

The Sermon On The Mount

The Righteousness of Those
Whose Lives' Are Ruled By God - 5:17-7:12

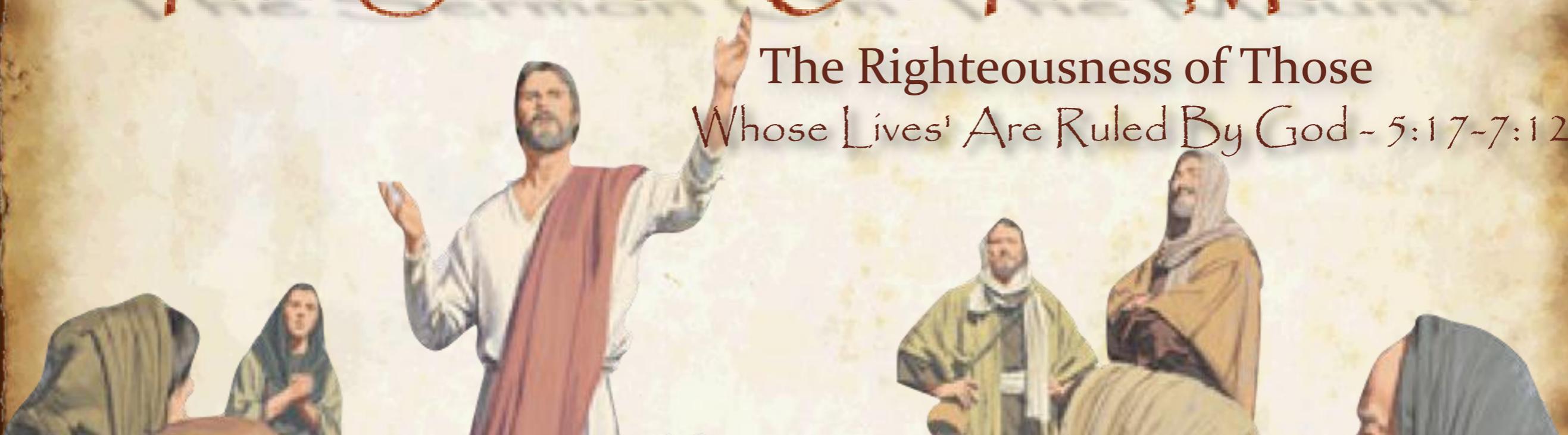
Matthew 5:33-37

"Honesty & Integrity"

***We Are Not Compelled To Swear -
But To Always Tell The Truth!***

The Sermon On The Mount

The Righteousness of Those
Whose Lives' Are Ruled By God - 5:17-7:12



Having dealt with the subjects of "murder" [hatred] (21-26), "adultery" [lust] (27-30), & "Divorce" [treachery] (31,32)

Jesus continues to emphasize the righteousness demanded of citizens in His kingdom by demanding complete honesty. (33-37)

The Sermon On The Mount

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Matthew 5:33–37 (NKJV)

³³ “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.’

³⁴ But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.

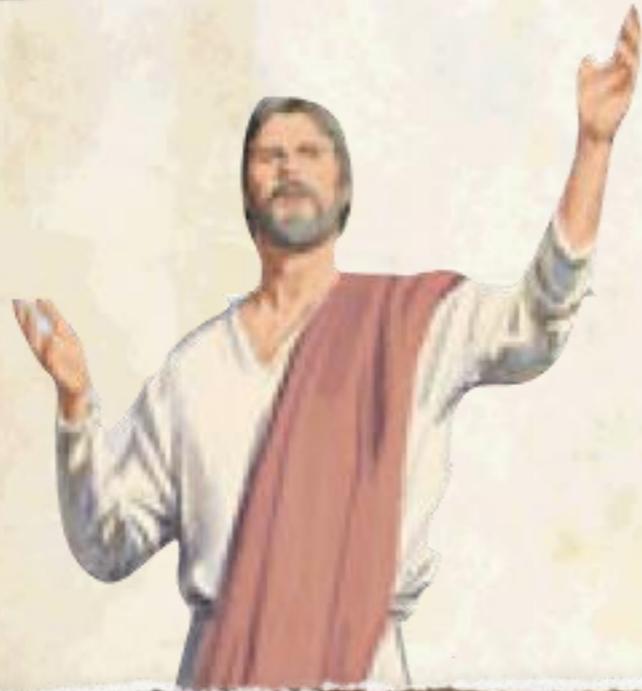
The Sermon On The Mount

Matthew 5:33-37 (NKJV)

³⁶ Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷ But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

The Sermon On The Mount

You have heard that it was said to those of old,



Jesus did not set himself against the law of Moses, but against the false and pernicious interpretations of the law prevalent in his time.

- 21** ‘You shall not murder, . . .
- 27** ‘You shall not commit adultery.’
. . .
- 31** ‘Whoever **divorces** his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ . . .
- 33** ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your **oaths** to the Lord.’ . . .
- 38** ‘An **eye for an eye** and a tooth for a tooth.’ . . .
- 43** ‘You shall **love your neighbor** and hate your enemy.’ . . .

The Sermon On The Mount

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Law of Moses Governing Vows & Honesty -

GREEK-ENGLISH
LEXICON
OF THE
NEW TESTAMENT
BASED ON
SEMANTIC DOMAINS

Volume 2

Johannes P. Louw
and
Eugene A. Nida
1996

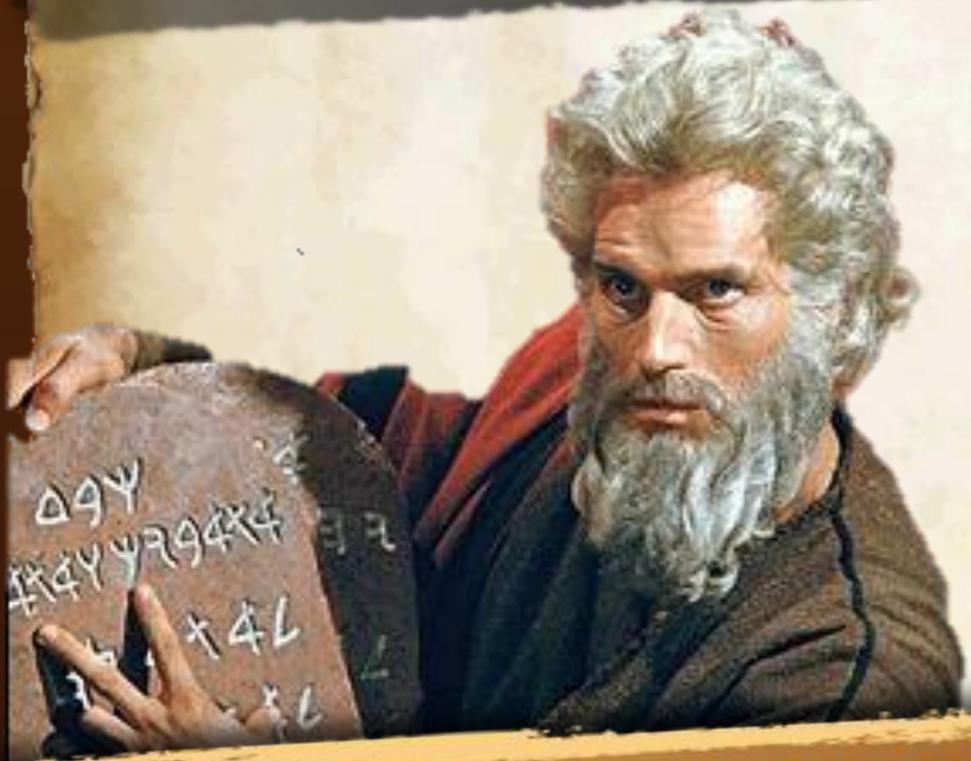
33.463 ὀμνύω or ὀμνυμι; ὄρκος, ου *m*;
ὄρκωμοσία, ας *f*: to affirm the truth of a
statement by calling on a divine being
to execute sanctions against a person
if the statement in question is not true
(in the case of a deity taking an oath,
his divine being is regarded as
validating the statement)—‘to swear,
to make an oath, oath.’

