

## THE NINTH COMMANDMENT

Terry Joe Kee

*“Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.”* (Exodus 20:16)

The commandment we looked at last week regarded the taking of someone’s outward possessions. This one forbids trying to steal from one’s inward character. A false witness can prejudice the minds of men. This is so treacherous that Paul said, *“Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses”* (I Timothy 5:19). Falsely witnessing against a neighbor can cause great harm, intentional or otherwise. Earlier commandments guard against something valuable – father and mother, the right to life, the sanctity of the home, or the property rights of another. This ninth commandment guards the right of one to protect his reputation.

This commandment was important in the Old Testament. For example, notice the following passages: “Thou shalt not raise a false report: put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness...Keep thee far from a false matter; and the innocent and righteous slay thou not: for I will not justify the wicked. (Exodus 23:1,7). “Remove from me the way of lying: and grant me thy law graciously” (Psalm 119:29). In court proceedings, “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” (Deut. 19:16-20). Or in making pledges, “Thou shalt not pervert the judgment of the stranger, *nor* of the fatherless; nor take a widow’s raiment to pledge” (Deut. 24:17). God forbade them from respecting persons, “Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty: *but* in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour” (Lev. 19:15); “Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; *but* ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment is God’s: and the cause that is too hard for you, bring *it* unto me, and I will hear it” (Deut. 1:17); “Thou shalt not wrest judgment; thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous” (Deut. 16:19). God demanded that a person’s word was true and helpful, not deceitful and harmful.

When we then turn to the New Testament, we see the attitude of Jesus in such matters. Jesus addresses the origin of such matters, the heart. “But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man” (Matt. 15:18). Jesus said a tree is known by its fruit saying, “O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh” (Matt. 12:34).

How often do we see violations of this principle in our daily lives. We see it in gossip. Someone might say, “The ship’s captain was sober today.” Well, it may be the case he is always sober, but this suggests that he is not always sober. Satan uses this when he attributes improper motives to why Job is serving God faithfully (Job 1:9-11). Do you ever see this today when the news is falsely reported? Can you believe everything you read on Facebook or hear on the local or national news? Some will slant things in their own favor when reporting and discussing politics or other happenings. Remember too, that if men will slander and falsely accuse Jesus, we should expect they will speak evil against today who follow Jesus.

(Continued on page 3)

The Lord Jesus was accused of gluttony, drunkenness, blasphemy, demon-possession and sedition. His life was taken as he suffered crucifixion between two thieves after He was condemned as a felon by means of suborned testimony. From the Jordan to the cross Jesus endured evil insinuation, whispering, backbiting, falsehoods, distortions, and open perjury against Himself. It did not even end with the cross. Lies were manufactured to try and discredit the resurrection and guards were bribed with gold to say Jesus’ disciples had stolen the body. And, now for two thousand years men are still lying about who Jesus was, what He taught and what He requires of all men today.

Many will continue to violate this commandment and the problem will continue to be evidenced from time to time all around us. Be very careful that we do not bear false witness against another. Let every one of us speak the truth with our neighbors and let us do it with the right attitude of heart, seeking to help and not to hurt with our tongues.

## Helping Others - To Heaven Or Hell

Author Unknown

We know that preparing for judgment is the most important thing in this life. Jesus taught that if we were to “gain the whole world, and lose our own soul” we would be making a terrible trade (Mark 8:36,37).

Knowing this to be true, we should earnestly seek to convince others - especially those closest to us - of the urgency of obeying the gospel. Everything we do and say should be calculated to produce the salvation of their souls.

It is a sad thing to see some Christians who don’t seem to understand that they are negatively impacting these people who should be most important to them. When unbelievers (*even our own family and close friends*) can observe us compromising our spiritual priorities (*including forsaking the assemblies*) in order to engage (*oftentimes with them*) in other activities (*such as ballgames, parties, secular organizations, etc.*), we have given them a firm push in the direction of hell.

