

NINTH COMMANDMENT: THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST THY NEIGHBOR

## LESSON 10

READ: Exo.20:7&16

### 1 INTRODUCTION:

1. Two of the Ten Commandments deal with the tongue.
2. There are many good reasons for those two commandments.
3. When God created man, he set man apart from all creation by giving him ability to think.
4. Man expresses his thoughts vocally through the gift of speech.
5. The tongue can gladden or sadden.
6. Each of the commandments were given to protect things that are valuable, such as God, parents, life, home, and property.
7. This commandment seeks to protect a man's reputation and character against testimony in court, blackmail, and slander.

### 2 DISCUSSION:

1. LET'S LOOK AT SEVERAL SCRIPTURES THAT SPEAK AGAINST BEARING FALSE WITNESS.
2. Psa. 120:2, Psa.141:3, READ BOTH.
3. Solomon wrote that there were 7 things which were an abomination to God.
  - a. Two of them were a lying tongue, and a false witness that uttereth lies.
  - b. He also said that lying lips were an abomination unto Jehovah. (Prov.6:16&12:22).
  - c. Prov.19:5, READ.
  - d. Matt.12:34 Jesus taught, READ. "
  - e. Matt.12:36-37, READ.
  - f. Eph.4:25, READ.

### WHAT CAN WE DO TO STOP THE BEARING OF FALSE WITNESS?

1. An awareness of the damage it can do can help to stop it.
  - a. It was a lie that plunged the human race into sin and death.
  - b. Satan said to Eve she would not die, if she ate the forbidden fruit.
  - c. Rom.5:12 read.
2. False witnesses discouraged Israel.
  - a. The ten spies did not give a true picture of Canaan. (Num.13:14 READ).
  - b. The lying tongue of Simon Peter brought him tremendous sorrow. (Matt.26:70-75 READ).
  - c. Jesus was accused of having a demon. (Jn.8:49 READ).
  - d. He was accused of being a glutton and winebibber. (Matt.11:19 READ).
  - e. False witnesses were brought in at the mock trial of Jesus. (Matt.26:59-68 READ).
  - f. Even at His resurrection the Soldiers bore false witness by saying that the disciples came and stole the body of Jesus while they slept. (Matt.28:13).
3. The victim of false witness suffers, his character is often destroyed.
  - a. Prov.22:1, READ.

- b. Many lose family, business, and health because of some slanderous attack.
- 4. The liar himself defiles his body. James 3:6, READ
  - a. He shows what is really inside himself.
  - b. Matt.12:34, READ.
  - c. The spiritual condition of the liar is shown by the way he uses his tongue. James 1:26, READ.
  - d. In ancient Egypt the bearer of false witnesses had his nose and ears cut off.
  - e. The Romans pushed them off a cliff.
- 5. In Athens a liar was given a heavy fine.
  - a. If a person was convicted three times for bearing false witness, he lost his civil rights.
  - b. E. Yet, there is something far worse in store for the liar.
  - c. The liar will be in the lake of brimstone. (Rev.21:8).
  - d. Rev.21:27, READ.
  - e. Rev.22:15, READ.

## HOW DO WE VIOLATE THIS COMMANDMENT?

1. By a plain boldfaced lie!
  - a. Why do many lie like this?
  - b. To take the sting out of a particular situation.
  - c. To rub the glitter off of another's crown.
  - d. Jealousy and an inferiority complex cause many to lie.
2. False advertisement breaks this law.
3. Using flattery to get what you want.
4. Insulting and unjust criticism transgresses this command.
5. READ: Matt.7:1-5.
6. Hypocrisy is condemned by this regulation. Titus 1:16, READ.
7. Being willing to listen to false witness puts one's soul in jeopardy. Mark 4:24, READ.
8. Slanderous gossip is wrong. Lev.19:16, READ.
9. We can violate this by remaining silent when we ought to speak up.
10. Solomon said, there is a time to keep silence and a time to speak up." (Eccl.3:7).
11. Many like Ananias and Sapphira lie to God. (Acts.5:1-11 READ).
12. Half truths; The little white lie; Exaggerations will also cause men to break this commandment.
13. Excuses are nothing more than lies wrapped up in tissue paper. Take the wrapping off and you have a lie.

## VI. HOW DO WE AVOID BREAKING THIS COMMANDMENT?

1. By being aware of the source of all falsehood.
2. Jesus said that the Devil was a liar and the father thereof. (Jn.8:44).
3. If we imitate God, we will never violate this law. Matt.5:44-45, READ.
  - a. 1. Paul urges all men to imitate Jesus. (1 Cor.11:1 READ.).
  - b. 2. If we imitate God, we will not lie, for it is impossible for God to lie. (Heb.6:18; Titus 1:2).
4. If we learn to love our neighbor as ourselves (Matt.22:39), we will not lie about our neighbor.
5. We must not only learn to love truth, we must learn to speak the truth in love. (Eph.4:15).

### **3 CONCLUSION:**

1. The scriptures are plain concerning God's attitude towards false witness.
2. The Bible declares loudly and clearly, don't do it!
3. Let's make up our mind, the we will use our tongues to the glory of God.