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). Greek-English
lexicon of the New Testament: Based on
semantic domains

The Sermon On The Mount

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Law of Moses Governing Vows & Honesty -



Matthew 5:33 (NKJV)

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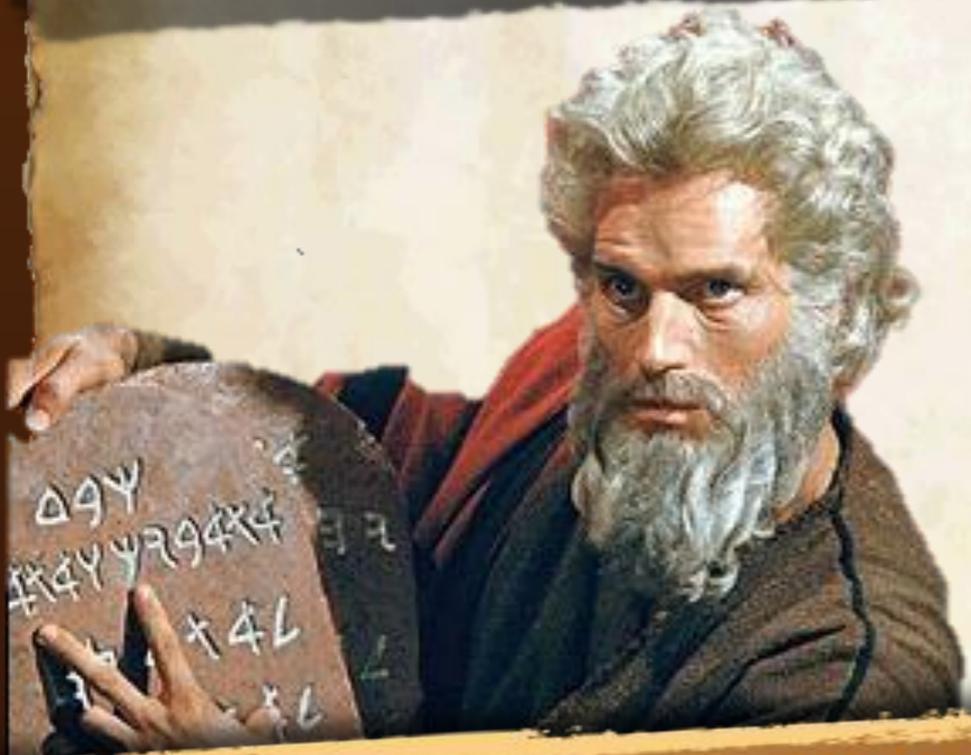
An oath consists of four things:

- ✳ A formal asseveration of truth –
- ✳ A confession –
- ✳ An invocation –
- ✳ An imprecation –

The Sermon On The Mount

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Law of Moses Governing Vows & Honesty -



Matthew 5:33 (NKJV)

³³ "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.'

- ✳ A solemn affirmation, or declaration, made with an appeal to God for the truth of what is affirmed, and imprecating his vengeance, and renouncing his favor, if what is affirmed is false.
- ✳ A false oath is called perjury; or, as in this place, forswearing. In Israel the Law prescribed that oaths could be by Yahweh, (Dt. 6:13; 10:20) but not required . . .

The Sermon On The Mount

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Law of Moses Governing Vows & Honesty -



Matthew 5:33 (NKJV)

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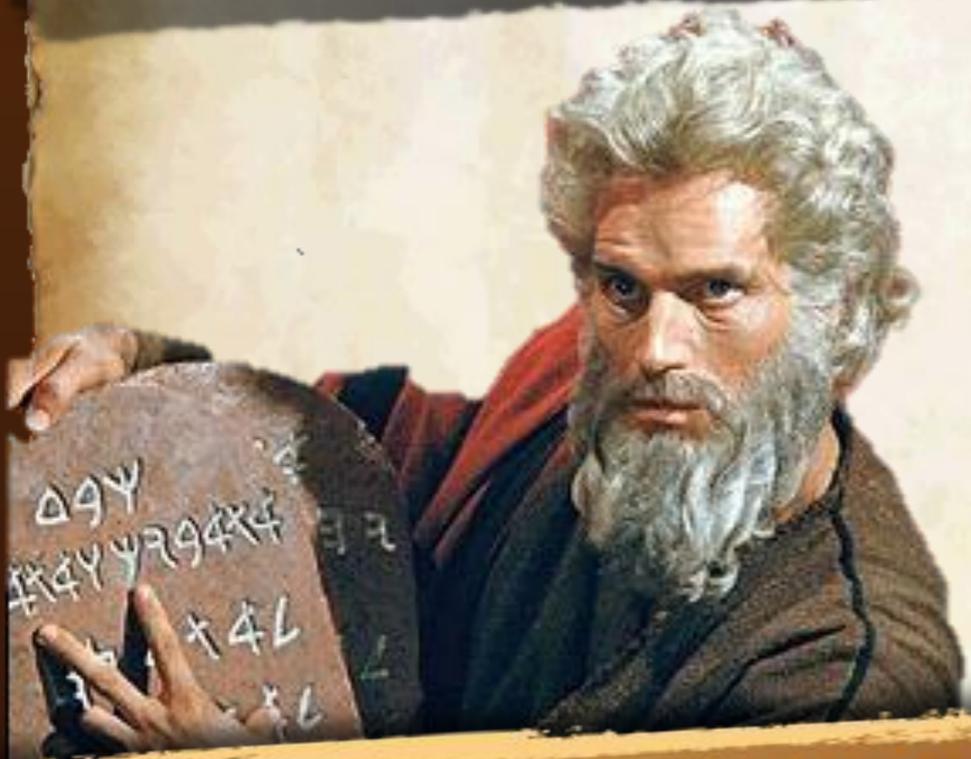
Deuteronomy 23:21

²¹ "When you make a vow to the Lord your God, you shall not delay to pay it; for the Lord your God will surely require it of you, and it would be sin to you. ²² "But if you abstain from vowing, it shall not be sin to you.

The Sermon On The Mount

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Law of Moses Governing Vows & Honesty -



Matthew 5:33 (NKJV)

³³ "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.'

