

## THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

Terry Joe Kee

*“Thou shalt not steal.” (Exodus 20:15)*

There must be a respect for the possessions of others. Everyone should respect the rights of others to own and possess. This commandment brings us to the subject of the rights of ownership of private property. If nothing belonged to anyone at all, then there would be no such thing as stealing.

The right to own property points to one honestly laboring for the possessions of this world. God put Adam in the Garden of Eden but demanded work by him to possess and keep the land and its blessings (Genesis 2:15). God demands that a man work to provide for himself and his family. When false accusations were being made about Moses and his dealings with others, he called upon God to be his witness against Korah and others showing he had not taken one thing from them (Num. 16:15). In Samuel’s farewell address to Israel, he declared he had been fair and honest in his dealings among them (I Sam. 12:1-5). Integrity in business is expected of those who seek to follow God. However, accumulating of property is not wrong, but rather is even commended by God (Gen. 14:16; Gen. 31:18). After battle Abraham took the spoils with him as he returned home (Gen. 14:16). Isaac had the right to return from his time with Laban to take Rachel and Leah, but also to take the cattle which were his (Gen.31:18). Possessing and accumulating wealth is not sinful if one receives it honestly. However, always remember that fraud and dishonesty are strongly denounced by God (cf. Gen. 21:25; Gen. 31:41; Josh. 7:11).

To understand the importance of this commandment, look at God’s condemnations of theft and the penalty for it. If one stole another’s property God required repaying double and doing whatever he had to in order to make restitution (Exo. 22:4,5). If someone was careless with fire and burned the property of another restitution was required (Exo. 22:6). If one was entrusted with the property of another and lost it or had it stolen from him, he had to make restitution (Lev. 6:1-5). If what was stolen was not recovered, the one to whom it had been entrusted had to repay it (Exo. 22:7-13). If someone borrowed from his neighbor and the thing borrowed was destroyed, he had to replace it.

If anyone was dishonest in his dealings by using false weights and measures was strongly condemned (Deut. 25:13-16). If one lied to another about what he was selling or buying, he was strongly condemned (Pro. 21:6). They must not remove the landmarks of their neighbors to enhance their properties (Deut. 19:14). And they were expected to pay honest wages to every worker at the end of the day (Lev. 19:13; Deut. 24:14,15).

You can see the importance of this commandment in the New Testament as well. Paul told the Thessalonians to work with their own hands in order that they lacked for nothing (I The. 4:10-12). Remember that in the next epistle he said, “...if any would not work, neither should he eat” (2 The. 3:10). To the Ephesians Paul said, “...let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth” (Eph. 4:28).

Today, many are guilty of violating this principle by petty acts of dishonesty. It may be in taking advantage of other in buying and selling and preying on the ignorance of another. It might be with borrowing from another without the intention of returning, whether it be a book or a hammer or anything else on borrows and does not intend to return. When someone does not pay his bills he is stealing from another. It may also be seen in mischievous actions such as the destruction of another’s property.

What we might not would steal from our neighbor we may be guilty of stealing from God, such as our time, talents, or even in our contributing to the work of the body of Christ. Be very careful, that you do not steal from anyone, but certainly not from God.

## THE PROBLEM OF NEGLECT

*(In a recent article written by my friend and brother, Kent Bailey, he pointed out these particular points which I felt were good for us to consider. Each of us should take a personal inventory of our own lives and ask ourselves if we have been or are being neglectful in our service to God. TJK)*

### **The Neglect of The Worship Assembly Prevents One From :**

- Partaking of the Lord’s Supper (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 4:17; 7:17).
- Admonishing and teaching in song (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16).
- Contributing of our means (1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Corinthians 9:6-7).

### **The Neglectful Christian Is Not:**

- Putting the kingdom of Christ first (Matthew 6:33).
- Being a living sacrifice (Matthew 16:23-26; Romans 12:1-3).
- Following the example of Christ (1 Peter 2:1-21).
- Influencing others for the truth of God (Matthew 5:13-16).

### **The Neglectful Christian Must:**

- Repent or else perish (Revelation 3:14-22).
- Confess their sin (1 John 1:6-10).
- Return to being faithful (Luke 6:46; John 14:15).
- Refuse to neglect (Hebrews 2:3).

### **An Impenitent Neglectful Christian Will Suffer The Consequences:**

- Their candlestick will be removed (Revelation 2:5).
- They will be condemned of the second death (Revelation 2:11).
- Their name will be blotted out of the book of Life (Revelation 3:1-6).
- They will be lost eternally in Hell (Revelation 20:10-15).

True New Testament Christianity is the religion of Christ. All of accountable humanity have the opportunity in this life to accept the gospel and as a believer in Christ to become Christians—members of the church of the Lord—by repenting of their personal sins, confessing the Deity of Christ, and being baptized into Christ unto the remission of sins. Upon becoming Christians, those saved by the blood of Christ, individuals have the responsibility of being faithful to the Lord, growing in knowledge and his grace, and not neglecting walking with Christ by following continually his word of truth.

