



## A Publication of the Winnetka Ave. Church of Christ

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### “WHICH TIRE WAS IT?”

It had been a long, hard winter, and the three high school boys couldn't resist the temptation afforded to them by the brilliant, sunny spring day. They just had to blow off school for the day. They deserved it. When they returned to school the following day, relaxed and refreshed, they entered their home-room class. Their teacher smiled, and asked them why they had missed school the day before. In unison the boys responded, “we had a flat tire!”. Much to their relief the teacher didn't lose her smile and said so sweetly, “Oh, I am so sorry to hear that. You missed a quiz yesterday, but I'll let you to take it today. Take your seats and get out paper and pencil.” The boys scurried to their seats. “Okay” said the teacher, “the first question is...which tire was flat?” Imagine the look of utter despair as they glanced at one another and realized they were snagged by their “craftiness”.



account of self before God, *“for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God.”* (Romans 14:10 see also 1Corinthians 5:10)

It stands to reason that if we have been guilty of prevaricating, it needs to be corrected. Which in and of itself, may prove to be uncomfortable and humbling, but it is vital in order to restore integrity. Bear in mind that of the seven things that are an abomination to God, as set forth in Proverbs 6:16-19, two of which deal with being

untruthful.

While not being forthright with others is a problem, so is the challenge of being honest with self. It is so easy to fall into the trap of shading the truth when it comes to seeing self for who we really are. Perhaps that is why such a premium is placed in the Scriptures on the need for individual introspection. *“Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you unless indeed you fail the test? But I trust that you will realize that we ourselves do not fail the test.”* (2Corinthians 13:5-6) In like manner consider what Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount as seen in Matthew the seventh chapter and the first five verses, *“...first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly enough to take the speck out of your brother's eye.”*

Be reasonable, don't you think you owe it to yourself to be open and honest? It may be painful now, but the rewards that will come later on will be well worth it. James, in his epistle notes, *“But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.”* (1:22) So thinking back to the illustration that began our thoughts, and the question the teacher presented to the truant boys, “which tire was flat?” We don't want to be as Shakespeare would say, “hoisted by our petard”. (wbc)

Ultimately, no one gets away with lying. Truth has a unique way of bubbling to the surface. Such was the case with Ananias and Sapphira as seen in the fifth chapter of Acts. For one reason or another, they felt like they could engage in passing along a tarradiddle (a petty lie) with little consequence. They were wrong. Take note of what Peter said to Ananias, *“Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God.”* (Acts 5:4) In hearing this, Ananias died. Three hours later, Peter gave Sapphira the opportunity to set the record straight, not knowing her husband had expired, she went along with the deception. She fell dead at the feet of Peter.

*“Sanctify them in truth; Thy word is truth.”* (John 17:17) Truth is an essential attribute of Deity and one that we would be wise to develop as our own as well. Especially considering that one day each one of us will be called to give an

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