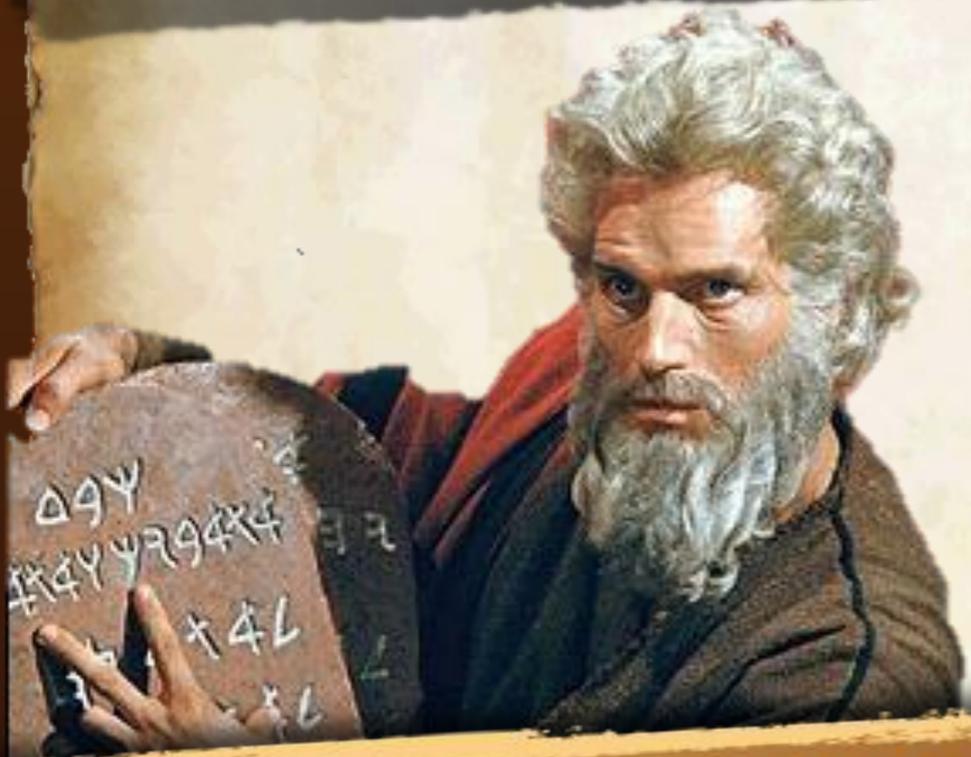
False swearing was condemned as an abuse of the name of God:

- ✳ **Ex 20:7** - "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain,
- ✳ **Lev 19:11,12** - "You shall not . . . deal falsely, nor lie to one another. . . shall not swear by My name falsely,
- ✳ **Num 30:1,2** - If . . . he shall not break his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.

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Law of Moses Governing Vows & Honesty -



Matthew 5:33 (NKJV)

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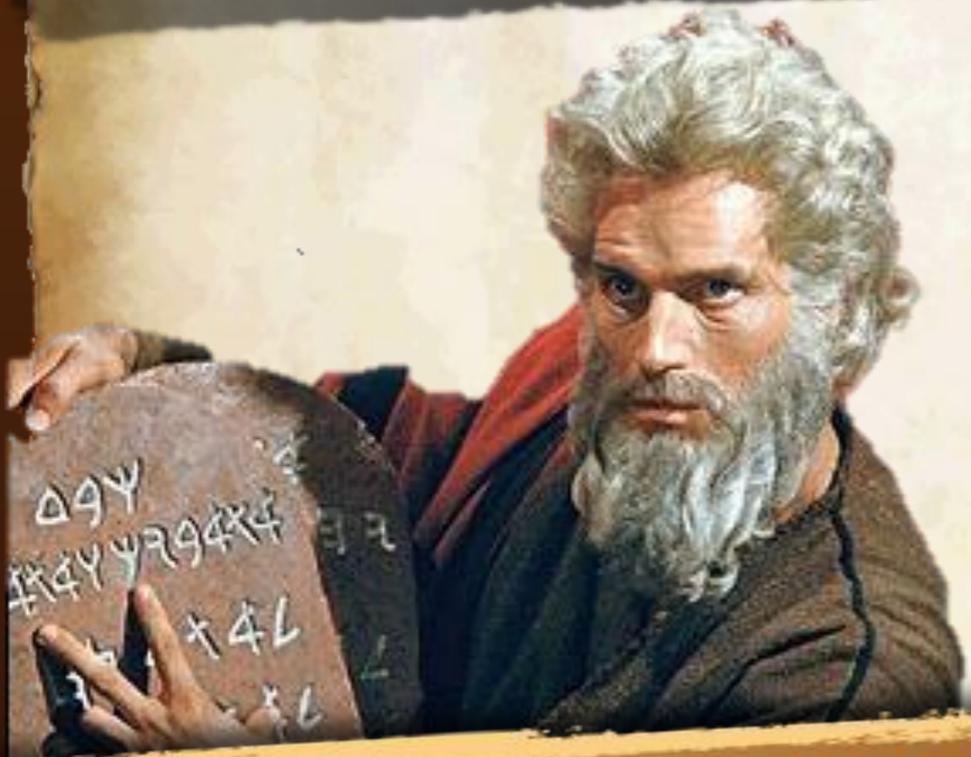
**False swearing was condemned as an abuse of the name of God:
Ecclesiastes 5:1-5 (NKJV)**

² Do not be rash with your mouth, And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; Therefore let your words be few. ³ For a dream comes through much activity, And a fool's voice is known by his many words.

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Law of Moses Governing Vows & Honesty -



Matthew 5:33 (NKJV)

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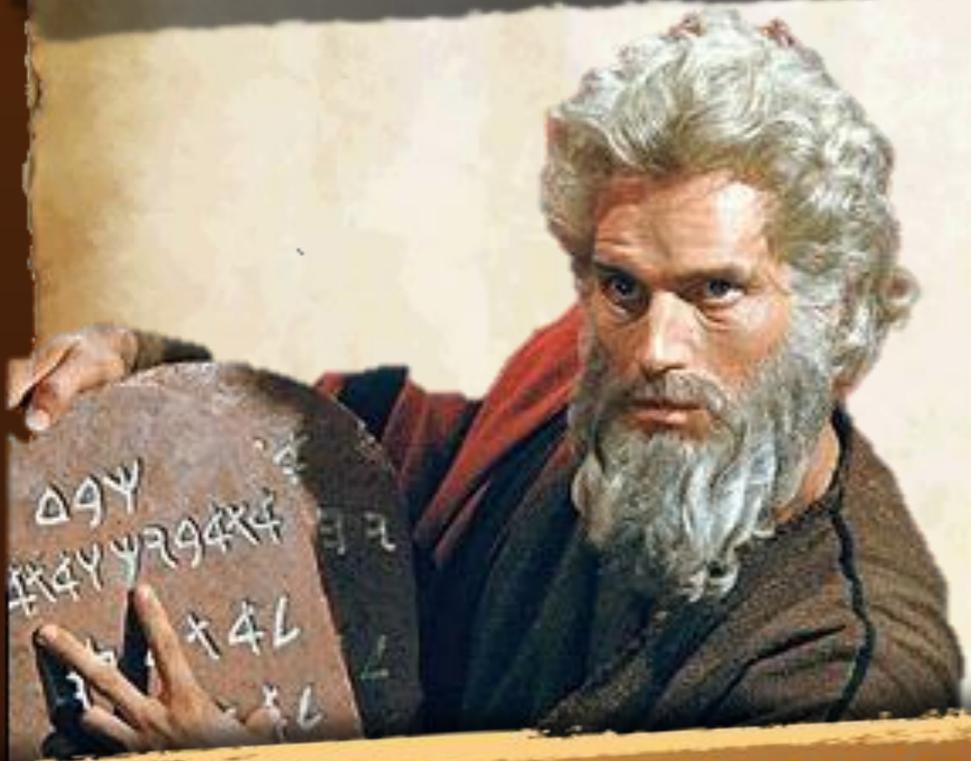
**False swearing was condemned as an abuse of the name of God:
Ecclesiastes 5:1-5 (NKJV)**

⁴ When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; For He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed--
⁵ Better not to vow than to vow and not pay.

