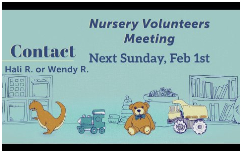
Grace Community Church of Topsail

Sunday, January 25, 2026: Live Life Without Any Fine Print – Tell the Truth Matthew 5:33-37

GRACE
COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF TOPSAIL

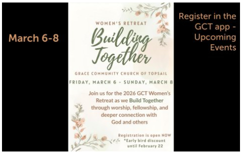
Join together at the church building to "write them on the doorposts and the gates" (Deut. 6:9)


Nursery Volunteers Meeting

Contact
Hali R. or Wendy R.

Next Sunday, Feb 1st

GCT Ladies Retreat
March 6-8, 2026
Registration Is Open

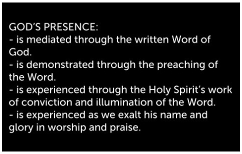

March 6-8

WOMEN'S RETREAT
Building Together
GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF TOPSAIL
FRIDAY, MARCH 6 - SUNDAY, MARCH 8

Join us for the 2026 GCT Women's Retreat as we Build Together through worship, fellowship, and deeper connection with God and others

Registration is open NOW
*Early bird discount until February 22

Register in the GCT app - Upcoming Events


GOD'S PRESENCE:
- is mediated through the written Word of God.
- is demonstrated through the preaching of the Word.
- is experienced through the Holy Spirit's work of conviction and illumination of the Word.
- is experienced as we exalt his name and glory in worship and praise.

Psalm 145:1–5 ESV

> I will extol you, my God and King,
> and bless your name forever and ever.
> Every day I will bless you
> and praise your name forever and ever.
> Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,
> and his greatness is...

Continue reading »

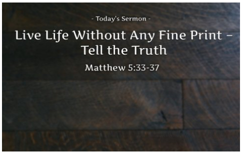
♫ **Holy Forever**

♫ **Ancient Of Days**

♫ **All I Have Is Christ**

♫ **Cornerstone**

Kingdom
Culture
How Heaven Touches Earth
Sermon on the
Mount Series


- Today's Sermon -

Live Life Without Any Fine Print – Tell the Truth

Matthew 5:33-37

Matthew 5:33–37 ESV

> "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth,...

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Matthew 23:16–22 ESV

> "Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.' You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred?...

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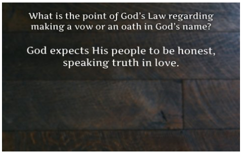

What is the point of God's Law regarding making a vow or an oath in God's name?

God expects His people to be honest, speaking truth in love.

Exodus 20:7 ESV

> "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

Continue reading »

Leviticus 19:12 ESV

> You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.

Continue reading »

Numbers 30:2 ESV

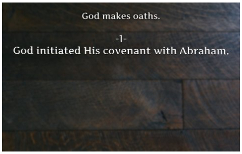
If a man vows a vow to the LORD, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.

Continue reading »

Deuteronomy 23:21 ESV

"If you make a vow to the LORD your God, you shall not delay fulfilling it, for the LORD your God will surely require it of you, and you will be guilty of sin.

Continue reading »



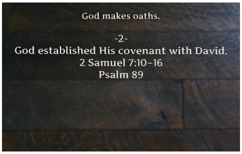
God makes oaths.

-1-
God initiated His covenant with Abraham.

Genesis 22:15–18 ESV

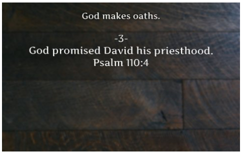
And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply...

Continue reading »



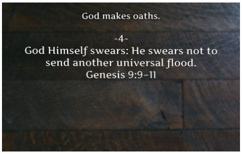
God makes oaths.

-2-
God established His covenant with David.
2 Samuel 7:10–16
Psalm 89



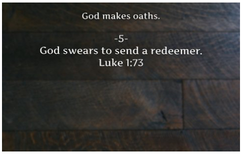
God makes oaths.

-3-
God promised David his priesthood.
Psalm 110:4



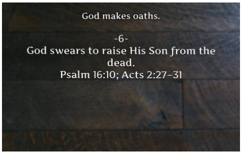
God makes oaths.

-4-
God Himself swears: He swears not to send another universal flood.
Genesis 9:9–11

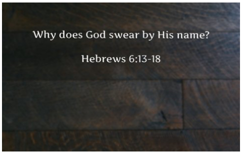


God makes oaths.

-5-
God swears to send a redeemer.
Luke 1:73


God makes oaths.

-6-
God swears to raise His Son from the dead.
Psalm 16:10; Acts 2:27–31

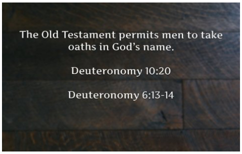

Why does God swear by His name?

