

"THE NINTH COMMANDMENT"

Exodus 20:16

(not alone)  
Sime Park April 10, 1990 ✓✓  
Easter Sunday  
Brent Lox Nov 24, 1991 AM, rrv  
wit. against Jesus  
John 22:3-5, 21, 47  
A. Wake

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

Hunter - Blue Coon dog - man Morthey - chain - Treed - Pistol to monkey - Egg - Bang, Coon fell!  
Fried - let borrow monkey - Dog Treed - Pistol - Aunt - M.C. - Down Tree - Bang Bang killed dog - Took Monkey home - Why???

This is not just a truth or consequences show, that we are running tonight.

Now Bob Barker may have some little side-line on the idea of Truth or Consequences

but God has the major show. And God says there will be no lying at all.

Forgot to tell,  
Heter Coon and last  
stand lying dog!

The Coca Cola Bottling Company is celebrating their 75th anniversary. They started back in 1901 making Coca Cola. In Norfolk, Virginia, they were handing out awards to bottlers of 100,000 gallons at the early convention of the Coca Cola Company. It was discovered that Elonzo F. Cathey and his Norfolk Coca Cola Bottling works had bottled 98,000 gallons the previous year.

A friend asked him why he had not ordered that extra 2,000 gallons, a mere weeks supply, and it would have qualified him for the award of a diamond studded watch.

If I had done that, Cathey replied, those diamonds would never had sparkled for me.

Now that is the kind of integrity and honesty that this commandment puts in force. That, Mr. Cathey, would not lie for 2,000 gallons in order to receive a few diamonds, at that early convention several years ago.

Dr. George Stewart, the pastor in Birmingham, Ala. was preaching on gossip. And he stepped from the pulpit and handed a clean handkerchief to someone in the front pew. He asked him to pass it on to the person sitting immediately behind

him. This was repeated until it came to someone in the back pew. Behind to someone in the back pew. Returning to

the pulpit, he reminded his congregation that he had just demonstrated the nature of gossip. When he gave the handkerchief to the first person, it was relatively free of germs. But each person in turn added his own germs to it and passed it on to another. What had once been a clean handkerchief was now a germ-covered piece of cloth that had been handled by every person who received it. This simple demonstration portrays the nature and the way the ninth commandment is often broken. God hates every kind of sin, but it is possible for God to hate one sin more than any other. And it seems that gossip ranks very high on the list.

✓ Proverbs 6:16, these six things doth the Lord hate, seven are an abomination to him. A proud look, a lying tongue, a hand that sheds innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked imaginations, feet that are swift to run to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, he that soweth discord among his brethren. At least six of these, and possibly all, may be summed up in the word lying. Thou shalt not bear false witness.

A little boy once said that lying was an abomination in the sight of the Lord. And a very present help in the time of trouble. Now he was only half right about his statement - the first half. The lie at first is the beginning of a chain that will hang a person.

*A witness called to stand testily about a head-on automobile collision he had observed from his front porch - "Whose fault was this wreck?" The lawyer asked. "Well, the best I could see" He said, "They hit each other at about the same time."*

Half a truth is often a great lie, Ben Franklin said.

Lev. 19:16 - Thou shalt not go up and down as a tale bearer, among thy people. I am the Lord.

James 1:26 - If any man thinketh himself to be religious, while he bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his heart - this man's religion is vain.

S. N. P. W. N. R. I. March 14, 76  
(not all on)  
Shore Park April 10, 1990 ✓✓✓  
Easter Sunday  
Brent's box Nov. 24, 1991 AM. ✓✓✓  
w/it. against Jesus  
March 22, 13-5-21, 47  
Awake

"THE NINTH COMMANDMENT"

Exodus 20:16

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

Hunter - Great Coon Dog - was Monkey - Chain - Freed - Pistol to monkey - Exp - Bang, Coon fell!  
Friend - let Bowwow monkey - Dog Freed - Pistol - Hunt - M.C. - Down Tree - Bang Bang killed dog - Test Monkey comes - Why???