The Sermon On The Mount

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Law of Moses Governing Vows & Honesty -



Matthew 5:33 (NKJV)

³³ "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.'

THE LAW DEMANDED HONESTY

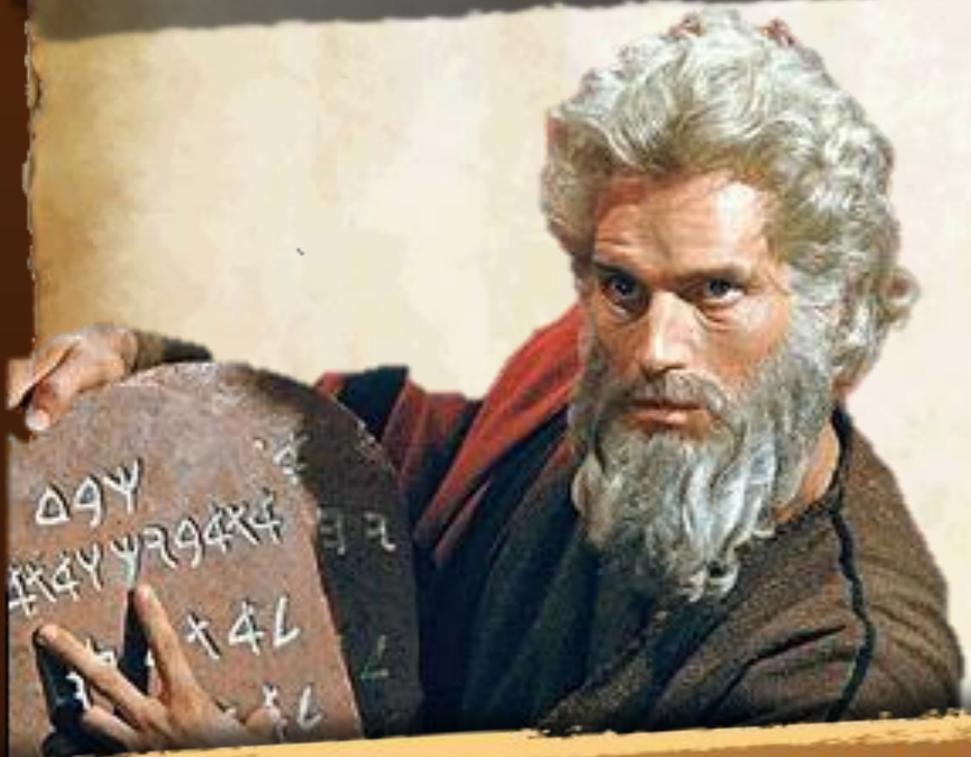
Psalms 15:1-2

¹Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? ²He who walks uprightly, And works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart;

The Sermon On The Mount

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Law of Moses Governing Vows & Honesty -



Matthew 5:33 (NKJV)

³³ "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.'

THE LAW DEMANDED HONESTY

Proverbs 12:22 (NKJV)

Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, But those who deal truthfully are His delight.

The Sermon On The Mount

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The "Traditional Interpretation And Application" ...
Of God's Law Governing Honesty - (33)



Matthew 5:33 (NKJV)

33 "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.'

- ✳ "Don't perjure yourself when the name of God is involved." - (*"Unto the Lord" was the operative phrase of their perversion*) - Mat 5:33
- ✳ That the Jews had made such arbitrary distinctions between their vows is seen in - Mat 23:16-19
- ✳ These hypocrites had a fine concern to avoid perjury (*as they defined it*) but no commitment to honesty, truthfulness and integrity.

The Sermon On The Mount

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The "Traditional Interpretation And Application" ...
Of God's Law Governing Honesty - (33)



Matthew 5:33 (NKJV)

33 "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.'

- * "They made distinctions between oaths; according to them, some were binding others were not.
- * The obligation to keep an oath depended upon the nature of the object by which the person swore." [Arthur W. Pink, *An Exposition Of The Sermon On The Mount*, pg. 99]
- * The Jews, . . . According to the their construction, no oath was binding in which the sacred name of God did not directly occur. - [McGarvey, TFG 243]

The Sermon On The Mount

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"But I say to you, do not swear at all"

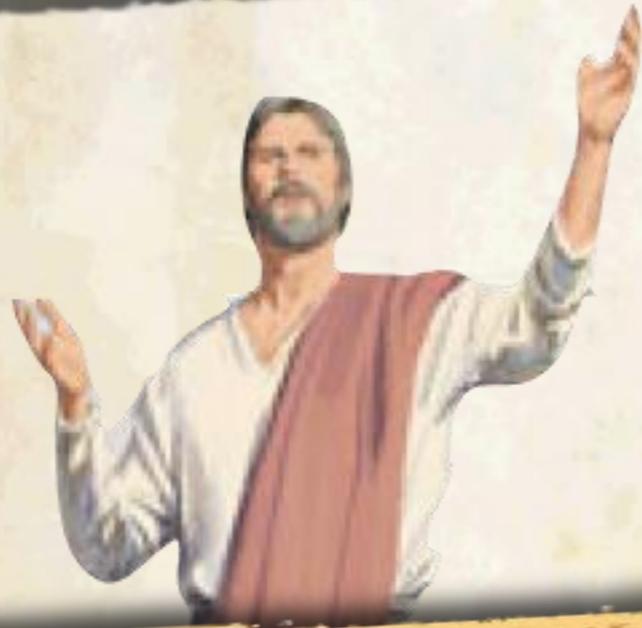


**Is Jesus
prohibiting the
taking of any
kind of oath?**

- * Committing ourselves to faithfulness - [God] - (Ac 2:30; Heb 6:17; 7:20-21),
- * Answering questions put to us by civil authorities - [Jesus] (Mat 26:63-64)
- * To commit ourselves to service & worship – [Paul] – (Acts 18:18)
- * To commit ourselves to purity – [four men of in Jerusalem] - (Acts 21:23)
- * To say our wedding vows? – [God a witness of our covenant] - (Mal 2:14)

The Sermon On The Mount

"But I say to you, do not swear at all"

