

*New Mount Zion M.B. Church*

**Sunday School : 9:30am Every Sunday**



**Worship Service: 11:00am Every Sunday**

***140 West Maple Street  
Jackson, MS 39203***

**New Mount Zion M.B. Church  
Bible Class  
June 1, 2020**

***“Understanding The Ten Commandments”  
#9<sup>th</sup> Commandment***

*What is the ninth commandment? The Ninth Commandment has its roots in integrity and honesty. Truly obeying the command to not lie requires changing how we think.*

*Why does God hate lying?  
Jesus identifies Satan the devil as “the father” of lies. Dishonesty is in opposition to the character and identity of God because it distorts and twists the truth, damaging relationships and creating uncertainty.*

*Is there anybody who can say that they are not a liar? If you answered yes, guess what? You're a liar! Psalm 116:11 says, "All men are liars," but God is a God of truth. In fact, the Bible says that it is impossible for God to lie.*

*Flattery is another way that we speak falsehood directly. Read Psalm 12:1-2 and Job 32:21-22)*

*We can also intentionally deceive other people by living a hypocritical life. Jesus said to the Pharisees of his day: (Matthew 15:7-8) Pretending to honor God on the outside when you really don't honor him in your heart is another way you can bear false witness.*

*“He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He” (Deuteronomy 32:4).*

*“His truth endures to all generations” (Psalm 100:5).*

*“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6).*

*“Your word is truth” (John 17:17).*

*“You say rightly that I am a king. For this because I was born, and for this because I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice” (John 18:37).*

***Straight-out lying: You know, the type of lie you tell to get yourself out of a messy situation.***

***Twisted-half-truth lying: You say something that's mostly true but then clarify it in a way as to mislead.***

***Exaggerating-the-truth lying: You inflate your weaknesses, strengths, failures and successes to make yourself or your situation look or sound better.***

***Not-owning-the-truth lying: You “explain” why you didn't get your job done at work, or why your homework wasn't complete on time.***

***Avoiding-the-truth-or-confrontation lying: Maybe you don't tell your employee why you're really firing him or her. Basically, you deny or withhold the truth to someone who has the right or need to hear it.***



*Lying is the way that we go about breaking the other commandments. If you commit adultery, you attempt to lie about it. If you steal something, you attempt to change the facts about your part. Like a kind of superglue, lying brings together all other sin. Satan, who is the father of all lies (John 8:44), intertwines you in a mesh of lies and gets you in a situation where you feel like you literally can't repent—so you lie.*

*Second, notice the commandment reads, “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”*

*The prohibition is against misrepresenting the truth as to hurt your neighbor. One focus is on the truth and the other is on the good of your neighbor.*

*Ask yourself, “Are my words true? Are my words a blessing to those around me?”*



## *What does God say about lying?*

*It is worth quoting, at length, the verses below to answer this question.*

*Psalm 5:6: “You destroy those who speak lies; the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.”*

*Proverbs 12:2: “A good man obtains favor from the LORD, but a man of evil devices he condemns.”*

*Revelation 21:8: “But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”*

**God is truth (John 17:3). He is light (John 9:5). His entire universe, that He created, is founded upon truth. When we speak falsely, we contradict God's nature and character, unraveling his whole creation which is built on divine integrity.**

*Why do we lie and what can we do about it?*

*Not telling the truth comes from a deep insecurity we all possess in this sin-filled life. Think of Adam and Eve who lied to God after eating the forbidden fruit (Gen. 3-4). Naked as they were, both felt they had lost the security and satisfaction of their relationship with God.*

*First, we lie to protect self. We lie to cover our own skin. Saul lied to Samuel when Samuel approached him after his battle with the Amalekites. God told Saul to keep none of the plunder from the battle, but Saul had let the soldiers keep the best of the sheep and the cattle. When Samuel reached him, Saul said, "The LORD bless you! I have carried out the LORD's instructions." But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?" Saul answered, "The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the LORD your God, but we totally destroyed the rest." (1 Sam. 15:13-15) Why did Saul lie? Because he knew he hadn't followed the Lord's instructions, & he was trying to protect himself. Have you ever lied to protect yourself in some way? Of course you have. We all have. It is 1 of the main reasons people lie.*

*Or, what about Jacob? You may recall that he stole his brother Esau's birthright by deceiving his father, Isaac, into believing that he was his brother.*

*Why did he do this? He didn't believe God's nature and promise! He didn't believe in God's blessing. He just wanted his father's blessings—not God's. Jacob was so insecure before God that didn't trust the goodness and sovereignty of God in his life. Thus, he doesn't tell the truth to protect his own skin.*

*First, we must always tell the truth, but that doesn't mean we have to say everything all the time just because someone asks. Gossip is the chariot on which the devil rides. You should be more upset by your own gossip about another, than you are about another's gossip about you. Gossip is a sinister sin because its charades as "well-concern" and "truth-finding." However, gossip is as evil as the sin it claims to snuff out (Romans 1:29-32).*



*The bottom line is that the bearing of false witness indicts the heart of man.*

*This is so serious it is included in the seven things God hates (Proverbs 6:16-19). Perhaps God knew that a failure to adhere to this commandment would easily lead to a barrage of sin against His name.*

*The question is what to do if this sin has become part of your landscape. Perhaps four steps need to be taken. First, stop bearing false witness! Recognize this as sin before a holy and righteous God. Confess this to the Lord Jesus (1 John 1:8-9) and ask Him to forgive you for it. Second, recognize the damage it may have caused to another person. Take note of this and write it down. You will have a key part to play in the healing of someone who has been hurt. Third, go to that person. Ask them to forgive you and tell them you will do whatever you can to restore and make things right. Finally, open your heart to the Lord. He will enable you to conquer this propensity you have to bear false witness.*

*Speech is arguably man's greatest gift and at the same time his most dangerous ability. It is impossible to estimate the good it has done when great men and women have truthfully instructed and inspired others. By contrast, we cannot measure how much evil the tongue has perpetrated, for falsehoods disguised as truth have destroyed reputations and even nations.*

*God devotes two of the Ten Commandments to the evils of false witnessing, the third and the ninth. These seem to be broken with impunity—sometimes even by those who are aware of their application—because the drives that motivate people to break them are so powerful.*

*God commands, "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor," but liars and lying abound. Everybody knows that marketers lie about what products can do. Books, magazines, and movies feature liars of many different stripes. The media and the public have caught prominent government figures from presidents on down lying about important issues.*