

The Big LIE

Wylie United Methodist Church
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – June 24, 2018

James 1:12-18

12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. 13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. 16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. 17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. 18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

- Jesus said...
"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)
- Jesus also said...
"[the devil] was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies." (John 8:42)

The Lie is...

• SIN IS FUN AND GOD IS BORING

James 1:14-15

14 ... each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Rom 7:15-25

15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. 16-17... 18 I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. 19 For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do — this I keep on doing. 20-23... 24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God — through Jesus Christ our Lord!...

The Truth is...

• GOD PROVIDES LIFE AND SIN PRODUCES CHAOS & DEATH

James 1:16-18

16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. 17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. 18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

John 10:9-10

9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved... 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Deut 30:19 (God to Israel through Moses)

... I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live.

SO HOW DO WE "CHOOSE LIFE"?

1. Choose Jesus – Press into Him
2. Seek Him - Worship Him
3. Surrender to Him
4. Ask to receive His Holy Spirit
5. Read His Word - Pray to Him
6. Hang out with people also seeking Him
7. Serve Him