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## Titus 1:1-4

1. “Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness,
2. in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,
3. but at the proper time manifested, even His word, in the proclamation with which I was entrusted according to the commandment of God our Savior,
4. To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.”

In opening his letter to the young evangelist Titus, the apostle Paul reveals one of the greatest truths of the Bible. The fact that God cannot lie.

The specific wording of Titus, chapter 1, verse 2 reads: “...in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ago...” The God of the Bible cannot lie. Truth is the very nature of God. He simply is not capable of lying.

The author of the book of Hebrews repeats this truth in chapter 6, verses 17 and 18: “In the same way, God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise (that’s us) the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, in order that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to

lie, we may have strong encouragement, we who have fled for refuge in laying hold of the hope set before us.” So, when the God of the Bible makes a promise, or enters into an oath--He will always keep His word and follow through on what He has committed to.

Now this truth; that God cannot lie, that it is impossible for God to lie, may seem too obvious--and should go without saying. But is it really? Actually this virtue of the God of the Bible makes Him unique among the gods.

For instance, ask a devout Muslim if there is anything his God cannot do. He will certainly answer: “No, my god can do anything.” Ask a Buddhist if Buddha is all-powerful and if there is anything beyond his power to do. Again, he believes his god can do all things. And so it is with all the gods of man’s creation. All other gods can and do lie.

But not the God of the Bible. His word stands. It is impossible for the Scripture to be broken--even by God Himself--for He cannot lie.

Often times when I’m teaching Bible truths, especially with regards to salvation, people will reply, “But God is bigger than this book: you are limiting God by the Bible.” Yes, no doubt the one and only Creator God, the Author of the Bible, is much larger and deeper than His written Word. But God Himself has decided to limit Himself in His relations and covenant with man by

His own Word--the 66 books of the Bible.

If God can, or actually does go beyond what is written, or vary from it in any way relative to man--that is a lie. Then our salvation is not stable; we are not built upon the Rock, but moveable sand. We must rely on superstition and the precepts of man. If God's Word is not absolute truth, our faith is vain, our hope insecure. And each man is left to do what is right in his own eyes.

I read the following statement recently which really hits the mark--

“People don't refuse God's Word because it contradicts itself, but they refuse the Bible because it contradicts them.”