

BE CONTENT WITH SUCH THINGS AS YE HAVE AND LIE NOT ONE TO ANOTHER

(Sermon to the saints at Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas, on February 1, 2026)

*Haggai 1:5 Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts;
Consider your ways.*

We have no hope if the Lord is not with us. We have no duty but to obey him. He's promised to help us if we obey him and call upon him and cleave to him. We need his help at all times.

We stand in jeopardy every hour. (**1 Corinthians 15:30**). We have the world arrayed in battle against us surrounding this church (**Psalms 27:3**), ready to destroy if the Lord's hand doesn't stay them (**Job 38:11**). (Picture thousands of raging, starving, angry, snarling, growling wolves covering every square inch of land all around and for as far as the eye can see—each one ready, willing and able to rip you limb from limb with very little effort with their sharp teeth and devouring mouths) **Matthew 10:16**: “Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.” **Zephaniah 3:3** “Her princes within her are roaring lions; her judges are evening wolves; they gnaw not the bones till the morrow.” That is the true picture. Yet the Lord protects in every way imaginable. More than that; he makes these enemies our bread. “Bread” – the stuff which is delicious and nutritious and you must have with every meal every day? Yes. **Numbers 14:9**: “Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not.” Remember the context, the two faithful servants of God (Joshua and Caleb) gave a faithful report of the land of Canaan when sent to spy out the country, the promised land, “a land flowing with milk and honey.” (**Numbers 14:8**). But 10 gave an evil report and painted the picture of giants ready to kill and destroy upon the sight of the Hebrews stepping foot on “their” land. Like there is no God in heaven who is Almighty and Faithful to his Word. To which they were recent witnesses.

I now pause for a parenthetical thought, but it is important.

Numbers 13:4-16: *And these were their names: of the tribe of Reuben, Shammua the son of Zaccur.*

Of the tribe of Simeon, Shaphat the son of Hori.

Of the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh.

Of the tribe of Issachar, Igal the son of Joseph.

Of the tribe of Ephraim, Oshea (we call him, "Joshua," please) the son of Nun.

Of the tribe of Benjamin, Palti the son of Raphu.

Of the tribe of Zebulun, Gaddiel the son of Sodi.

Of the tribe of Joseph, namely, of the tribe of Manasseh, Gaddi the son of Susi.

Of the tribe of Dan, Ammiel the son of Gemalli.

Of the tribe of Asher, Sethur the son of Michael.

Of the tribe of Naphtali, Nahbi the son of Vophsi.

Of the tribe of Gad, Geuel the son of Machi.

These are the names of the men which Moses sent to spy out the land. And Moses called Oshea the son of Nun Jehoshua.

The list of infamous rebels and famous heroes of faith was published forever. **Psalm 119:89:** "*LAMED. For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.*"

Numbers 13:33 to 14:9: *And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight. And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt? And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt. Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel. And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh,*

*which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes: And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land. If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for **they are bread for us**: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not.*

“Bread for us.” Gill: As easy to be cut to pieces, and to be devoured, consumed, and destroyed as thoroughly, as bread is when eaten; and their fields, vineyards, all they have without and within, even all their substance, will be a prey to us, and furnish out sufficient provision for us, on which we may pleasantly and plentifully live, as on bread.” **Trapp:** “We shall make but a breakfast of them. So that valiant Prince of Orange told his soldiers at the battle of Newport, when they had the sea on the one side, and the Spaniards on the other, that they must either eat up those Spaniards, or drink up that sea.” **Numbers 24:8** *“God brought him forth out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn: he shall eat up the nations his enemies, and shall break their bones, and pierce them through with his arrows.”*

Psalm 44:22 *“Yea, for thy sake are we killed all the day long; we are counted as sheep for the slaughter.”* **Romans 8: 37-39:** *“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

You must always remember and never forget: We have no hope if the Lord is not with us. We have no duty but to obey him. He’s promised to help us if we obey him and call upon him and cleave to him. We need his help. Giant Despair is walking through the door with a big club to beat us to death!

2 Chronicles 20:1-12 *“It came to pass after this also, that the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them other beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle. Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they be in Hazazontamar, which is Engedi. And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the LORD: even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD. And Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court, And said, O LORD God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee? Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever? And they dwelt therein, and have built thee a sanctuary therein for thy name, saying, If, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence, (for thy name is in this house,) and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help. And now, behold, the children of Ammon and Moab and mount Seir, whom thou wouldest not let Israel invade, when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them, and destroyed them not; Behold, I say, how they reward us, to come to cast us out of thy possession, which thou hast given us to inherit. O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee. And all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.”*

Therefore, as a reminder of part of your proper conversation, we need to talk today about **Hebrews 13:5**--be content with such things as ye have--and **Colossians 3:9**--Lie not one to another.