This is not just a truth or consequences show, that we are running tonight. Forget to Tell,

Now Bob Barker may have some little side-line on the idea of Truth or Consequences  
but God has the major show. And God says there will be no lying at all. Heter Coon And cant stand lying dog!

The Coca Cola Bottling Company is celebrating their 75th anniversary. They started back in 1901 making Coca Cola. In Norfolk, Virginia, they were handing out awards to bottlers of 100,000 gallons at the early convention of the Coca Cola Company. It was discovered that Elonzo F. Cathey and his Norfolk Coca Cola Bottling works had bottled 98,000 gallons the previous year.

A friend asked him why he had not ordered that extra 2,000 gallons, a mere weeks supply, and it would have qualified him for the award of a diamond studded watch.

If I had done that, Cathey replied, those diamonds would never had sparkled for me.

Now that is the kind of integrity and honesty that this commandment puts in force. That, Mr. Cathey, would not lie for 2,000 gallons in order to receive a few diamonds, at that early convention several years ago.

Dr. George Stewart, the pastor in Birmingham, Ala. was preaching on gossip. And he stepped from the pulpit and handed a clean handkerchief to someone in the front pew. He asked him to pass it on to the person sitting immediately behind him. This was repeated until it came to someone in the back pew. Returning to

Eph. 4:15 - Speaking truth in love.

Ever since man has been on this earth, he has worried about lying. And how to detect liars.

This has been a problem in government and every where.

H. A. Albert, in Austin, Texas, said that it takes women twice as long as men to lie - in using the lie-detector test. They hog the conversation said Albert, and women have all kinds of evasive tactics. You can be asking them questions, and all at once they are off on something irrelevant. Women fear you are going to ask them about something besides the crime. Something about their private life.

A criminalologist from France said there is scarcely a deed that is more common place than the lie. It begins with children. Man's earliest literature is aware of lying. Even from the gods, they not only lied to men, but they lied to each other.

The Bible tells us about many who told falsehoods - some of them were right respectable people at times. Such as Rebecca who induced Jacob to lie and thereby defraud Esau.

The orientals for example give a suspect a handful of rice to chew. If he could spit it out, he was innocent. If it remained dry and he couldn't get it out, he was guilty. Their reasoning, a guilty man would be afraid and this would dry up his flow of saliva.

Solomon's lie detector scheme was quite different when he came to two women who

were claiming the same child - and that was a difficult case. He rightly reasoned that the true mother would rather deny her claim than to have the child killed.

In Tibbit, they had a custom, two stones - one white and one black were put into a pot of boiling water. The two involved in a dispute would plunge their arms in and the one who got the white stone was judged to be the honest man. The test had its merits but perhaps it was a discouragement for lying.

The lie detector is a combination machine which measures a person's emotions and his reaction as he gives the answer to certain questions that are given to him.

Without a true witness, justice is impossible, and it is almost impossible to have any kind of moral law, without the truth.

The Jewish religion or law deals with that which God gave them as a fundamental denial of his right position. One Rabbi has said everything in the world God created except the art of lying. That is man's invention.

This takes place on an international level. In the relations of people in civilizations.

Shakespeare had something to say about this - a good name in man or woman is dear.

It is the immediate jewel of their soul.

Who steals my purse, steals trash.

Tis something - nothing.

Twas mine, tis his, and has been slave to thousands.

But he that steals from me my good name

Robs me of that which not enriches him.

And makes me poorer indeed.

Someone has said that great minds discuss ideas. People of mediocre minds discuss events. People of small minds, discuss other people. Most people have never made much mental development if that be the case.

By way of introduction, this commandment says, thou shalt not bear false witness. Without a true witness, justice is impossible, and our whole structure would collapse.

Not all witnesses tell the truth. Not all tell the whole truth. Not all tell nothing but the truth.

But to understand this - a witness is one that will testify - will serve to clarify the meaning. The word means more than answer or respond. It is something that means to bring clarity - as people in the Bible who came to testify. Some were to testify against something.

