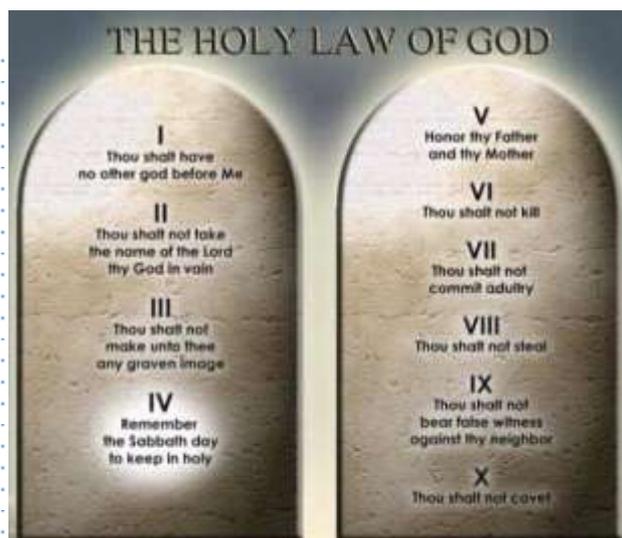


“3AM” MINISTRIES



THE NINETH COMMANDMENT OF GOD



“3AM MINISTRIES – UGANDA

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THE NINETH
COMMANDMENT OF GOD
EXODUS 20:16

“Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.”

Wednesday March 4, 2017
The Ninth Commandment of God
Exodus 20:16

“Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.”

I would like us to start our study about the ninth commandment by finding out who our neighbour is.

Who is my neighbour?

When we read in the ninth commandment, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against *thy neighbor*," we believe it is to be taken absolutely, meaning every one and any one with whom we come into any sort of relation; for it would be wrong for us to bear false witness against any one, whatever might be his character, or the relation that he sustained toward us.

What is false witness?

Proverbs 12:17

“He that speaketh truth showeth forth righteousness: but *a false witness* *deceit*.”

The above scripture tells us that false witness is deceit.

Let us look at another example.

Deuteronomy 19:16

¹⁶If *a false witness* rise up against any man *to testify against him* that which *is wrong*; ¹⁷Then 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; ¹⁸And the judges shall make diligent inquisition: and, behold, if *the witness be a false witness*, and hath *testified falsely* against his brother; ¹⁹Then 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.

How does the scripture above describe a false witness.

- He or she testifies wrongly against the neighbour.
- We can therefore say, that the Ninth commandments forbids us testify falsely or wrongly against our neighbours.

“Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.”

I would like to give one more example which defines a false witnessing.

Apostle Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians has something he says about false witness. He says:

¹⁴And if **Christ be not risen**, then is our preaching *vain*, and your faith is also vain. ¹⁵Yea, and **we are found false witnesses** of God; *because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.* 1 Corinthians 15:14-15

The apostles testified about the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Paul now here, he says that if it was that Christ had not been resurrected, they would have been false witnesses that is to say; they were deceivers because of saying that something happened which had actually not happened. But since Jesus Christ indeed resurrected from the dead and became the firstfruits of them that slept, the apostles were not false witnesses by testifying of the risen saviour.

Characteristics of false witnesses.

We have already seen that false witnesses testify wrongly against their neighbours.

Let us look at more of their features.

1. Psalm 35:11

¹¹False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not.

Here, we see that false witnessing involves putting on neighbours charges which they even do not know about.

Let us go ahead.

2. Proverbs 14:5

“A faithful witness *will not lie*: but **a false witness will utter lies.**”

Here we find out that false witnesses speak lies, in their mouth is found guile. This vividly tells us that no false witnesser will inherit the kingdom of God, why? Because the redeemed from the earth are found without guile in their mouth.

- “A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall perish. Proverbs 19:9”

“Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.”

3. Proverbs 6:15

¹⁶These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: ¹⁷A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, ¹⁹A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Here, we find out that a false witness that speaketh lies is an abominable unto the Lord. Do you see how God hates the sin of bearing false witness? You are not in harmony with God's law when you continue speaking lies my brother/sister.

Flippant Speech May Be False Witness.--Slander covers more ground than we suppose. The command, "Thou shalt not bear false witness," means very much more than we realize. False witness is borne again and again in flippant speech concerning even the workers whom God has sent. The seeds of envy, of evil thinking and evil speaking, germinate and produce a harvest of their kind, to be garnered by the one who planted the seed. "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Letter 9, 1892). {1BC 1106.4}

Satan is working to crowd himself in everywhere. He would put asunder very friends. There are men who are ever talking and gossiping and bearing false witness, who sow the seeds of discord, and engender strife. Heaven looks upon this class as Satan's most efficient servants. But the man who is injured is in a far less dangerous position than when fawned upon and extolled for a few of his efforts which appear successful. The commendation of apparent friends is more dangerous than reproach. {PH083 24.1}

How do we become false witnesses

We are God's witnesses, yet we often bear false witness. Every professed Christian who continues to live in sin; every one who prays to God, declaring that he worships only the true and living God, but who does not live in the constant enjoyment of the salvation for which he prays, is a false witness. He is doing God worse service than are the heathen themselves. He is saying that there is no more power in God to save than there is in the gods of the heathen; and inasmuch as he professes to be a servant of God, and is supposed to be intimate with Him, his testimony tells more against God than does the testimony of many heathen. .. {January 18, 1900 EJW, PTUK 37.2}

"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour."

To what extent does the ninth commandment stretch?

"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." {PP 309.2}

The ninth commandment requires of us an *inviolable regard* for exact truth in every declaration by which the character of our fellow men may be affected. The tongue, which is kept so little under the control of the human agent, is to be bridled by strong conscientious principles, by the law of love toward God and man. {SD 64.2}

False speaking in any matter, every attempt or purpose to deceive our neighbor, is here included. An intention to deceive is what constitutes falsehood. By a glance of the eye, a motion of the hand, an expression of the countenance, a falsehood may be told as effectually as by words. All intentional overstatement, every hint or insinuation calculated to convey an erroneous or exaggerated impression, even the statement of facts in such a manner as to mislead, is falsehood. *This precept forbids every effort to injure our neighbor's reputation by misrepresentation* or evil surmising, by slander or tale bearing. *Even the intentional suppression of truth*, by which injury may result to others, is a violation of the ninth commandment. {PP 309.3} {SD 64.3}

He [Jesus] teaches that the exact truth should be the law of speech. "Let your speech be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay." . . . These words condemn all those meaningless phrases and expletives that border on profanity. They condemn the deceptive compliments, the evasion of truth, the flattering phrases, the exaggerations, the misrepresentations in trade, that are current in society and in the business world. They teach that no one who tries to appear what he is not, or whose words do not convey the real sentiment of his heart, can be called truthful. . . . {SD 64.4}

Everything that Christians do should be as transparent as the sunlight. Truth is of God; deception, in every one of its myriad forms, is of Satan. . . . We can not speak the truth unless our minds are continually guided by Him who is truth. {SD 64.5}

"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour."

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Don't miss
Our Wednesday Bible studies
starting from
5:00pm to 7:00pm

"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour."