

Rise Up And Build

"So They said, 'Let us rise up and build,' Then they set their hands to do this good work," Neh. 2:18

March 27, 2022

Seven "Things The Lord Hates!"

*"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" (Prov. 6:16-19)*

These verses constitute what is sometimes called a "numerical proverb." In such a proverb two numbers are given, and the larger number corresponds with the things enumerated. Hence, when the writer said "*these **six** things the Lord hates, yes seven are an abomination to Him,*" he listed **seven** things which "*the Lord hates,*" each one of which He regards as "*an abomination.*"

It seems easy for people in general to relate to I John 4:8 wherein we read that "*God is **love**,*" but it seems more difficult for people to perceive of God as One Who is also possessed with **hatred**. However, a moment's reflection should suggest that a heart incapable of hating is also a heart incapable of loving! Hence, it was said of Jesus that He "***loved** righteousness and **hated** lawlessness*" (Heb. 1:9). "*Lawlessness*" is the antithesis of "*righteousness*;" therefore the more one increases in his **love** for "*righteousness*" the more he increases in his **hatred** of "*lawlessness.*" Inasmuch as God is infinite in all His attributes, then His holy love prompted Him to make the ultimate sacrifice in behalf of the object loved (John 3:16), and His righteous anger heaps eternal damnation upon those who defy His authority and disregard His commandments (Rev. 14:10,11; Mark 9:43-48).

In Prov. 6:16-19 the writer cited seven things which "*are an abomination*" to God. "*Abomination,*" as used here, is from to *ebah* (Hebrew), which according to W. E. Vine (**Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words**) denotes that which is a "loathsome, detestable thing." Vine stated that when the word is used with reference to God it "*describes people, things, acts, relationships, and characteristics that are 'detestable to Him because they are contrary to His nature.'*" "*Abomina-*

nation” and such cognate words as “loathsome” and “detestable” are filled with emotion. No one is indifferent about that which he abhors, loathes, or detests! Hence, when we read of the things which “*are an abomination*” to God, you can be sure that He does not view these things with an attitude of Divine indifference! And if **we** act with wisdom **we** will strive to love what **God** loves, and hate what He hates. In Bible terminology, we must “**Abhor**; *what is evil,*” and we must “**cling** to *what is good*” (Rom. 12:9).

Having to some degree, set forth the gravity of possessing an attitude, or pursuing a course which God “*hates*” and regards as “*an abomination,*” let us now focus on each of these items in greater detail.

God Hates:

1. “A proud look.” Not just the “*look,*” but the haughty, high-minded spirit behind the look. The Bible clearly states that “*pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall*” (Pro. 16:18). Indeed this truth is illustrated again and again in Old Testament times. We read of “*the pride of Moab*” (Isa. 16:6), “*the pride of Judah*” (Jer. 13:9), “*the pride of Israel*” (Hos 5:5), “*the pride of the Philistines*” (Zech. 9:6), and “*the pride of Assyria*” (Zech. 10:11, and we also read of the **fall** of each of these nations. In view of the fact that “*all have sinned*” (Rom. 3:23), and in view of the fact that the best among us are but “*unprofitable servants*” (Luke 17:10), it ill behooves any of us to be lifted up with pride!

2. “A Lying Tongue.” God “*cannot lie*” (Tit. 1:2), whereas the devil “*is a liar and the father of it*” (John 8:44). The first sin came about because Eve believed the devil’s lie (Gen. 3:1-6). “*A lying tongue*” is inherently an insult to the flawless character of God Who “*cannot lie*” (Tit. 1:2), and “*a flattering mouth works ruin*” (Prov. 26:28). The first case of discipline in the church was that of God striking Ananias and Sapphira his wife dead because they **lied** to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:1-11). One contributing factor in the fall of Judah lay in the fact that so many of her prophets would “*prophecy lies,*” proclaim “*a false vision...and the deceit of their hearts*” (Jer. 14:14). Someone has said that “*sin has many tools, but a lie is the handle that fits them all.*” In view of the fact that “*all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone*” (Rev. 21:8), it behooves one to be scrupulously honest!

