

## Honesty—The Best Policy

One national survey reported that 70% of students thought it was okay to cheat—at least on certain occasions. Another says more than four in ten teens are likely to use artificial intelligence (AI) to do their schoolwork. And a third survey reports that politicians are now thought of as the least trustworthy of all professions.

We have come a **long** way from the godly qualities portrayed by Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth president of the United States. One of the reasons everybody liked Abraham Lincoln was because of his honesty. Even before becoming president he was known as “Honest Abe.”

According to one story, when Mr. Lincoln was a store clerk, he realized a customer had paid him six cents too much. After work, he walked two miles to give the six cents back to the customer. Another time he had accidentally weighed a customer’s tea incorrectly. Mr. Lincoln closed the store and delivered the remaining amount the woman had asked for.

Honesty exemplifies great leadership. Honesty means being truthful in words and actions in all situations. Benjamin Franklin said, “Honesty is the best policy.” A lot of people quote his popular saying. But God said it several thousand years earlier when He inspired King Solomon to write, “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy” (Proverbs 28:13).

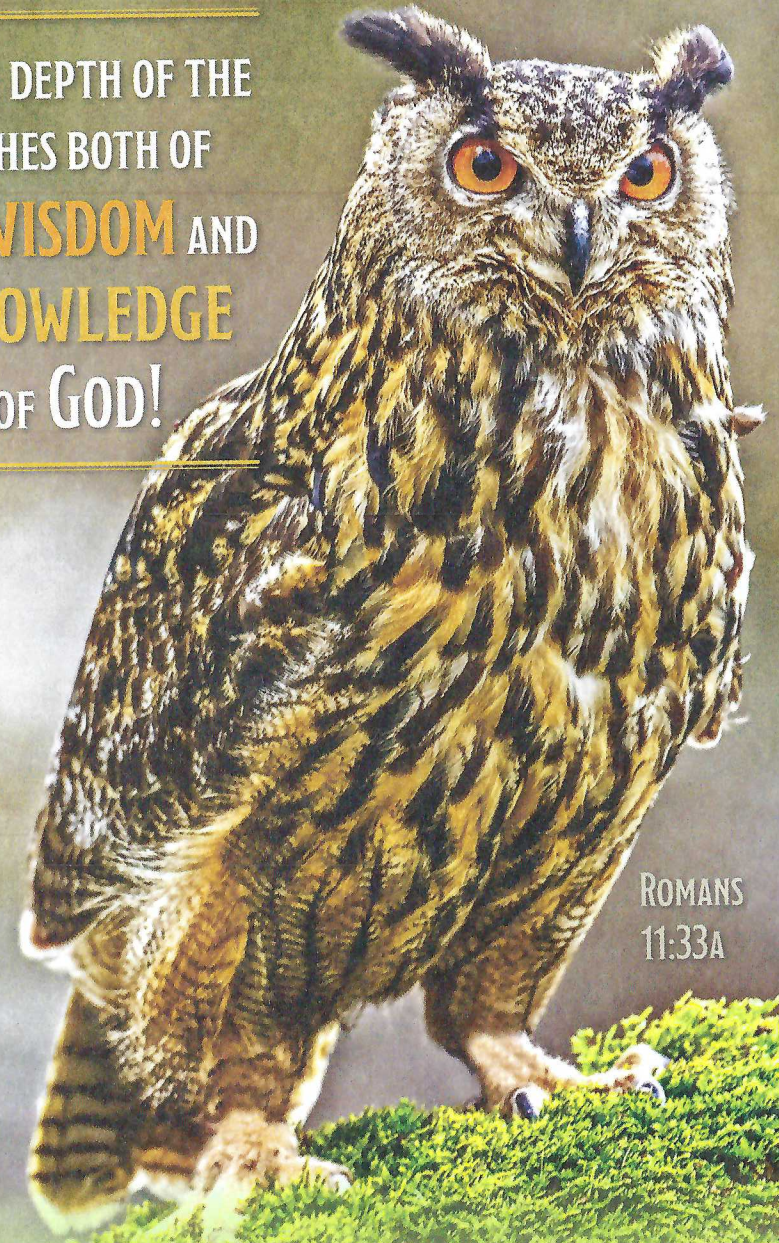
President Lincoln said, “Nations do not die from invasion; they die from internal rotteness.” Honesty is the best policy for us individually, as well as for our nation.

Frederick Douglass (1818–1895), a former slave, said, “The life of the nation is secure only while the nation is honest, truthful, and virtuous.”

If we are honest, we will recognize our sin and humbly ask forgiveness (1 John 1:8–9). May God forgive our sins and heal our land (2 Chronicles 7:14).

*Lucinda J. Rollings*

O THE DEPTH OF THE  
RICHES BOTH OF  
THE **WISDOM** AND  
**KNOWLEDGE**  
OF GOD!



ROMANS  
11:33A

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## **Covenant Church**

3115 N.W. 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue Gainesville FL 32605

February 16, 2025

**Call to Worship**

*Sounds of Hope*

**Invocation**

*Pastor Don Mauldin*

### **Sing Unto the Lord**

Hymn #235 Take the Name of Jesus with You

**Welcome and Announcements**  
**Recognition of Guests**  
**Mission Moment**  
**Birthdays and Anniversaries**

*Ron Marks*

### **Worship in Song**

Hymn # 83 There's Something About That Name  
#86 Jesus, Name Above All Names

**Offertory Prayer**

*Craig Alexander*

**Offertory**

*Rose Morgan*

**Special Music**  
*Sounds of Hope*

**Sermon:**

*Pastor Don Mauldin*

**Hymn of Benediction**

***Shine, Shine, Shine!***

## **Covenant Ministries**

Our ministry for February is the Gainesville Community Ministry.

### **One Liners**

Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited-  
until you try to sit in their pews.

Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisers.

The good Lord didn't create anything without a  
purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives  
there.

People are funny, they want the front of the bus, the  
middle of the road, and the back of the church.

Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on  
your front door forever.

The phrase that is guaranteed to wake up an  
audience: "And in conclusion."

To make a long story short, don't tell it.