

## **False Accusers**

**By Elder David Pyles**

False and unfair accusations have become so common in our society that they can now be heard on almost a daily basis. The problem is especially prevalent in the news media and in government, and there is reason to fear that the general population also is being corrupted by these bad examples. Much of this malicious behavior is white-washed as “politics,” but it has reached the point where to “politicize” a thing is near-synonymous with lying about it and making false and unfair accusations against those taking opposing views. Some seem to be under the impression that the commandments of God may be somewhat suspended when it comes to politics. Such are headed for a rude awakening when all must stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

There was a provision in the law of God that perhaps should be applied today. It was:

*If a false witness rise up against any man to testify against him that which is wrong; Then both the men, between whom the controversy is, shall stand before the Lord, before the priests and the judges, which shall be in those days; And the judges shall make diligent inquisition: and, behold, if the witness be a false witness, and hath testified falsely against his brother; Then shall ye do unto him, as he had thought to have done unto his brother: so shalt thou put the evil away from among you. And those which remain shall hear, and fear, and shall henceforth commit no more any such evil among you. And thine eye shall not pity; but life shall go for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.*

– Deut 19:16-21

So if one man were to accuse another of a crime, but the accusation were proven to be false, the accuser had to bear the punishment that the accused would have endured had he been guilty. This provision would surely make anyone think twice before accusing his brother! Many are familiar with the biblical expression, “*eye for eye, tooth for tooth,*” but may not be so familiar with the context in which the statement was made. As you can see, it was applied to false accusers, and the meaning was that no pity was to be shown to such vile behavior.

The reason for the severity of the Law against false accusers is found in:

*These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren. – Prov 6:16-19*

Solomon here named seven things though there are truly only six because two of them are essentially the same thing. The thing stated twice, and therefore receiving greatest emphasis, was a lying tongue, particularly one calculated to do harm to another. False accusation is therefore serious business to anyone fearing God. All claiming to be Christian should heed the commandment:

*Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man. – Col 4:6*