3. “Hands that shed innocent blood.” In the ten commandments God said to Israel, “*You shall not murder*” (Ex. 20:13). Under the Patriarchal Age God said “*Whosoever sheds man’s blood, By man his blood shall be shed, for in the **image** of God He made man*” (Gen. 9:6). In the New Testament murder is listed as a work of the flesh, concerning which we are plainly told “*that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God*” (Gal. 5:19-21). But history is replete with examples of those who committed murder. Cain, the first born son of the first couple, “*rose up against Abel his brother and killed him*” (Gen. 4:8). King Manasseh “*shed very much innocent blood, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another*” (2 Kings 21:16). Every time a baby is aborted “*innocent blood*” is being shed. Any society that continues to tolerate, legalize, subsidize, and justify such wholesale shedding of “*innocent blood,*” sooner or later, will suffer the adverse consequences! Cf. 2 Kings 24:1-4).

4. ***“A heart that devises wicked plans.”*** All sin originates in the heart (Matt. 15:19; Jas. 1:13-15). One should keep his *“heart with all diligence, for out of it springs the issues of life”* (Prov. 4:23). It is almost axiomatic when people’s *“thoughts are thoughts of iniquity,”* then *“their works are works of iniquity”* (Isa. 59:6,7). The worst pollution in the world is the pollution of the heart. Toxic poisoning in city dumps is nothing compared with Satanic poisoning in human hearts. Yet millions voluntarily focus their minds upon that which is lurid, lascivious, unclean, impure, sensual, and devilish. If we want to go to heaven we must keep ourselves ***“pure”*** (I Tim. 5:22), and this begins with a complete cleansing job on the heart!

5. ***“Feet that are swift in running to evil.”*** A wicked heart and swift feet make for a deadly combination. Feet that are *“swift in running to evil”* are feet that reflect an eagerness, an enthusiasm to do what is evil. God **abhors** *“feet that are swift in running to evil,”* but in contrast He said *“how beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things”* (Rom. 10:15). Our feet should follow *“the path of righteousness”* (Psa. 23:3), and we must never follow *“the way of the wicked”* (Psa. 146:9).

6. ***“A false witness who speaks lies.”*** The second item mentioned in this list is *“a lying tongue.”* This item also denotes a lying tongue, but it is the tongue of a perjurer. God said to Israel, *“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor”* (Ex. 20:16). When Jesus was subjected to the mock trial of the Sanhedrin court *“false witnesses”* were used to testify against Him (Matt.26:64). In our society bearing false witness can land a person **in jail**, but in God’s righteous and just system the bearing of false witness can land a person **in hell!**

7. ***“One who sows discord among brethren.”*** It is so easy to sow the seeds of strife, discord, and turmoil. Sometimes these *“seeds”* are sown inadvertently, as one spreads misinformation passed on by a trusted friend. Such *“seeds”* may be sown by false accusation, a careless, or an ill-timed remark, or through words spoken hastily in anger. The first recorded quarrel was between brothers (Cain and Abel). Bible students are well acquainted with the rivalry, strife, and bitterness between Esau and Jacob, twin brothers. Speaking bluntly, I would say that any fool can sow discord among brethren, but those who are Christ-like endeavor *“to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”* (Eph. 4:3).

Conclusion:

We have cited seven things which *“are an abomination.”* These things involve the misuse of the eyes, tongue, heart, hands, and feet. They include such things as pride, lying, and murder, all of which are in close juxtaposition. However, in contrast to these seven things, each of which is “an abomination,” we call to mind the seven character qualities identified in the Beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5:1-11), and which stand in marked contrast to these things which God hates. It is far better to become such people who are described as ***“Blessed”*** than to pursue those things which *“God hates,”* and which He described as *“an abomination.”* Consider ye well!

—Bobby Witherington

Pray Fervently! Work Hard!

Bible Thought: *“Be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord”* (I Corinthians 15:58).

The Life of Jesus is a marvelous example of fervent prayer and hard work. Prayer prepares us for work. Work necessitates prayer. Never should we view prayer as a substitute for work.

A father and his seven year old son went fishing together. They put out the line and after an hour returned to see if they had caught anything. There were several fish on the line. "I knew there would be daddy," said the boy. "How did you know?" asked the father. "Because I prayed about it," said the child. They baited the hooks again and put out the line and went to their cabin. When they returned to the river there were again fish on the line. "I knew it," said the boy. "And how?" asked the father. "I prayed again." They put the line back into the river and went to the cabin. Before bedtime, they went down again. This time there were no fish. "I knew there wouldn't be," said the child. "How did you know?" asked the father. "Because," said the boy, "I didn't pray this time." "And why didn't you" asked the father. "Because," said the boy, "I remembered that we forgot to bait the hooks."

God help us to pray as though everything depended upon prayer, and work as though everything depended on work. In Jesus name, Amen. (Copied from **The Sower**, Vol. 21-22)