

Proverbs Week #60 (6:15-19)

“Therefore his calamity will come suddenly; instantly he will be broken and there will be no healing. There are six things which the LORD hates, yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that run rapidly to evil, a false witness who utters lies, and one who spreads strife among brothers. Prov 6:15-19

The section of Proverbs we are currently studying should catch our attention. It also should be taken within its context and understood to be a further description of the “worthless and wicked person” that our previous verses described. I mentioned last week that these passages should serve as warnings. Over the next few weeks we will look at the seven things from this passage that the Lord hates.

As we look at each of these areas we want to consider the practical lessons they have to teach us. Being wise in God’s sight is more than just being able to memorize and recite a list of things He hates. Remember, to be considered truly wise it is not enough just to know the right things it also involves the skill and practice of doing what is right. Knowing how to build or fix something is incomplete if you never actually build or fix something. Just knowing that God hates a lying tongue does not make you wise if you go around using your tongue to tell lies.

This week’s family lesson will focus on the first thing that is an abomination to our Creator. We will examine one thing our eyes could do that is detestable to God. Before we look at this first thing let us ask ourselves a few questions. What exactly does it mean for God to hate something? What does it mean that something is an abomination to Him? It is a worthy goal to live our lives in such a way that we hear God say, “Well done good and faithful servant.” The things that these verses from Proverbs discuss are the exact opposite of “well done” and “good and faithful.” The words of warning should strike our hearts with a proper fear and respect of our Maker. God is not like a man. Unlike us, all that He says and does is upright and faithful (Psa 33:4). It is an amazing thing to consider that an infinite God could hate and at the same time make provision to redeem. His making provision to enable wicked people to be forgiven and redeemed does not diminish His hatred of the wrongs that have been done. This idea is beyond my abilities to fully understand and I never want to take His grace for granted.

In these verses the list of things God Hates begins with haughty eyes. Eyes that are lifted up (עֵינַיִם רְמוּת) are an abomination to God. The pride that our eyes display toward others and ultimately toward God can be reflected in the way we use our eyes. Have you ever seen someone who had haughty eyes? We know that they have haughty eyes by how they act. We should also note another warning the Proverbs gives – *“The eye that mocks a father and scorns a mother, the ravens of the valley will pick it out, and the young eagles will eat it.” Prov 30:17* In this regard a proper fear and respect of God is displayed in how we look at those He places in authority. Do our eyes display an improper pride or arrogance? Consider the theme of this Psalm:

“A Song of Ascents, of David. O LORD, my heart is not proud, nor my eyes haughty; nor do I involve myself in great matters, or in things too difficult for me. Surely I have composed and quieted my soul; like a weaned child rests against his mother, my soul is like a weaned child within me. O Israel, hope in the LORD From this time forth and forever.” Psalm 131

If we want to avoid being proud people who look with “haughty eyes” we need to start by learning to humble ourselves before God. We need to live our lives daily as children that are cared for and nurtured by God. If we live our lives as people who have placed their hope in a God who is gracious and forgiving, we will find something changes in how we look at others. If we have not come to know just how much God has forgiven us we might think too much of ourselves.

“For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. Rom 12:3