Now a witness appears in a testimony of some civil or social relations according to this commandment. And he is to be a true witness. There were false witnesses, as well as true witnesses, that gave a testimony in the Bible. But false witness is one who deceives - it means deception, disappointment, or falsehood. The man's words are empty and are nothingness. A matter of a false witness is one who is empty. Therefore, in this sense, this commandment, is one who comes to give a testimony on a case. And this will deal with whether or not a person gets true justice. And the integrity of a single witness - he may join hands with a malicious group. And utter that which is false, as in the case of Naboth, in order that his vineyard might be taken and given to Ahab. They brought in these false witnesses.

#### I. WHAT DOES THIS COMMANDMENT FORBID

It forbids slander in the first place.

It forbids silence, when people who need to defend the truth.

It forbids leaving of false impressions. As some people do.

It forbids asking/leading questions of someone else. Have you heard about so and so. And just dismiss it at that - and it leaves the person to imagine the worst. Or a person will say, why do you suppose that he did that. And they give you a different angle of things.

Now I think this commandment is violated by people who do this. Now, there are very few people who will make up a damaging story against another out of the whole piece of cloth. But over and over again, they will get some little bit of information and repeat what he saw, what he heard, and then he adds to it his own addition, and finally when he retells it, that is when things get out of hand.

It forbids flattery.

It forbids gossip - when people say, just between you and me - they whisper something. Dr. Carroll once told about how things had a way of growing and getting bigger and bigger. One man got sick and he threw up something. And as they passed along - one man said he got sick and he threw up a crow. And the next time, it was two crows. And later somebody else heard it, and he threw up three crows. And that is the way flattery, blasphemy, and deceiving words grow.

*Little girl fascinated by her grandmother taking out her false teeth to brush - So ask her to do it again - stood amazed - & demanded "Now take off your nose"*

The commandment was violated and forbids purgery - which is to tell a lie under oath. It is to not be truthful and the oath is against God, and of course it is a sin against yourself.

*Funeral - woman who kept ch & community in uproar with her gossips! "Dear, stormy day - lights on in ch - Preacher - Bolt lightning struck Bldg - lights went out. Preacher stopped talking - sudden stillness - voice from audience "she got there!"*

Now the Bible says all liars shall have their part in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone. Once a little girl mis-read this passage of Scripture and she was reading this passage - and she said all lawyers instead of liars. Hold on said the teacher - well, go on, you are not very far from it. Well, that is not 100% true is it - there are some very fine lawyers who try to be truthful men. And try to handle the truth in that way - in all honesty.

## II. HOW THIS COMMANDMENT REALLY VIOLATED.

How do people break this commandment today. In Prov. God said that he hated six things and one of them was bearing a false witness. That is, a person tampers with the truth. And he handles it loosely.

When you think about the miracle of speech, you can discover how it is violated. Because this is what distinguishes us from animals and all other creation.



An animals can only growl or bark. While you have a language that you can communicate, between individuals. You have the power to speak words that are important. And you can be obedient to them. Now the word logos - the word of God means the true witness. The truth. That's what Jesus said he was.

When you look at the title of Satan, the Devil, which was translated and means a slanderer and accuser, a false witness - he is called a liar and not only that, the father of lies. John 8:44. You read that.

*Handwritten notes:*  
Church Hoay  
Howard Bernstein  
15 B Park - 312 2000  
Choir - Howard  
misshah  
well Fargo  
son 20 Karwan  
no con. with Calway  
N.Y.  
He

The gift of speech that God gives a man gives him an ability to talk. He has the power to convey truth. To use words, signs, or ideas that are intended in his very nature. But Jesus is the logos - the true witness of God.

Now words may be used to blaspheme, slander, or to flatter, back-biting, or to whispering, or to lying.

Jesus once said, Matt. 12:37 - for by the words shall thou be justified. And by thou words shalt thou be condemned.

Every word a man speaks shall come into judgement. Let your communications therefore be yeah, yeah, and nay, nay. For whatsoever is more than these, cometh of evil. Let your speech be seasoned with salt, speak the truth to your neighbor, let the words of your mouth, the meditation of your heart, be acceptable in the sight of Jehovah.