Paul urged Titus to “show thyself a pattern of good works” (Titus 2:7). And he told Timothy to be “an example of the believers” (1 Timothy 4:12). It is clear that the apostle understood that the teaching and preaching of these two young evangelists would be either helped or hindered by the kind of personal examples they portrayed. Surely it is the same with us.

If we are genuinely concerned about the souls of others, common sense dictates that we should never let them see us compromise our faith or priorities.

Think about it Christian. Are you helping others - especially those closest to you - to go to heaven or to hell?

## NEWS AND NOTES

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

*Marshall Lands* is confined at home now recovering after being hospitalized with a high temperature and infection.

*Gary London, son of Virginia*, is recovering from hip surgery at NEA Baptist, Room 5206.

*Dana Lands, daughter-in-law of Marshall and Lila Lands*, fell and broke her leg in 3 places and is unable to put weight on her leg at this time.

*Stacy Mosley has been diagnosed with Covid* and is recovering at home.

*Sympathy is extended to Gretchen Pruitt and Harold Tinsley in the passing of their sister-in-law, Ermal Tinsley.* Her funeral was Thursday.

*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)

*Ukraine Missions Buckets:* February items are antibiotic cream, baby powder, and disposable razors.

*Birthday & Anniversary Celebration* will follow evening services tonight. Everyone is encouraged to bring **heart-healthy** or **hearty** foods and enjoy time together.

*Congregational Surveys:* Please pick one up from a table in the foyer, fill it out, and place it on the desk in the office.

<i>Those Privileged To Serve</i> February 13, 2022		NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK Week Of February 6, 2022
<b>SUNDAY MORNING</b> Song Leader: Scottie Blanchard Opening Prayer: J. L. May Closing Prayer: Jimmie Powell Bible Reading: Jerry Dodson Preacher: Terry Joe Kee	<b>SUNDAY EVENING</b> Song Leader: Mark Wooten Opening Prayer: Randy Oden Closing Prayer: Craig Nelson Preacher: Terry Joe Kee	Sunday Bible Study 69 Sunday AM Worship 102 Sunday PM Worship 82 Wednesday Bible Study 95 Contribution \$5915
<b>LORD'S TABLE</b> Presiding: Randy Oden Mike Felts Reginald Read David Loggins James Johnson Tom Carner Carlos Wood	<b>WEDNESDAY NIGHT</b> February 16, 2022 Song Leader: Hayden Roush Opening Prayer: Terry Joe Kee Closing Prayer: Barry Roush	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>“As a bird that wandereth from her nest, so is a man that wandereth from his place.”</b> <b>Proverbs 27:8</b></p>
<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b> Dan Nichols	<b>DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER</b> February 16, 2022 Mark Wooten	

# The Friend of Truth



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

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## Keep Notes

There is a very solemn charge given by Paul to Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:1-8. Paul told Timothy to “preach the word.” This forbade him from preaching his opinions or the wisdom of men. Too often sermons become filled with trite little stories or illustrations or current events. This is the reason Paul warned Timothy, “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry” (verses 3-5). Paul was emphasizing that it is the Word that can save (Rom. 1:16).

Preaching demands study if we intend to save others (2 Tim. 2:15). Our preaching must be distinctive (1 Tim. 4:13). Sermons should be filled more with the scripture and less with our feelings. We should never have visitors or members leaving a service wondering, where was the gospel? What we preach must be sound doctrine (Tit. 2:1; 1 Pet. 4:11). Only this can change the world.

Notice that Paul told Timothy to do this “in season and out of season.” One old preacher said that means when they like it and when they don’t. Even in the face of adversity the truth must be preached. When Elijah was confronting 450 prophets of Baal, he stood with courage and defeated these false prophets and their god (1 Kings 18).

Not always will everyone enjoy or appreciate the truth being preached. They did not always enjoy the truth even when Jesus was the preacher. But the message does not change, and the attitude of faithful preachers and faithful listeners does not and cannot change either.

### 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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