

Lesson Notes:

## **Honesty is the Best Policy**

We've all hear the saying, "Honesty is the best policy". But did you know that is scriptural as well? The Bible tells us many reasons why honesty is the best policy. Here are a few of those reasons:

### **Scriptural Principles**

- 1) **God calls us to be honest – 1 Timothy 2:1-3; Hebrews 13:17-18;** - Paul tells us in 1 Timothy to live with reverence (honesty) and honorably (honestly). Then in Hebrews he asks the faithful to pray for Peter and himself that they will have a good conscience and live honestly.
- 2) **Jesus calls us to be honest – Luke 8:11-15** – In the parable of the sower Jesus tells us that the seed which fell by the way side are those that hear the word but Satan comes to take it from their hearts; the seed that fell upon rock represents those that receive the word with joy but they don't plant the word in their heart so in time temptation takes it away; the seed that fell in the thorns represents those that hear the word but the riches and pleasures of this life come to take it away; finally the seed that falls on fertile ground represents the believe that accepts God's word and brings forth fruit from it. Jesus said they have an honest and good heart.
- 3) **Peter & Paul tell us to be Honest in our conversation and witness. – 1 Peter 12:2; 2 Corinthians 8:21:** – Peter tells us to be (honorable) honest with the unbelievers as our behavior may influence them and their behavior. Paul tells us to be honorable (honest) in the sight of men. Again, Paul is hoping that we influence others through our honesty.
- 4) **Paul lists honesty as one of the five absolutes that we must show to others (Truth, Honesty, Justice, Purity & Love). – Philippians 4:7-9**
- 5) **The Prophet Jeremiah tells us that God knows if we have a deceitful heart. – Jeremiah 17:9-10**
- 6) **David tells us in Psalm 34 to keep our tongues from evil and our lips from deceit. – Psalm 34:13.**
- 7) **Proverbs tells us, "It is better to be poor and have integrity than to be a wealthy fool". – Proverbs 19:1.**
- 8) **The Bible tells us to be honest in our financial dealings. – Luke 3:12-14; Romans 13:6-7** – John told the tax collectors to take no more than they are due and the soldiers to be content with their pay. Paul tells us all to pay our taxes and to support the government financially.