A man to speak the truth must speak in simplicity. He must not have a duplex word. A man who wants to tell the truth must tell it plain and simple.

Another word is used often - candour. Which means white or it means that which is transparent - which a man can see through.

## Church Is Hoax Victim

A man claiming to be Leonard Bernstein Jr. received a standing ovation at a Sunday evening service at First Church, Dallas, Texas when he presented a check for \$20,000 to its sanctuary choir. The choir had just completed its dramatization of Handel's "Messiah" when the man handed a check to the pastor, W. A. Criswell, to take the choir to New York in the spring to perform with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. With tears in his eyes, the man said he and his father, whom he identified as world-famous conductor, Leonard Bernstein, were both Christian Jews and attended Calvary Baptist Church in New York City.

The next day Jack Bird, director of communications for the church, announced the check and the man were a hoax. Suspicion was first aroused when one church member said the famed conductor was too young, at 55, to be the father of the "generous" donor, guessed to be 35-40. The church officials then checked with the Wells Fargo Bank in a San Francisco suburb on which the check was written. Bank officials could not locate such an account.

Another phone call to Leonard Bernstein's office in New York revealed he has one son, Alexander, 20, a student at Harvard University. Also, Bernstein has no connection with the Baptist church in New York.

*Rev. 2/18/58*

Just as the word sincerity - there is no deceit in his tongue.

James 3:2-12 - is something that tells you about the tongue.

In the book of Psalms it says his mouth was smoothe as butter. But his heart was all wrong. His words were softer than oil but they were drawn swords. It is an illustration. As we think about Joab assaulting Abner - he said to him, how is thy health, my brother. And then he took him by the beard as if to kiss him. And he smote him under the fifth rib so that he died.

Prov. 26:18-25 - evil speech - for the lack of wood, the fire goeth out.

Shakespeare once said what shall I need to draw my sword. The paper hath cut my throat already. No, tis slander, whose edge is sharper than the sword. Whose tongue.

Augustine had this written over the top of this table - He that sits here, to slander, absent men, may never at this table sit again.

Tennyson said, half a truth - a lie which is half a truth is never the blackest of lies.

The cheap press and newspapers today break this commandment lots of times. Paul suggested whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just and pure - think on these things.

Now it seems that the newspapers think just the opposite.

Many people today like Isaiah need to pray - I am a man of unclean lips. And that is symbolic of what is happening today and we need to pray for cleansing - that our lips may speak the truth.

I am reminded of an old story of some children who had a pet parrot. Which roared around with freedom about the farm. The farmer was having trouble with crows eating the new crop of corn. And he shot a blast at a flock of crows, and he killed several plus the pet parrot. The dead crows and the parrot lay in the back yard, for the children to see upon arrival home from school - upon seeing the pet dead they rushed weeping into the house. Asking who killed Polly. The father's simple and profound reply was - bad company.

Now anyone who joins in careless talk is in bad company. And anyone who uses half truths or tells just part of it, is in bad company. In fact, the telegram of July 13, 1817 brought about the Franco-Prussian war. Prussia sent a dispatch to his minister. Indicating the nature of his negotiations with the representatives of France. When it has been sufficiently blue penciled for publication - the effect had completely changed. The original order was to retreat - and now it is a summons to charge. This was done of course with the press in view.

And in 1905 Professor Holland Rhodes could write the history of the Franco-Prussian dispute. As one of jealousy carefully fanned for four years by newspaper editors and popular speakers until the spark set Western Europe in a blaze.

In courts of justice where it is based on truth, false evidence is a misuse in the courts.

A lie that is distributed with malicious intent robs people of material things that cannot be replaced.

It is also violated by false suggestions - just between you and me. This is straight from the horse's mouth. Or it is as a Rabbi was lecturing he said - one pound of sausage takes five years off of a man's life. He went on to say a pound of ham would take five more years off of a man's life. And he went on to say a pound of pork chops would take another five years off. And at the point, he said that way back in the back - a big fat man rose to leave his chair. And the Rabbi said where are you going. He stopped for a moment and said, I am going to the cemetery. I've been dead already 283 years ago according to your calculations.