Godliness with contentment is great gain! 1 Timothy 6:6.

Hebrews 13:5 *“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”* What is the context?

1 Timothy 6:6-12: *“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.”*

Philippians 4:11-13: *“Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to bound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”*

Exodus 20:17 *“Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour’s.”*

What does covet mean? Strong/inordinate desire for that which is forbidden. Loving money. Greedy desire to have more.

Covetousness flies in the face of—impudently (hard faced)—of the First Commandment in **Matthew 22:37:** *“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”*

This is God’s mind on covetousness: **Psalm 10:3:** “*For the wicked boasteth of his heart’s desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the LORD abhorreth.*” **Psalm 119:36:** “*Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness.*” **Proverbs 28:16:** “*The prince that wanteth understanding is also a great oppressor: but he that hateth covetousness shall prolong his days.*” **Isaiah 57:17:** “*For the iniquity of his covetousness was I wroth, and smote him: I hid me, and was wroth, and he went on frowardly in the way of his heart.*” **Jeremiah 6:13:** “*For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one is given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely.*” **Luke 12:15:** “*And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.*” **Romans 1:29:** “*Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers.*” **Romans 13:9:** “*For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*” **Ephesians 5:3:** “*But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints.*” **Ephesians 5:5:** “*For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.*” **2 Timothy 3:2:** “*For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy.*”

Why is covetousness such a great evil?

Poole: “Ver. 5. Let your conversation be without covetousness, &c.] Which is an immoderate desire, of riches, an over anxious care for worldly things, attended with dissatisfaction, and discontent with their present state: it discovers itself many ways; in preferring the world to religion; in laying up treasure for a man's own self, without being any ways useful to others; in withholding from himself the necessaries of life, and in making no use of his substance for the glory of God, and the interest of religion: this is a very great evil; it is called idolatry, and is

said to be the root of all evil; and is very pernicious to true religion: a believer's conversation should be without it; in his family, for whom he should provide things convenient and honest; and in the world, where he should deal uprightly, and not defraud and overreach; and in the church, where he should be liberal, and generously communicate, upon all occasions; and such a conversation is becoming the Gospel, which is a declaration of things freely given to us of God. The reason of the apostle's mentioning this sin of covetousness is, because the Jews were prone to it, and these believing Hebrews might be inclined to it, and be dissatisfied with their present condition, in which they suffered the spoiling of their goods; and besides, unless this was avoided, the above mentioned duties could not be performed aright, as brotherly love, hospitality, remembering and relieving persons in bonds, and adversity.”

Gill: “And be content with such things as ye have; or with present things; with present riches, or with present poverty; with present losses and crosses; with present reproaches and afflictions; and contentment with these things shows itself by thankfulness for every mercy, and by submission to the will and providence of God in every state of life: and there are many things which may move and engage unto it; as the consideration of the state and condition men are in, when they come into the world, and will be when they go out of it; the will of God, and the disposition of his providence according to it, which is unalterable; a sense of: their own unworthiness; a view of interest in God and Christ; and an eye to the recompense of reward; as well as the many promises of God to support and supply his: and among the rest, what follows, for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee; which is a promise made to Joshua, and belongs to all believers, #Jos 1:5 which may regard things temporal, as that God will not leave his people in the hands of their enemies, nor forsake them in distress, nor withhold any good thing from them needful for them, but will supply them with the necessaries of life, with which they should be content: and this passage is very pertinently cited for this purpose, and could be easily understood in this sense by the Hebrews; for the Jews explain such places as speak of God's not forsaking men, of the sustenance of them, as #Ps 37:25 and observe that the word [^]hbyze[^], "forsaking", is never used but with respect to [^]honrp[^], "sustenance" {u}; though the words may also relate to things

spiritual, as that God will not leave them to themselves, to their own corruptions, which would overpower them; nor to their own strength, which is but weakness; nor to their own wisdom, which is folly; nor to Satan, and his temptations, who is an over match for them; nor to the world, the frowns and flatteries of it, by which they might be drawn aside; nor will he leave them destitute of his presence; for though he sometimes hides his face, and withdraws himself, yet not wholly, nor finally; nor will he forsake the work of his own hands, in them, but will perform it until the day of Christ; he will not leave or forsake them, so as that they shall perish; he will not forsake them in life, nor at death, nor at judgment.”

Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God! Acts 5:4.

Colossians 3:9 *“Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deed.”* What is the context?

Ephesians 4:25 “Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.”

Poole on Col 3:9: “Ver. 9. Lie not one to another: here he puts them upon laying aside that vice which violates the ninth commandment, being opposite to truth in word and work: see #Eph 4:25, where he doth more fully urge the putting away lying, from the same argument that follows here: a lie being no other than that voluntary expression by word or deed, which accords not with the conception of the mind and heart, on purpose to deceive those with whom we do converse; contrary to the principles of a new creature, because God, after whose image he is renewed, hates it more than any vice, since it is contrary to truth, and proceeds from the father of lies, #Ps 5:6 15:2 Pr 12:22 John 8:44 Re 21:8,27. They who in conversation do most stomach to be told of it, are most ordinarily guilty of it. But the apostle requires Christians indeed to put away all fraud and fallacy in commerce with men and one another, (as well as converse with God), that there may be in all due circumstances a just representation of that without which is conceived within, #Eph 4:15 Jas 3:14.”

Gill on Ephesians 4:25: “Ver. 25. **Wherefore putting away lying,** &c.] Which is one of the deeds of the old man, and a branch of the former conversation agreeable to him: a lie is a voluntary disagreement of the mind and speech, with a design to deceive; it is to speak that which is false, contrary to truth shining in the mind; and it is spoken knowingly and willingly, and with a design to impose upon others; hence a man may speak what is false, and not be a liar, if he does not know it to be so; and hence parables, fables, tropes, figures, hyperboles, &c. are not lies, because they are not used to deceive, but to illustrate and enforce truth: there are several sorts of lies; there is an officious lie, which is told for the service of others, but this is not lawful; for evil is not to be done, that good may come of it; and a man may as well tell a lie to serve himself, as another; and any other sin by the same rule may be allowed of, and tolerated; besides, it is not lawful to lie for God, and therefore not for a creature: and there is a jocose lie; this ought not to be encouraged; all appearance of evil should be abstained from; every idle word must be accounted for; and hereby also an evil habit of lying may be acquired: and there is a lie which is in itself directly hurtful, and injurious; as is every false thing, said with a design to deceive: and there are religious lies, and liars; some practical ones, as those who do not sincerely worship God, and who are dissolute in their lives, and their practice is not according to their profession; and there are others who are guilty of doctrinal lies, as antichrist and his followers, who are given up to believe a lie; and such who deny the deity, incarnation, Messiahship, work, office, grace, righteousness, and sacrifice of Christ; and who profess themselves to be Christians, and are not: the springs and causes of lying are a corrupt heart and the lusts of it, which prompt unto it; such as covetousness, malice, and the fear of men; and also a tempting devil, the father of lies; and who is a lying spirit, in the hearts and mouths of men; this is a vice which ought to be put away, especially by professors of religion; the effects of it are sad; it brings infamy, disgrace, and discredit, upon particular persons; and has brought judgments upon nations, where it has in general obtained; and has been the cause of corporeal diseases and death; and even makes men liable to the lake of fire and brimstone, which is the second death: it is a sin exceeding sinful; it is a breach of God’s law; an aping of the devil; it is against the light of nature, and is destructive of civil society, and very abominable in the sight of God:

wherefore **speaking every man truth with his neighbour**; both with respect to civil and religious affairs, in common conversation, in trade and business, and in all things relating to God and men: **for we are members one of another**; as men, are all of one blood, descended from one man, and so are related one to another; and as in civil society, belong to one body politic; and in a religious sense, members of the same mystical body, the church; of which Christ, who is the truth itself, is the head; and therefore should not attempt to deceive one another by lying, since there is such a near relation and close union of one to another.”

God’s mind on lying is found throughout the Bible. In closing, I refer to these verses:

Psalm 5:6 “*Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing: the LORD will abhor the bloody and deceitful man.*” **Psalm 15:2** “*He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.*” **Proverbs 12:22** *Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight.*” **John 8:44** “*Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*” **Revelation 21:8**: “*But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*” **Revelation 21:27** “*And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life.*”

I love you.