

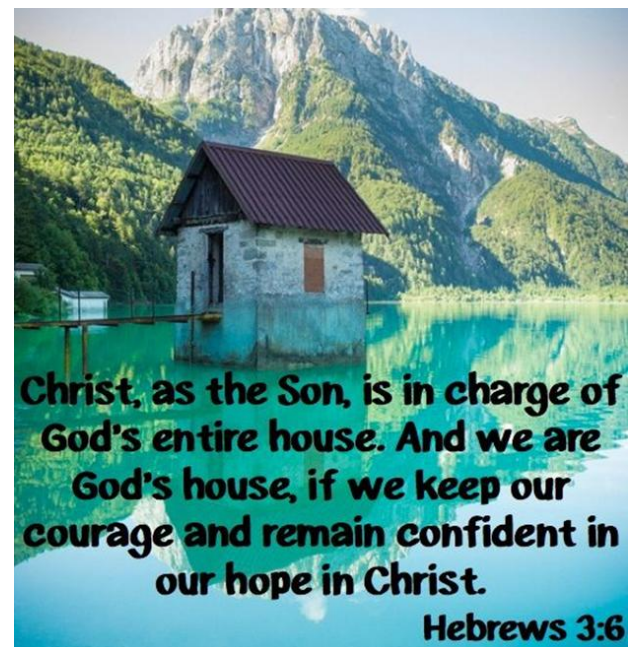
Dear Friends,

This week we will continue our study on the Ten Commandments found in Exodus 20. The ninth commandment instructs us to not bear false witness (verse 16). In the context of the time of when this was written, it essentially meant we are not to go to court and lie about a person. The consequences of this would of course harm their reputation, livelihood and family. Most likely in many more ways than we know. The greatest example in the Bible is at the trial of Jesus where key people were encouraged to defame Him and His works. Fame and fortune, power and wealth and who knows what else enticed some to lie and call for His death.

How do we apply this commandment to our lives today? We as Christians know inherently that we are not to lie about or slander anyone, not only in court but especially in our everyday lives. It is so easy to get into the gossip trap. I wonder, why do we enjoy causing others harm? Power, fear, anger, jealousy (to name just a few) may be reasons. To fit into a peer group or maybe simply to judge.

Okay, enough about how we as humans testify about other humans. Like the previous commandments, I have tried to bring spiritual awareness into view. As we mature in our walk of faith, we learn to walk in the Spirit. We, like Jesus's first disciples, are to testify about His truth. He is the light of the world, the bread of life and the living water in which all mankind must take part in to live in eternity with God. Jesus is the key, the doorway into heaven. More than this, He is the Son of God AND IS God, one in the same.

We find repeatedly in the Bible that God is referenced as the King of Kings and we, His children, must serve Him as our King. As the King over heaven and earth, all creation and even over time, He demands that we submit to His will. How we live and the words we say testify to our submission of self. He tells us He will fill all our needs, providing everything needed to be the child He has called us



to be. Our faith is tested daily; the world we live in demands so much attention. If God is truly our King, we must learn to serve Him first, and all other things will then fall in line. If we call ourselves Christians but don't live like we are, we are bearing false witness to God Himself.

God is God, master of everything. Jesus as the Son of God came to earth as an extension of God's love and grace and through Him only can we be saved. The Holy Spirit as God lives in us; we have become the house God resides in. These facts demand our testimony! The world has put God on trial and we are His witnesses.

Hebrews 3:1-6

3 *Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our Apostle and High Priest. ² He was faithful to the One who appointed Him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house. ³ Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. ⁴ For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. ⁵ "Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house," bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future. ⁶ But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house. And we are His house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory.*

Our words and actions of faith bring God to life in a dark world; living in the light of Jesus quells this same darkness. We brothers and sisters are to bring flavor to the world. Like salt, we have the ability to enhance or destroy. Let us boldly speak and live Truth.

Our witness and testimony hold great weight. Stand on the truth. God is love!

Your Brother in Christ, Archie