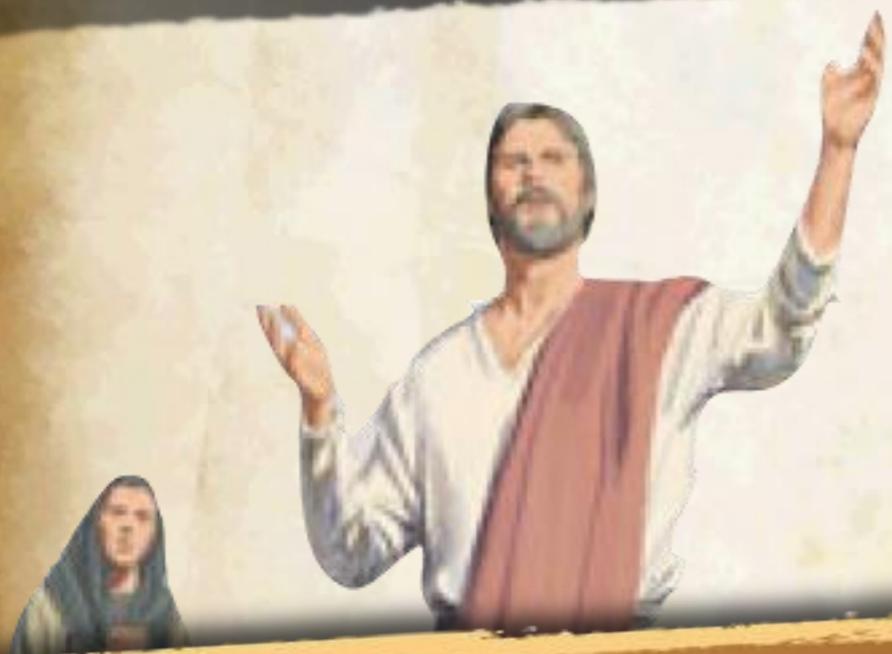


**Is Jesus
prohibiting the
taking of any
kind of oath?**

- * **Rom 1:9** - For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, . . .
- * **2 Cor 1:23** - Moreover I call God as witness against my soul,
- * **2 Cor 11:31** - The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying.
- * **Gal 1:20** - (Now concerning the things which I write to you, indeed, before God, I do not lie.)
- * **Phili 1:8** - For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you . . .

The Sermon On The Mount

"But I say to you, do not swear at all"



Is Jesus prohibiting the taking of any kind of oath?

How can we reconcile Paul's clear practice with Jesus' prohibition?

The Sermon On The Mount

"But I say to you, do not swear at all"



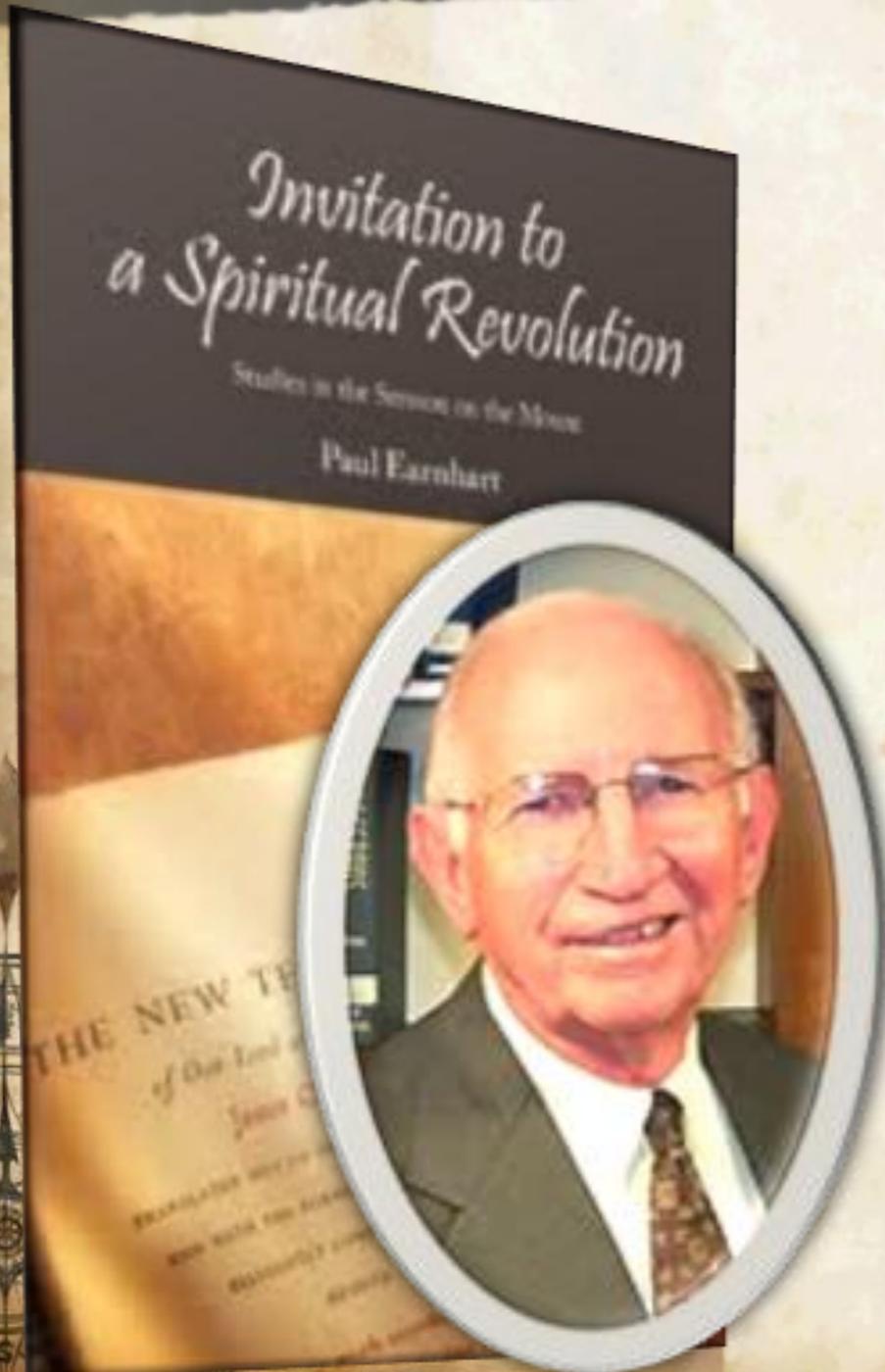
Matthew 5:34-36 (NKJV)

³⁴ . . . neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; ³⁵ nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black.

“. . . . The law permitted oaths made unto the Lord. It was not the intention of Jesus to repeal this law. But To prevent this evil practice of loose swearing Jesus lays down the prohibition, "Swear not at all"; but the universality of this prohibition is distributed by the specifications of these four forms of oaths, and is, therefore, most strictly interpreted as including only such oaths." - [McGarvey TFG]

The Sermon On The Mount

“But I say to you, do not swear at all”



“How can we reconcile Paul’s clear practice with Jesus’ prohibition? First, we believe, by recognizing that some apparent absolute statements turn out not to be when the whole of scripture is to be considered, (Mark 10,11,12 & Mat. 19:9; and Mat. 5:42 and 2 Thes. 3:10).”

