

A second principle is that it is not the meaning of an English word which settles a matter for us. We say, and correctly, that all lying is wrong. Then we are not to proceed from this statement and determine from it what we think lying would include and make that our final decision. We must rather see <sup>exactly</sup> what acts are permitted and what are forbidden in the Word of God.

We find in the Old Testament a statement, one of the Ten Commandments, Thou shalt not kill. In India there are those who believe it is wrong to kill anything. I understand that they have a man walk in front of them with a broom, sweeping the road as they go so as to be sure they do not step on a little insect and kill it. They would consider it a great sin to kill anything. This teaching is definitely not taught in the Bible. We find there that animals are killed for definite purposes and that even people are killed when God commands it for definite reasons. There is such a thing taught in the Bible as Capital Punishment and also as killing in war under certain conditions. The commandment, Thou shalt not kill, must be interpreted in the light of the entire teaching of Scripture. The same refers to the statement about lying. We must determine from the Scripture just what is involved.

I heard at one time of a person who was called upon to say how much sugar was in the house in order to secure a sugar ration card. She had fifty pounds at home but she felt she was justified in saying she had none in view of this verse in I Samuel. That is surely a misinterpretation of this verse. God did not call upon Samuel to say that he was not going there to crown a man king of Israel. He told him to say he was going to perform a sacrifice. Samuel did perform the sacrifice there. It was a very definite part of the purpose of his going but it was not the entire purpose. No warrant can be found in this chapter for making statements that are untrue, for saying things that are contrary to fact. Such actions are definitely forbidden in the Scripture and are always wrong, regardless of the circumstance.

On the other hand, we do find it taught repeatedly in the Scripture that