Now we break it by tale bearing. We report things that are not carefully looked

at. *Small Town = Strangers. As you'll have a criminal judge in this town. Nothing we think we do, but can't prove it!*

In the law courts a witness swears that he will not only tell the truth, he will tell the whole truth. And I think sometimes if the newspapers, men who gather news in haste would cut out about half of it - instead of trying to see if they can't put something up on the headline that would attract somebody's eye, that is the opposite of truth. Then how tragic it is.

I remember some time ago at Smith High School, they had an FM radio station. I don't know whether it still runs or not. One of the students was working at the station, and somebody heard about him working at the radio station - and one day somebody asked him - well, I understand you are working at a gas station. And of course, if that continued on - then it would have been hard to tell where that student would have been working.

Gossip is often along this line.

There is the story of the captain of the ship - the first mate who drank too much. The captain had written in the ship's log - the first mate was drunk today!!

Well, the world was shocked. Here was a man that we despised, 30 years ago, the Natzi's. Now this has become a way of life with us. Half truths, and falsehoods in action on international levels. And truthfulness has been eroded away, in our own day.

There is a purgery in the court room. They lie in a way to bring harm or hurt to somebody else. They twist the evidence - they deny the truth. Even before a grand jury. Purgery has become a way of life with many people. False testimony.

Think about how many times the 5th amendment has been used by people - they say I can close my mouth. I do not have to give you the truth. I can let a lie stand. Something is wrong in the court system and in society when there is no compulsion to say truth in the court.

I read about an old mountaineer lawyer who joked and said, he was being factious when he said, these courts are getting so crooked around here - I am going to have to take my witnesses and move to another town.

But witnesses lying in court is often the way of life today. People do not talk about integrity.

And there are some people who say, this commandment does not have to apply to me. Now this is a build up here. You remember that commandment that said, thou shalt not (murder). Not take a man's life. You remember that next commandment that said, thou shalt (not steal). That means thou shalt not take a man's property away from him. You remember that next commandment - thou shalt not commit (adultery). You should not steal virtue from another person - that is immorality. And now he comes to this 9th commandment, and he says you cannot bear (false witness). You cannot steal a person's character.

Fearing that it might lead to his dismissal - the mate pleaded in vain with the captain to remove it from the record.

The captain said what was once written in the log could never be removed. Some days later when the mate was in charge, he wrote, the captain was sober today.

We have to be careful with the witness we bear. Both as to be the truthfulness and the possibility of the untrue implications that it might create.

It is a common sin. I have never known a person willing to confess the sin of gossip or lying. I've known many who were willing to confess all sorts of other sins, but very few confess about the tongue. Did you ever read James 3:5, 10 such as the tongue of the gossiper.

Maybe it would be a good idea if we had somebody publish some liars badges. For people who are always off-center and incorrect about what they had to say. Thou shalt not bear false witness.

When the Devil talked to Eve - he said, yeah, has God said this. And the Devil gossiped to God about man. Doth Job fear God for naught. You see that he implies that Job was not the proper kind of man. The perfect picture of what gossip does is insinuate. It distorts the facts and gossip is very very destructive. Eve fell victim to the Devil's gossip and opened the door to every other kind of evil under the sun. And people have been driven to crime, homes have been destroyed, lives wrecked, suicides attempted, because of gossipers or lies. It has destroyed even the spiritual life of people.

The lie has commonly been accepted as a political instrument. Disregard of intentions, a man's usefulness in public may be ruined by falsehood. A liar is like a snow ball. When you roll it - the bigger it gets.

A daily paper published a letter that had been written to Billy Graham. The letter began, Mr. Graham, among other things - I have lied to my husband since our marriage 12 years ago. Now he believes nothing I say - and of course our marriage is breaking up.

Right along that line, Ring Lordner in a short story entitled "Hair Cut" paints a character - this man made a practice to take down as he drives through small towns - the names of village merchants. Then he writes them letters that read something like this. "Ask your wife what happened at 3 o'clock last Thursday afternoon. When that handsome young salesman came to call on her."