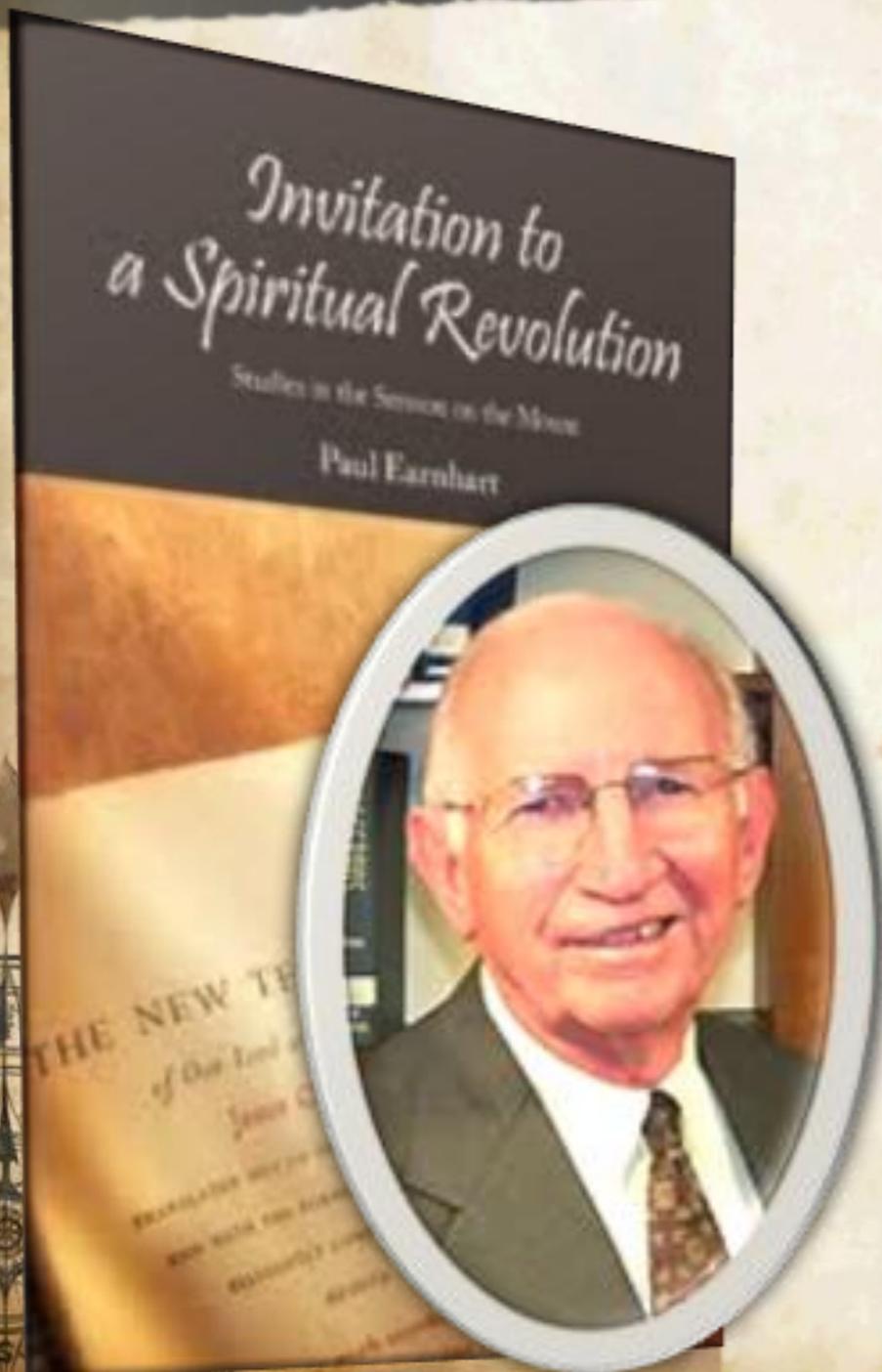
Paul Earnhart, Invitation To A spiritual Revolution; page 51

The Sermon On The Mount

“But I say to you, do not swear at all”

“And then by realizing that Jesus is treating in this context the lying oaths of the Pharisees and not the solemn oaths of those who would tell the truth under under any circumstances but find at times that others are in need of special assurance.”

Paul Earnhart, Invitation To A spiritual Revolution; page 51



The Sermon On The Mount

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"But I say to you, do not swear at all"



- * **We can explain no other way than to conclude that it is not wrong to call God as witness to the validity of our statements when the situation demands it –**
- * **The evil which Jesus attacks in His prohibition of swearing (Mat 5:34) is not oaths, but deception.**

The Sermon On The Mount

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"But I say to you, do not swear at all"



- ✦ **He sweeps away the vain oaths of the Pharisees with their deceitful subtleties -**
- ✦ **There is nothing by which they might swear (heaven, earth, Jerusalem, their own head) which was not at last tied directly to God and His power.**

The Sermon On The Mount

25

“But I say to you, do not swear at all”



The Lord is stressing the essential truth that every word we utter is “before God” and subject to divine judgment

The Sermon On The Mount

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"But I say to you, do not swear at all"



THEIR HYPOCRISY

- * Heaven is the throne of God Earth is His footstool
- * Jerusalem is the city of the Great King - 2 Chron 6:6; Psalm 48:2
- * Only God can change our hair color - *(You can only cover it, hide it, change it temporarily)*
- * One cannot swear by these things without involving God - Matthew 23:16-22

Matthew 5:34-36 (NKJV)

³⁴ . . . neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; ³⁵ nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black.

The Sermon On The Mount

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"But I say to you, do not swear at all"

THEIR HYPOCRISY

Matthew 23:16-22 (NKJV)

¹⁶ "Woe to you, blind guides, who say,

'Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obliged *to perform it.*' ¹⁷

Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that sanctifies the gold?

¹⁸ And, 'Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gift that is on it, he is obliged *to perform it.*'

Matthew 5:34-36 (NKJV)

³⁴ . . . neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; ³⁵ nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black.

The Sermon On The Mount

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"But I say to you, do not swear at all"

THEIR HYPOCRISY

Matthew 23:16-22 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that sanctifies the gift? ²⁰ Therefore he who swears by the altar, swears by it and by all things on it. ²¹ He who swears by the temple, swears by it and by Him who dwells in it. ²² And he who swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by Him who sits on it.

Matthew 5:34-36 (NKJV)

³⁴ . . . neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; ³⁵ nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black.



The Sermon On The Mount

"But I say to you, do not swear at all"



THEIR HYPOCRISY

- * **At times others require Assurance that we are speaking the truth**
- * **(But As Here) An oath was the qualifying "term" that, in their minds, made it necessary to state the truth.**

Matthew 5:34-36 (NKJV)

³⁴ . . . neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; ³⁵ nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black.

The Sermon On The Mount

Christians Are To Speak The Truth At All Times



James 5:12 (NKJV)

But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your "Yes" be "Yes," and your "No," "No," lest you fall into judgment.

A simple "yes" or "no" puts men under no less obligation to tell the truth and honor their promises than the most stringent oath.

The Sermon On The Mount

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Christians Are To Speak The Truth At All Times



James 5:12 (NKJV)

But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your "Yes" be "Yes," and your "No," "No," lest you fall into judgment.

Ephesians 4:25 (NKJV)

²⁵ Therefore, putting away lying, "Let *each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,*" for we are members of one another.

The Sermon On The Mount

Christians Are To Speak The Truth At All Times

Colossians 3:9 (NKJV)

⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,

James 5:12 (NKJV)

But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your "Yes" be "Yes," and your "No," "No," lest you fall into judgment.



The Sermon On The Mount

33

Christians Are To Speak The Truth At All Times



James 5:12 (NKJV)

But above all, my brethren,
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judgment.

**We are not
compelled to
swear, but we
are always
compelled to
speak the truth!**

"Honesty & Integrity"

*We Are Not Compelled To Swear -
But To Always Tell The Truth!*



WHY DO PEOPLE LIE?

