Matt. 7:21-23

IV. THE PERSON WHO “KNOWS” THAT JESUS WAS NOT THE CHRIST IS A LIAR, 1 John 2:22-23. John 20:30-31

V. THE TEACHER WHO “KNOWS” THAT JESUS DID NOT COME IN THE FLESH IS A LIAR. 1 John 4:1-3; 2 John 7

VI. THE PERSON WHO CLAIMS TO LOVE GOD WHILE HE HATES HIS BROTHER IS A LIAR. 1 John 4:20-21

VII. THE PERSON WHO “KNOWS” THAT GOD’S WORD IS NOT TRUE IS A LIAR, 1 John 5:9-12.

A. The Gnostic said “I know Jesus did not come in the flesh,” or “I know Jesus was not the Christ.” He was a liar. He knew nothing of the sort.

B. Like the atheist of today. “I know there is no God. Bible not the word of God.”

C. Like the modernist. “I know the miracles of the Bible didn’t really happen.”

CONCLUSION: In Rev. 21:8, the same writer gives us “the last word” about liars: “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire & brimstone, which is the second death.”

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