No such incident had so far as he knew happened. But he gloated as he pictured the husband's first suspicions. And his steady watch of his wife's conduct. And perhaps a flat accusation of his wife's infidelity. The wife's nervous surprise and her fierce resentment perhaps leading to a broken marriage and a ruined home.

Now all such activities are in disobedience and in violation of this commandment. A certain sewing circle was described as a place where they sewed seams and ripped reputations.

### III. THE VALUE OF THIS COMMANDMENT.

Now we have talked about breaking this commandment. And people break it without the least sense of shame. Yet, it is doing so deep in cutting wounds in people. The Salvation Army was attack by violence. General Booth's son recalled - when I have gone to him perhaps with some newspaper attack, and said to him, that is really more than we can stand. Booth would say, well, 50 years



from now it will matter little how these people treat us. It will matter a great deal how we have dealt with God's work.

Now I think that is something that we ought to think about. We think about the Christian work and the masterfulfillment of prophesy, as to the suffering servant. As a suffering lamb he was led to the slaughter. As a sheep before the shearers, he is dumb. So he opens not his mouth. He is reviled. He reviles not again.

There was no way that Jesus could straighten out all of these falsehoods.

Many times these things begin in a church - and I think anyone who begins a lie in the church ought to be exposed - whatever church he is in. There is the temptation in all controversies for somebody to tell something that is not so. And I think the local churches today are confronted with this by gossiping people, slanders, half-truths, sometimes people do it as a past time. And the evil is done in whispering reports. Tale-bearer. And as the book of Proverbs says - for lack of wood, the fire goeth out.

The Bible condemns this in Rom. 1:29-31.

The basic idea - Lev. 19:16 - we shall not go up and down as a tale bearer, among the people. I am the Lord and the truth belongs to him. And anything that goes against that is against him.

*Farmer ploughing field beside road, Man on foot they called him Spangy Sam - Starus.  
" Spangy Sam, stop a tell me a good story, Sam, I cant, on my way over Johns house he broke his leg*

Now it ought to be the first act in the court of law. As people swear to Almighty God, some of them in whom they do not believe, the lie increases. They tell lies.

*I am going out to see about him, Farmer ploughed a row or 2, thought wonder how had John was hurt, unhitel box went found in good health!*

Whatever things are untrue, whatever things are dishonest, whatever things are unjust, whatever things are impure, whatever things are of ill report, these we invite our customers to consider.

The same problem is true on television. There is so much irresponsibility. That men who used to be careful about what they wrote down, because they had to write it on skin, and paper was scarce - by now newsprint is plentiful. And you might use it tomorrow to make a fire with it. But they can take God's name in vain or print some false report, about some man or some company. And they go right along.

Now we all make mistakes of all kinds. And none of us are really perfect. For if we can control this tongue, we can control every other part of our personality.

The commandment is broken by careless talk. And this brings on war many times. Few people can pass through life without wanting to withdraw some words of harm that have been spoken. That they did not intend in that way.

The modern inventions - radio, T. V., microphones, which persuade masses of people and nations are now monitoring other nations. We come to the international scene and we wonder sometimes who is telling the truth. Think about the tapes released. Think about Watergate. Now men wonder, who was telling the truth. Who was lying. Who was evading the truth. And who was plagued with deceit.

You come to the energy crisis - now was there an oil scandal. Who was telling us the truth. Are these men dishonest in high places.

In World War II - it was a coined phrase - the big lie. It was Hitler.

I was in Richardo's court - Judge Richardo one time down in Chesapeake. And I thought all courts upheld the truth. But I listened to some of those things that I thought were fairly honest. Until he had a drunken driver come up and the officer plainly testified that this man could not stay on his side of the line. For he was driving under the influence of alcohol. And could not stay in his lane of traffic. The judge asked him how many drinks he had, and I think the man said one. And the judge said, case dismissed. Now I believe that officer told the truth and I believe that man needed some kind of reprimand. And I think that's a false way of dealing with truth.

We need to pray - make me a clean heart - oh God. And renew in me a right spirit.