## NEWS AND NOTES

**“I was sick, and ye visited me...” (Matthew 25:36)**

*Gary London, Virginia’s son*, fell and broke his hip. He is in NEA Baptist room 5206.  
*Dana Lands, Marshall and Lila’s daughter-in-law*, fell and broke her leg in three places.  
*Ivie Powell* was diagnosed with kidney cancer and is waiting to see doctors to determine treatment.  
*Kerry Sword* is in ICU in Corinth, Mississippi with covid pneumonia and is in critical condition.

*Please continue to pray for all of these and others who are at home recovering from recent surgeries, confinement, or bereavement.*

## IN OTHER NEWS:

**“Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.” (Hebrews 10:24)**

*Samrit Kammanee’s* most recent report is on the Mission Board along with some pictures.

*Ukraine Missions Buckets:* February items will be announced soon.

*Birthday & Anniversary Celebration* will follow evening services, tonight. Everyone is encouraged to bring **heart-healthy** or **hearty** foods that night.

*Ladies Night Out* will be Tuesday night, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the basement. Sloppy Joe’s will be provided so bring something that goes with it.

*Men’s Breakfast* will be Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.

*Congratulations to Caleb Krimmel*, who was named to the Homecoming Court at CRC on March 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Directory Addition:** *Linda McNew*  
 21 CR 7283  
 Jonesboro, AR 72405  
 573-717-0636

### Those Privileged To Serve February 6, 2022

#### SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader: Scottie Blanchard  
 Opening Prayer: Stan Honeycutt  
 Closing Prayer: Mark Brewer  
 Bible Reading: Logan Snyder  
 Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

#### LORD’S TABLE

Presiding: Jason Garland  
 Mike Felts Reginald Read  
 David Loggins James Johnson  
 Tom Carner Carlos Wood

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Nichols

#### SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Ben Johns  
 Opening Prayer: Caleb Krimmel  
 Closing Prayer: Scott Pratt  
 Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

#### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

February 9, 2022

Song Leader: Kevin Roush  
 Opening Prayer: Jerry Dodson  
 Closing Prayer: Hal Baugh

#### DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

February 9, 2022

Jason Garland

### NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK Week Of January 30, 2022

Sunday Bible Study	86
Sunday AM Worship	110
Sunday PM Worship	85
Wednesday Bible Study	
Contribution	\$5915

**“A stone is heavy, and the sand weighty; but a fool’s wrath is heavier than them both.”**

**Proverbs 27:3**

# The Friend of Truth



Greensboro Road church of Christ  
 Jonesboro, Arkansas 72405

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“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” (Galatians 4:16)

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## KeeNotes

In Arkansas, as in most southern states, the winter months are hard to prepare for. It may be warm and sunny one day or even one moment and then freezing cold with a -5-degree wind chill the next. No doubt we would all be better off if we had snow and not freezing rain and sleet, but we take what we get and give thanks for every blessing that comes with it. As I am writing these lines, we are preparing for an ice storm and possible power outages. I hope by the time you are reading this it is again warm, and you are cozy.

We rejoice that this past Lord’s Day the elders announced that Sister Linda McNew has asked to be identified with the saints at Greensboro Road. Linda is the mother-in-law of Craig Nelson and has been visiting with us for several weeks now. If you have not met Sister Linda, please make a point of finding her this morning and welcoming her into our fellowship. Please notice her address and phone number of page 4 of the bulletin.

Tonight, after our worship we will gather and celebrate the birthdays and anniversaries of everyone who celebrates in February. Then Tuesday night will be the Ladies Night Out in the basement and Saturday will be the Men’s Breakfast. This is going to be a busy week with so many things going on, but please do not forget that our real work is seeking and saving the lost. Let that be our work daily and let us all be diligent in trying to reach someone with the gospel this year.

New Directories will be ready soon. Hopefully, the corrections have all been made and everything will be up to date. However, we also know that something will likely be misspelled or something out of place. If you see a mistake with your name, address, or phone number please let us know.

**Children of all ages have one thing in common. They close their ears to advice and open their eyes to our example.**

#### SHEPHERDS

Dan Nichols  
 Randy Oden

#### DEACONS

Scottie Blanchard  
 Jerry Dodson  
 Stacy Eddleman  
 Mike Felts

Jason Garland  
 Scott Pratt

Kevin Roush  
 Mark Wooten

#### EVANGELIST

Terry Joe Kee

#### MISSIONARIES

Samrit Kammanee,  
 Southeast Asia  
 Micah Robertson,

Montana  
 Warren, PA

#### SERVICES SUNDAY

Classes 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

5:00 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

#### What Must I Do To Be Saved?

**Hear** the Word of God  
*Romans 10:17*

**Believe** the Word of God  
*John 8:24*

**Repent** of your sins  
*Luke 13:3*

**Confess** your faith in Jesus  
 as the Son of God  
*Romans 10:9,10*

**Be Baptized** for the  
 remission of your sins  
*Acts 2:38*

**Live faithfully**  
*Revelation 2:10*

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (2 Cor. 5:17)

**Living Anew In 2022**

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