- ❖ **Out of selfishness** - Titus 1:11
- ❖ **Make themselves look good**
– Acts 5:1-9; 1 Tim 6:5
- ❖ **Get out of trouble** – Gen 20:2
- ❖ **Because we fear men** - Matt.
26:35, 69-74
- ❖ **Hurt another** – Col. 3:8,9;
Gen 39:13-16; Matt 26:59-61

"Honesty & Integrity"

*We Are Not Compelled To Swear -
But To Always Tell The Truth!*

LYING ATTACKS GOD

- ❖ **God is truth - (Ti. 1:2; Heb. 6:18; Pr. 6:16-19)**
- ❖ **God is the knower of all truth - (1 Jn. 3:20)**
- ❖ **God's children walk in truth - (Eph. 5:1; 3 Jn 1:4)**



"Honesty & Integrity"

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LYING ENDORSES SATAN

- ❖ **Satan is the father of all lies**
-(Jn. 8:44)
- ❖ **Satan has been telling lies since the beginning - (Gen. 3)**
- ❖ **Satan tempts us to lie, so that we'll be his children - (Ac 13:10)**

"Honesty & Integrity"

*We Are Not Compelled To Swear -
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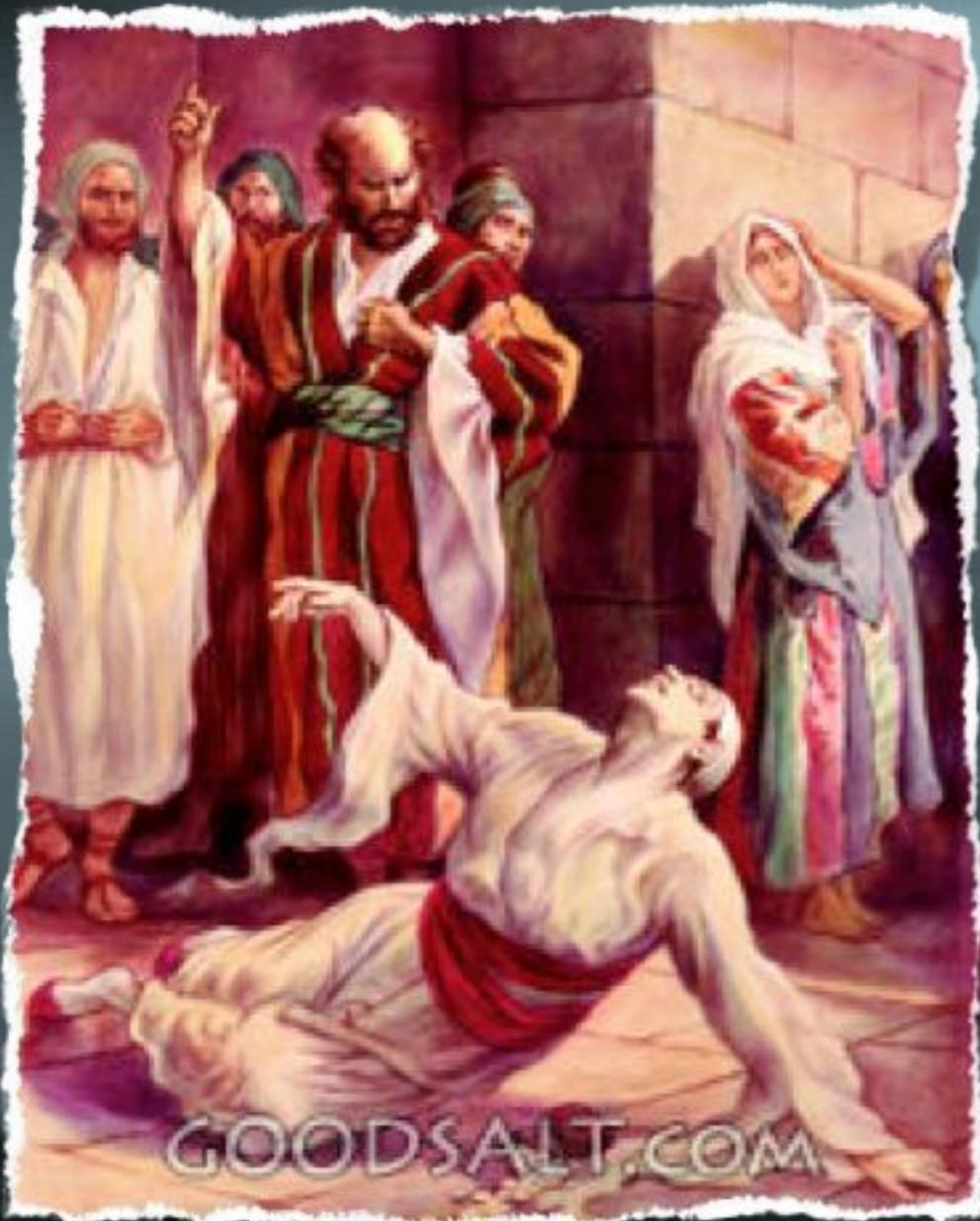


TRUTH ALWAYS PREVAILS

- ❖ Truth stands the test of time - (Pr. 12:19)
- ❖ All lies will eventually be exposed - (Lk. 12:2-3)
- ❖ Honesty is the best policy - (Eph. 4:15, 22-25)

"Honesty & Integrity"

*We Are Not Compelled To Swear -
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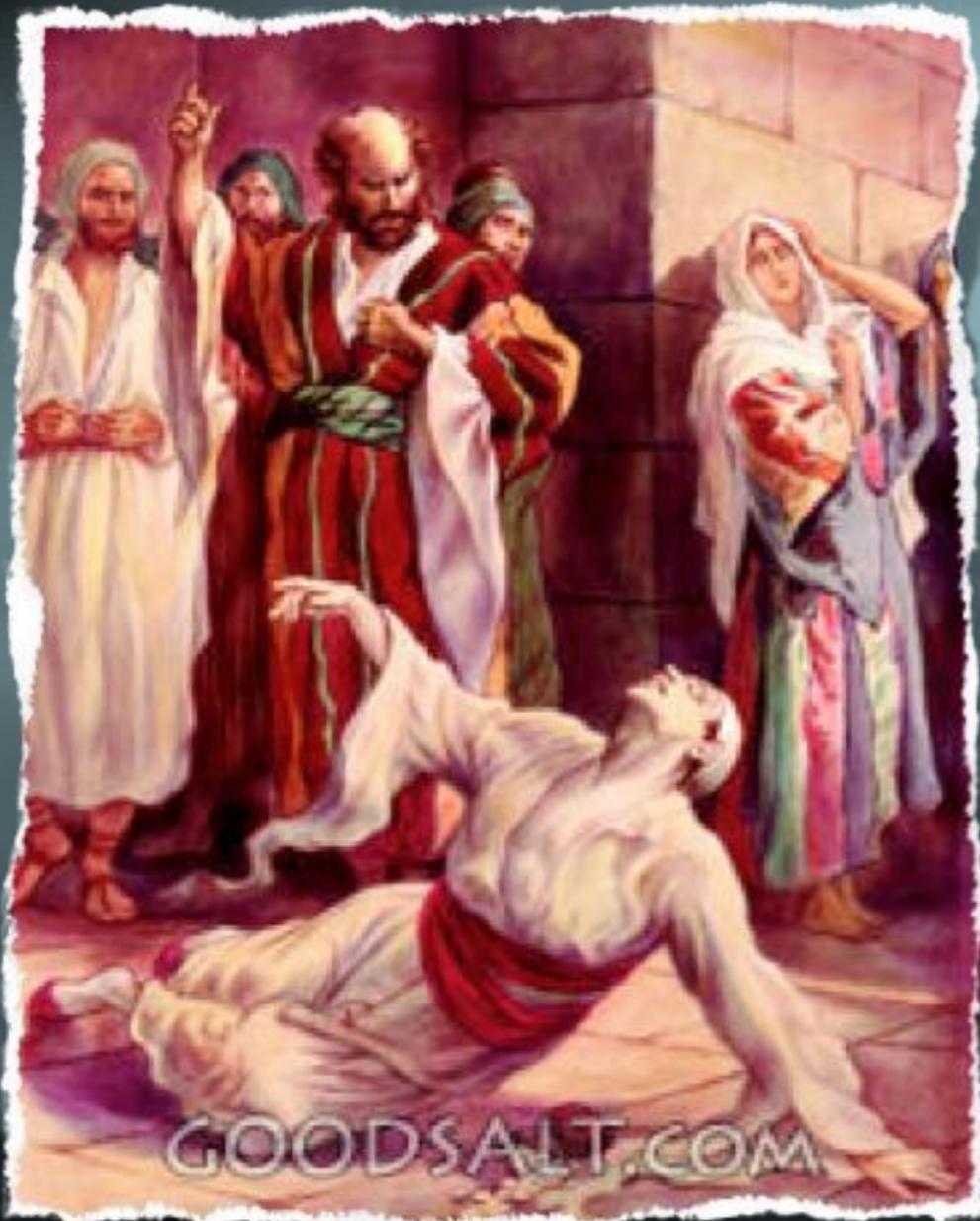