We need to pray - let the words of my mouth, the meditations of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, oh God, my strength and my redeemer.

We need to pray - Oh God, in the complicated systems and situations of life, help me to be Christian and repent. There needs to be truth. And where there is a denial that truth exists, and where a person becomes an habitual liar, and it becomes a part of his life - as liars of advertisement today, who advertise products. As liars in salesmanship. In salesmanship positions just to make money. Will tell things that are not true. Liars in politics.

I was interested in reading about a campaign down in Princess Anne County some years ago. When there were two candidates in the same district that were running. And the newspapers were upset - and the story went on about one candidate and the other candidate. Neither candidate made any statement against the other. One of them said we believe in peace among our neighbors and we will not tell falsehoods on the other man. We will not tell lies on the other. We are simply running on our character and our past history in this community.

7-  
Dr. Johnson wrote about the calamities of war. He says because men do not love truth - many of them live by falsehoods.

What about fortune tellers who tell so many falsehoods to people.

What about the great Italian poet Petrarch who was once brought into court and as he was being sworn in by the judge, he was supposed to have said - that will not be necessary. "His word is sufficient."

That is like the old Proverb - his word is his bond.

Now the value of this commandment points out the penalties. It was a heavy fine to tell a falsehood.

In Rome one was hurled head long on a rock. In Egypt, there was the implification of the nose and the ear. In the Old Testament, one was held responsible for the injury done.

Naboth was put to death because of false witnesses who testified as Jezebel instructed. The tongue will be used in judgement. In Rom. 14:11-12. That is why it is important and that is why this commandment is important. That is why it is valuable as truth and in telling the truth.

Does this mean that you shall tell all the truth, all the time. Many times it is better to leave some things unsaid. But whatever is truth, we should stick by truth. And many times we ought to use what we say - as the test - is it true. Is it necessary, is it helpful when it comes to speaking about someone else.

We don't have to repeat every bad thing that we hear about someone else.

An old German preacher always had something good to say about the deceased at the funeral. On one occasion he said, "Hans, wasn't bad all the time. As he was most of the time."

But find the truth and find the good and speak it. If you will remember your own faults, it will be easy to recall virtue in somebody else.

There is a bit of poetry -

There is so much good in the worst of us  
So much bad in the best of us  
That it ill behoves the best of us  
To talk about the rest of us.

Will Rodges once said - "so love and live, that you will not be ashamed to sell the family parrot to the town gossip." We are to bear true witness. And if we are going to bear true witness - we are going to bear witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Jesus went about doing good and preaching the Gospel.

Thomas Carlyle said, "there is no more horrible object in existence than the eloquent man not speaking the truth."

James Russell Lowell said who speaks truth stabs falsehood in the heart.

John Ruskin said he who has truth of his heart need never fear of the want of

persuasion on his tongue.

An English preacher said as he talked about many things - politics, weather, economics = he said when we get together, meet someone, before parting we always say now just a word about Jesus Christ.

Thomas told the truth when he confessed Jesus and the Lord and my God. The Publican said, have mercy upon me. Nicodemus said, what can I experience - the new birth.

*Proverb*  
"A lie has no legs." Bishop Hall says a lie is like Sampson's foxes, and firebrands.

Think on these Scriptures - Matt. 12:37 - by thy words thou shalt be justified and by thy words thou shalt be condemned. Rev. 21:8 - All liars shall have their part in the lake of fire that burns with fire and brimstone which is the second death. Rev. 22:15 - Whosoever loveth and maketh a lie shall in no wise enter into the new Jerusalem.

How can I check myself. How can I overcome the habit. It is very simple. Treat it as a sin. Confess it to God. Get straight with the people you have hurt through lies. Make it right with the person and with God. How will you use your tongue today?

Phillip gave a true witness when he talked to the Enoch.

*Rev. 21:8  
all 2 - lake  
fire brimstone*  
Commit your life to the True Witness  
Rev. 1:5 Jesus Christ who is the Faithful Witness  
Rev. 3:14 - " " The True & "  
John 8:32 Truth set you free!!