Hebrews 6:13-18

Hebrews 6:13–18 ESV

For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, “Surely I will bless you and multiply you.” And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. For people swear by…

Continue reading »


The Old Testament permits men to take oaths in God’s name.

Deuteronomy 10:20

Deuteronomy 6:13-14

Deuteronomy 10:20 ESV

You shall fear the LORD your God. You shall serve him and hold fast to him, and by his name you shall swear.

Continue reading »

Deuteronomy 6:13–14 ESV

It is the LORD your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear. You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you—

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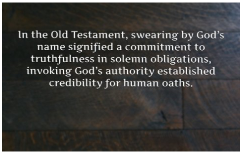
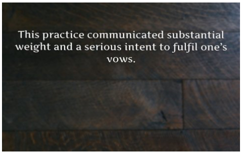
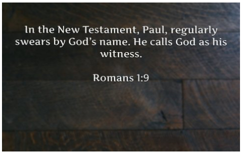

In the Old Testament, swearing by God’s name signified a commitment to truthfulness in solemn obligations, invoking God’s authority established credibility for human oaths.


This practice communicated substantial weight and a serious intent to fulfil one’s vows.



In the New Testament, Paul, regularly swears by God's name. He calls God as his witness.

Romans 1:9

Romans 1:9 ESV

For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you

Continue reading »

2 Corinthians 1:23 ESV

But I call God to witness against me—it was to spare you that I refrained from coming again to Corinth.

Continue reading »

1 Thessalonians 2:5 ESV

For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness.

Continue reading »

Paul also takes a Nazirite vow.
Acts 18:18

Acts 18:18 ESV

After this, Paul stayed many days longer and then took leave of the brothers and set sail for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchreae he had cut his hair, for he was under a vow.

Continue reading »

Matthew 5:37 ESV

Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

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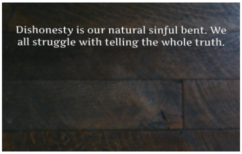
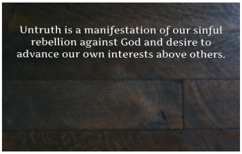
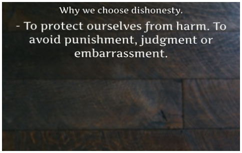


Dishonesty is our natural sinful bent. We all struggle with telling the whole truth.



Untruth is a manifestation of our sinful rebellion against God and desire to advance our own interests above others.

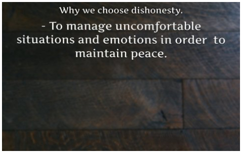


Why we choose dishonesty.

- To protect ourselves from harm. To avoid punishment, judgment or embarrassment.

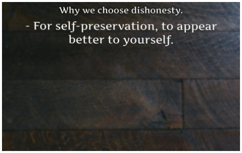
Why we choose dishonesty.

- To gain advantages, rewards and approval by exaggerating achievements for social acceptance, jobs, or admiration.



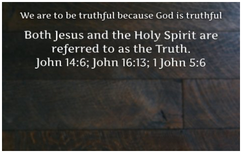
Why we choose dishonesty.

- To manage uncomfortable situations and emotions in order to maintain peace.



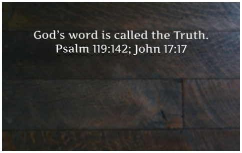
Why we choose dishonesty.

- For self-preservation, to appear better to yourself.

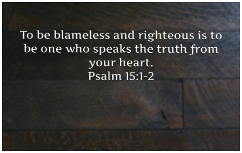


We are to be truthful because God is truthful

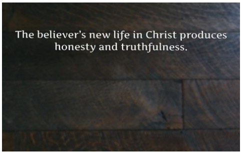
Both Jesus and the Holy Spirit are referred to as the Truth.
John 14:6; John 16:13; 1 John 5:6



God’s word is called the Truth.
Psalm 119:142; John 17:17



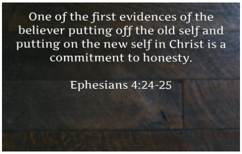
To be blameless and righteous is to be one who speaks the truth from your heart.
Psalm 15:1-2


The believer's new life in Christ produces honesty and truthfulness.

Colossians 3:9–10 ESV

> Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

Continue reading »


One of the first evidences of the believer putting off the old self and putting on the new self in Christ is a commitment to honesty.

Ephesians 4:24-25

Ephesians 4:24–25 ESV

> and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

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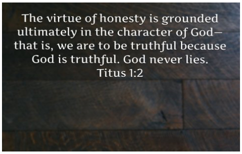

The virtue of honesty is grounded ultimately in the character of God—that is, we are to be truthful because God is truthful. God never lies.
Titus 1:2

Kingdom Culture
HOW HEAVEN TOUCHES EARTH
SERMON ON THE MOUNT SERIES

Turn Your Eyes

Join together at the church building to "write them on the doorposts and the gates" (Deut. 6:9)

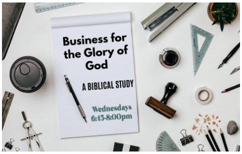
GCT Ladies Retreat
March 6-8, 2026
Registration Is Open

Nursery Volunteers Meeting

Next Sunday, Feb 1st

Contact

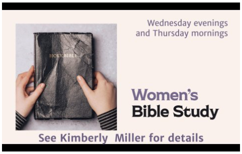
Hali R. or Wendy R.