LYING IS CANCEROUS

- ❖ **Others become entangled in it too - (Eph. 4:25)**
- ❖ **Habit-forming - (2 Ki. 5:20-27)**
- ❖ **Leads to other sins — "Gateway sin" - (Mt. 26:69-75)**

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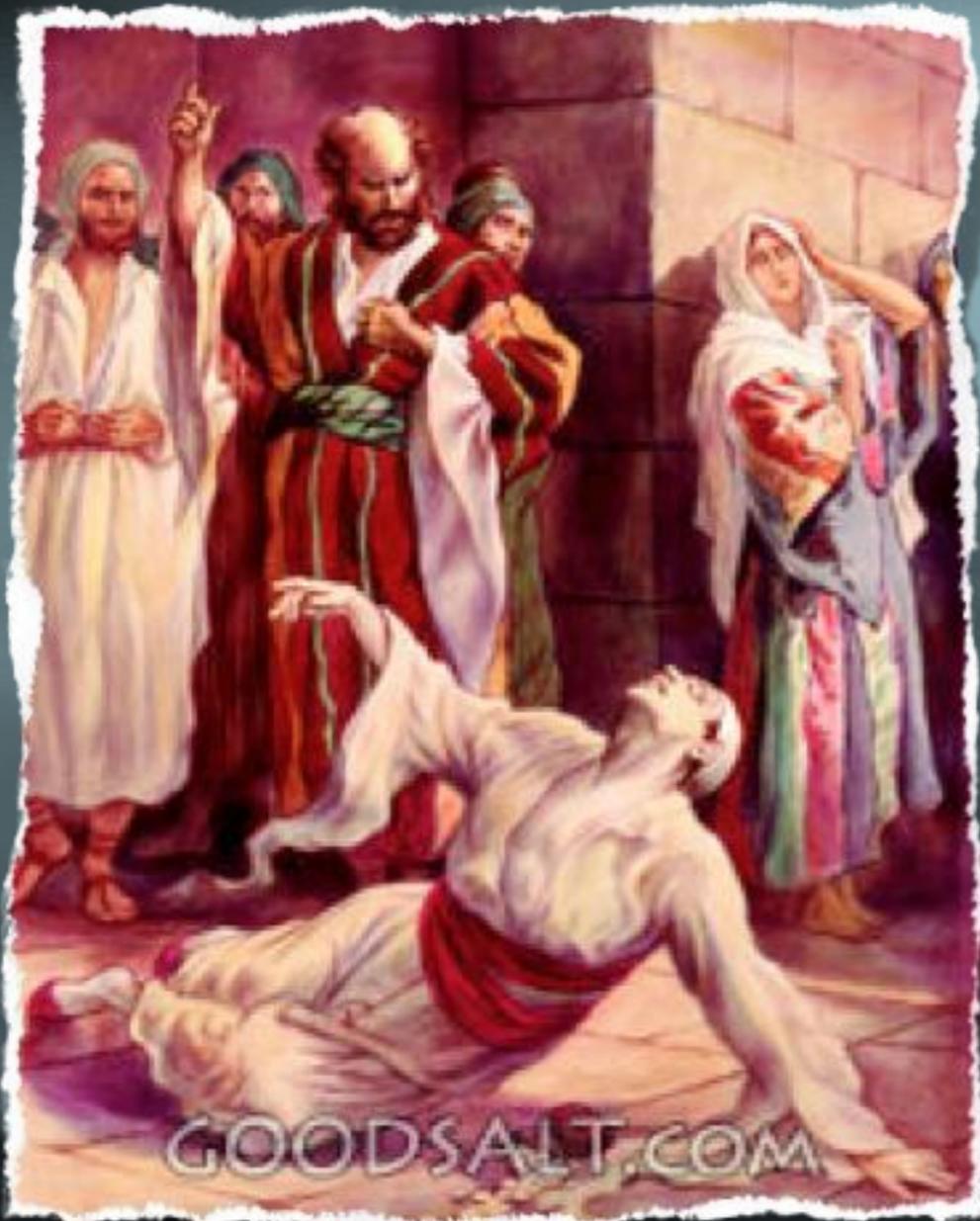


LYING IS DESTRUCTIVE

- ❖ **Destroys Reputations –**
- ❖ **It Demolishes Families
& Friendships –**
- ❖ **It Disrupts Any Working
Environment –**
- ❖ **Will Condemn Our Soul**

"Honesty & Integrity"

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LYING LEADS TO DEATH

- ❖ **Lying separates us from God - (Is. 59:2-3)**
- ❖ **The punishment for lying is inescapable - (Pr. 19:5)**
- ❖ **A lake of fire awaits all liars - (Rev. 21:8)**

"Honesty & Integrity"

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HOW GOD VIEWS LYING

Proverbs 6:16-19 (NKJV)

¹⁶ These six *things* the Lord hates, Yes, seven *are* an abomination to Him: ¹⁷ A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, ¹⁹ A false witness *who* speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.

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How GOD VIEWS LYING

Proverbs 12:22 (NKJV)

²² Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, But those who deal truthfully are His delight.

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GOD CANNOT LIE

Neither Will His Children - Eph 5:1

**Let us ALWAYS speak in a way that
*People can trust what we say!***

(Matt. 5:33; Jas. 5:12)

The Sermon On The Mount

Honesty - Truth, Not Oaths

Charts by Don McClain

Prepared May 2-5, 2012

Preached May 6, 2012

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Prepared using PPT 2010

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Matthew 23:16–22 (NKJV)

¹⁶ “Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obliged *to perform it.*’ ¹⁷ Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that sanctifies the gold?”

Matthew 23:16–22 (NKJV)

¹⁸ And, ‘Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gift that is on it, he is obliged *to perform it.*’ ¹⁹ Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that sanctifies the gift?

Matthew 23:16–22 (NKJV)

²⁰ Therefore he who swears by the altar, swears by it and by all things on it. ²¹ He who swears by the temple, swears by it and by Him who dwells in it. ²² And he who swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by Him who sits on it.