

## **“Tell the Truth”**

### **Exodus 20:16**

**The Ninth Commandment...** The 9<sup>th</sup> commandment forbids the giving of a false testimony in court and also forbids every lesser form of deception as well. We are called to be truth tellers because we are made in the image of a God who cannot lie (Titus 1:2).

**We lie to hurt others...** People often lie about others in the form of slander and gossip because they harbor malice toward others and desire to harm them. As Christians we are called to speak only what is true, motivated by love, and promoting the unity and growth of the church (Ephesians 4:15 & 25).

**We lie to make ourselves look better...** Without the gospel, we are left to a dangerous religion of works in which we attempt to be good enough to save ourselves. When we fail to measure up to what we should be, we often respond by wrapping ourselves in lies to deceive others. We seek to make ourselves look better on the outside than we truly are in our hearts (Mtt. 23:27-28).

**Set free from lies...** The power to obey the 9<sup>th</sup> commandment is in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Only when we believe the gospel and know that we are forgiven can we stop hiding our sin with lies and start confessing it in humility. Only when we believe the gospel are we given a new heart that is willing and able to speak the truth in love.

#### **Questions for Reflection:**

- 1.** In what way are you most likely to break the 9<sup>th</sup> commandment? Why?
- 2.** Have you been guilty of lying to make yourself look better than you really are?
- 3.** Why does the gospel set us free from hypocrisy and lies? Have you been set free?

**(Scripture Meditation: Ex. 20:17 & Mtt. 6:19-21.)**