Business for the Glory of God

A BIBLICAL STUDY

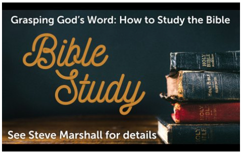
Wednesdays
6:45-8:00pm



Wednesday evenings
and Thursday mornings

Women's Bible Study

See Kimberly Miller for details



Grasping God's Word: How to Study the Bible

Bible Study

See Steve Marshall for details

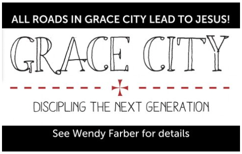
Nursery

Newborn - Toddlers

"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."   Matt. 19:14

10am Volunteer Opportunities

Contact:
Hali Ray



ALL ROADS IN GRACE CITY LEAD TO JESUS!

GRACE CITY

DISCIPLING THE NEXT GENERATION

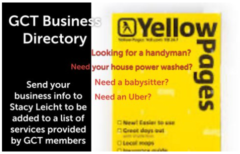
See Wendy Farber for details

Accountability & Discipleship

Men's Group

Tuesday Morning @ 6am
A Taste of Sunrise Coffeehouse

Discussions on Biblical Manhood

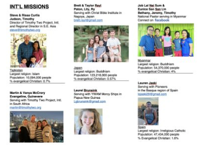


GCT Business Directory

Looking for a handyman?
Need your house power washed?
Need a babysitter?
Need an Uber?

Send your business info to Stacy Leicht to be added to a list of services provided by GCT members

Yellow Pages
☐ New! Easier to use
☐ Great days out
☐ Local maps



INT'L MISSIONS

Steve & Rissa Curtis
Judson, Timothy
Director of Timothy Two Project, Intl. and Regional Director in S.E. Asia
steve@timothytwo.org

Tajikistan
Largest religion: Islam
Population: 10,094,000 people
% evangelical Christian: 0.7%

Martin & Vanya McCrory
Evangeline, Guinevere
Serving with Timothy Two Project, Intl. in South Africa
martin@timothytwo.org

Brett & Taylor Rayl
Paton, Lily, Ry
Serving with Christ Bible Institute in Nagoya, Japan
brett.rayl@gmail.com

Japan
Largest religion: Buddhism
Population: 123,218,000 people
% evangelical Christian: 0.57%

Laurel Brunsink
Serving with YWAM Mercy Ships in Papua New Guinea
Lgbrunsink@gmail.com

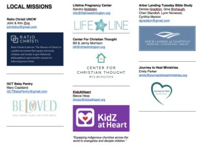
Job Lal Nei Sum &
Eunice San San Lin
Bethany, Jeremy, Timothy
National Pastor serving in Myanmar
Connect on facebook

Myanmar
Largest religion: Buddhism
Population: 54,370,000 people
% evangelical Christian: 4%

Lauren Jaski
Serving with Pioneers
in the Basque region of Spain
lojaski29@gmail.com

Spain
Largest religion: Irreligious Catholic
Population: 47,434,000 people
% Evangelical Christian: 1.6%

Missionaries that GCT Supports



LOCAL MISSIONS

Ratio Christi UNCW
John & Kim Zing
johnfzing@gmail.com

RATIO CHRISTI

GCT Baby Pantry
Mary Copeland
GCTBabyPantry@gmail.com

BELOVED

Lifeline Pregnancy Center
Sandra Holdstein
info@lifelinewilmington.org

LIFE LINE

Center For Christian Thought
Bill & Jenny Morrison
bill@cfctwilmington.org

CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN THOUGHT
WILMINGTON

KidzAtHeart
Becca Hess
bhess@kidzatheart.org

KidZ at Heart

"Equipping indigenous churches across the world to evangelize and disciple children."

Arbor Landing Tuesday Bible Study
Denise Graddon, Gina Brohaugh, Cheri Standish, Lynn Norwood, Cynthia Manion
dgraddon@gmail.com

Journey to Heal Ministries
Emily Parker
emily@journeytohealministries.org

Journey to Heal MINISTRIES

Prayer Before Sunday Morning Worship, meets at 9AM in Media classroom. Open to all!

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances." — 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Malachi 3:16 Prayer Group

Meets Fridays @ 10am
Hampstead Baptist Church, Room 208

Resumes on Friday, January 9th

GRACE
COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF TOPSAIL

LET'S GET TO KNOW YOU!
Fill out a Connect Card and place in the donation box.

Grace Community Church of Topsail

98 members • 24 followers