

## Proverbs Week #63 (6:16-19)

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*“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 6:16-19*

We are at the middle point of the seven things the Lord hates. The LORD hates “a heart that devises wicked plans.” Just like the other 6 things that the Lord hates, we need to learn more about what this means. Our goal is to be wise and not foolish. Rather than provide details about a wicked heart and its plans I want to focus this lesson on the heart we all should have. In his comments on the Shema Tim wrote:

“The first duty of God’s covenant people is to see to it that His commandments find their regular and constant place of residence to be upon the heart. To have the commandments upon one’s heart means that they govern the thoughts and intents of one’s volition, and that they therefore direct one’s actions. “As a person thinks within himself, so is he” (Prov 23:7). Our contemporary technological age has coined a phrase with regard to computers: “garbage in, garbage out,” meaning that if one inputs false data into a computer program, one can be assured that the computer will generate errors. It is a fitting illustration of our own thinking processes. To the extent that we allow the ways of the world to dominate our hearts, to that extent our actions will conform to the world. Conversely, when the commandments of God govern our hearts, our actions will follow. It is psychologically demonstrable that one becomes like that upon which one constantly mediates. When the Psalter was organized in the canonical process, by the superintending work of the Ruach HaKodesh, the Psalm chosen to head the five books of the ancient hymnal was a Psalm extolling the place of Torah in the life of a true covenant member.<sup>1</sup>”

*How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the Torah of Adonai, and in His Torah he meditates day and night. (Psalm 1:1-2)*

According to Ezekiel mankind is in need of a “transplant.” If we are to be a people that fulfill the Torah according to God’s design then we have to have a stony heart removed and a heart of flesh put in its place.

*“And I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them. And I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and do them. Then they will be My people, and I shall be their God. (Ezek 11:19-20)*

The result of this new heart being given is that the individual now is able to “walk in” and “keep” God’s statutes and ordinances. These are a people that God calls “My People!”

How does this change happen? How is it that a heart of stone can become a heart of flesh? I believe that this happens on the individual level and it is God’s desire that His people as a whole have this “transplant.”

**Isa. 55:7** *Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the LORD, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.*

Proverbs 3:5,6 tells us to trust in the Lord with all our hearts. With this as our goal what plans might we devise to bring about this end? These verses further say that we should not lean on our own understanding. Even as we learn and study and increase in wisdom we should always remember, we should make it part of our plan and thoughts, to make trusting in the LORD and His ways a priority. It is so easy to get caught up in the details and matters of everyday life. If we are in a fog of distraction may God graciously clear that fog. May God be gracious to us and continue to teach us and enable us to learn from His inspired scripture. May we never be too proud to humble ourselves before Him and repent if we find we are in the wrong. Lord willing, next week we will examine the 5<sup>th</sup> thing the LORD hates; “feet that run rapidly to evil.”

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<sup>1</sup> *Comments from Notes on the Parashot #131 by Tim Hegg*