

## 10.05.22 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

**Title:** “What do you believe about Jesus?”

**Scripture Reading:** [1 John 2:18-27](#); [Matthew 16:13-20](#)

**Reflection:** Pastor Henry

“Liar, Liar, pants on fire.”



It’s a childhood taunt that almost every elementary school child knows by heart at an early age. It’s a taunt one child screams at another classmate, friend, or acquaintance, whenever they think the other person is lying and not telling the truth. Children have also been known to also scream it at adults they encounter. Even adults sometimes may say it to other adults as well. This phrase is used to help us identify truth from falsehood which is not always an easy task for us to do.

Wouldn’t it be so much easier for us to identify lies/liars if this childhood taunt was true? Wouldn’t it be so much easier for us to identify lies/liars if there was a small flame of fire to go with it? 😊 Wouldn’t it be easier if we could just say to someone, “Could you please turn around for a moment? I would like to see if what you are saying is true.” No flame = true. Flame = false.

Since truth and falsehood are not typically indicated by flames of fire, John, in our text for this week, seeks to help us discern truth from falsehood within the church community in a different way. When it comes to truth and falsehood, John says to focus on Jesus.

Listen again to what John writes: “Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ.”

How can we identify those who are spreading lies and falsehood within the church community about what the church believes and those who are spreading the “truth” within the church community about what the church believes? John says, ask them what they believe about Jesus. Ask them what they believe about who Jesus is and what Jesus has done and what Jesus is doing.

If they deny that Jesus is the Christ (i.e., the anointed one, the Messiah, the Son of God), John says they are a liar. [See the [Heidelberg Catechism Lord’s Day 12, Q & A 31 and 32](#), to further explore what calling Jesus the

Christ means.] Those who deny Jesus is the Christ, John says, are anti-Christ. According to Strong's concordance, the prefix "anti" that John uses here means "...not only anti in the sense of "against" and "opposite of", but also "in place of". Instead of believing and proclaiming that Jesus is THE Christ (the only one), the liars within the church are believing and proclaiming a message that is against Jesus as the Christ, or opposite to Jesus being the Christ or a message where someone or something else is filling the place of Jesus as the Christ.

On the other hand, if a person believes and proclaims that Jesus is THE Christ, that Jesus is the way, the truth, the life, then John says, they are in the TRUTH. The truth centers around and is built upon Jesus as the Christ.

So, what do you believe and proclaim about Jesus?

Do you believe that Jesus is THE Christ?

Or do you believe in someone or something that is against, or opposite of, or that takes the place of Jesus being THE Christ?

Are you a liar, liar, pants on fire?

Or are you one who knows and proclaims the Truth?

**Prayer:**

Jesus, in our text for this week, you confront us with the same question you asked your disciples so long ago: "Who do you say that I am?" Help us to receive you as THE Christ, believe that you are THE Christ, and proclaim you are THE Christ. AMEN.

**AMEN.**

**Action Item for Day/Week:**

Write out all the things you believe about Jesus. After you are finished writing, compare what you wrote down with what is written about Jesus in the [Apostles Creed](#) and the [Nicene Creed](#). As you compare, what do you notice is similar? What do you notice is different?

**Songs for today:**

[This I Believe](#)

[Knowing You Jesus](#)