



MESSAGE NOTES

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR EVERYDAY LIVING

Title: **Truth Be Told: The Power of Honest Words**
Series: **God's Top 10**
Text: **Exodus 20:16; Ephesian 4:25**
Speaker: **Kevin T. Hardy** Date: **September 7, 2025**

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." (Exodus 20:16)

*"So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. **Truth is nowhere to be found**, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey. **The Lord looked and was displeased that there was no justice.**"*
(Isaiah 59:14–15)

God is _____!

- "The law of **the LORD is perfect**, refreshing the soul." (Psalm 19:7)
- "It is **impossible for God to lie.**" (Hebrews 6:18)
- "The Lord **detests lying lips**, but he **delights in men who are truthful.**" (Prov. 12:22)

Four ways the Ninth Commandment speaks into our lives.

1. _____ in Court: Destroying Justice

- **Perjury.** The willful **taking of an oath in order to tell or confirm anything known to be false** was a serious act, since it **profaned God's name** by using it in vain, and irreverently defied and disregarded God's omniscience.

*"Do not **swear falsely** by my name and so profane the name of your God. I am the LORD.*
(Lev. 19:12)

*There are **six things the Lord hates**, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, **a lying tongue**, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, **a false witness who pours out lies** and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers. (Prov. 6:16-19)*

*"Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.' 34 But I tell you, **Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne;** 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. 36 And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. 37 **Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No';** anything beyond this comes from the evil one. (Matt. 5:33-37)*

2. _____ at Home and in the Church: Destroying Trust

“Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices.”
(Colossians 3:9)

“Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.” (Ephesians 4:25)

3. _____ and _____: Destroying Reputations

A gossip goes around telling secrets, but those who are trustworthy can keep a confidence.
(Prov. 11:13)

- _____ is primarily defined as **casual conversation** or unsubstantiated reports about other people, often involving **malicious chatter or rumors**.
- _____ is the utterance of **false charges or accusations** that defame another person's reputation.

“Whoever conceals hatred with lying lips and spreads slander is a fool.” (Prov. 10:18)

“The tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, **a world of evil** among the parts of the body.” (James 3:5–6)

4. _____: Destroying Integrity

“Everyone lies to their neighbor; they flatter with their lips but harbor deception in their hearts. **May the LORD silence all flattering lips and every boastful tongue.**” (Psalm 12:2-3)

- _____ is **insincere praise meant to manipulate**. It's false witness dressed up politely.

The Gospel: The _____ That Sets Us Free

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him **we might become the righteousness of God.**” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

Chuck Colson reflected: **“The great paradox of my life is that the worst thing that ever happened to me was the best thing that ever happened to me. I went to prison, and I met Jesus Christ.”**