

# WORSHIP SERVICE - 9.4.2022

## WHAT GOD HATES

### I. INTRODUCTION

#### Proverbs 6:12-19

12 A worthless person, a wicked man,  
goes about with crooked speech,

13 winks with his eyes, signals with his feet,  
points with his finger,

14 with perverted heart devises evil,  
continually sowing discord;

15 therefore calamity will come upon him suddenly;  
in a moment he will be broken beyond healing.

16 There are six things that the Lord hates,  
seven that are an abomination to him:

17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue,  
and hands that shed innocent blood,

18 a heart that devises wicked plans,  
feet that make haste to run to evil,

19 a false witness who breathes out lies,  
and one who sows discord among brothers.

### II. SEVEN MARKS OF A TROUBLEMAKER

- This is a depiction of the worthless person, the troublemaker, for which the son is to be on the lookout for and avoid being associated with.
- It is a caricature of a wicked person. It is a person committed to evil who stands in the opposing path of the way of wisdom.
- There are seven attitudes and actions that describe this person called the troublemaker.
- These seven marks of a troublemaker in v12-15 are closely connected to the seven things the Lord hates in v16-19.
- What links the two sections is this catalog of body parts that fit both the attitudes and behavior of the troublemaker with the second part of what the Lord hates.

#### A WORTHLESS PERSON

- 12 A worthless person, a wicked man,
- NIV - A troublemaker and a villain
- "Worthless" in Hebrew (bē'li-al - בְּלִיָּעַל) Belial.

- The word conveys the sense of worthlessness; something that has no use; something wicked; a base person; a scoundrel.
- It is a term of derision. This person is one who agitates against all that is good.
- There are some whose behavior the Lord abhors and detests and they are classified as worthless.
- Later in Jewish literature and in the NT, Belial became a name synonymous with the devil.
- 2 Cor. 6:15 What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever?
- None! There is no accord, there is no partnership, there is no portion that a believer shares with an unbeliever.
- We are not to associate with those whose way is evil and wicked, we are not to be in partnership with the world.
- In that same passage Paul writes, “*Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers.*” (2Cor.6:14)
- When we yoke ourselves with an unbeliever, someone who does not share our Biblical values and virtues, who lives contrary to wisdom and God’s Word, we cannot expect to stay on the path of wisdom and be moving towards Christ. We will be pulled from the way of wisdom.

## **SEVEN MARKS**

### **1. Crooked Speech**

- Their manner of speech is crooked. It’s not the straight speech of wisdom.
- It is dishonest speech.
- The crooked person is the unrighteous person.
- The troublemaker twists the truth.
- The next three marks of the seven are non-verbal gestures the troublemaker employs in his crookedness: winking, signaling, and pointing.

### **2. Winks with his eyes**

- The troublemaker’s winking is malevolent.
- It’s a secret communication meant to exclude the victim.
- Troublemakers wink at each other and the victim is unaware of the wicked scheming that is going on behind their back and at their expense.

### **3. Signals with his feet**

- All of the nonverbal clues point to the fact that the orientation of this person’s whole being is on the path of folly and wickedness.
- From head to toe, every gesture of the body is devious.

### **4. Points with his finger**

- This could mean the troublemaker is giving instruction to an associate, one who is on the deviousness.
- It could also mean that they are pointing in misdirection.
- They may be pointing in an accusatory manner, setting themselves up as being better than the person they are accusing.
- But the point is that one not only needs to pay attention to the words coming out of someone’s mouth but also to watch the body language.
- The troublemaker’s words and gestures are devious, deceptive, and meant to denigrate others.
- The troublemaker’s true motives may be hidden in their verbal and nonverbal body language and we need wisdom to discern their intentions and actions and be on the lookout.

### **5. Perverted heart**

- The heart is the command center of the whole being. The heart directs the mouth.
- From the heart flows the springs of life (Prov. 4:23).
- The troublemaker’s heart is perverted. It deviates from what is good and right.

- From a distorted and disordered heart can only come distorted and disordered words and gestures and deeds.
- Jesus said out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.

## 6. Devising evil continually

- CSB He always plots evil with perversity in his heart;
- That's what the troublemaker is always doing, plotting ways to do evil.
- Genesis 6:5 The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.
- This is God's evaluation of the sinful, wicked heart of man.
- We are by nature depraved, sinful, and wicked.
- From the Fall forward, our being is corrupted by sin. The stain of sin has permeated our entire being.
- 1689 LCF 6:4 All actual transgressions arise from this first corruption. By it we are thoroughly biased against, and disabled and antagonistic toward all that is good, and we are completely inclined toward all that is evil.
- This is why we need a new heart and that is what God promised he would do.

## 7. Sowing discord

- The troublemaker stirs up trouble.
- Proverbs 15:18 A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger quiets contention.
- They love to drive a wedge in relationships and break apart close friendships.
- There is a great parallel teaching in Proverbs 16 of this worthless troublemaker.

### Proverbs 16:27-30

27 A worthless man plots evil,

and his speech is like a scorching fire.

28 A dishonest man spreads strife,

and a whisperer separates close friends.

29 A man of violence entices his neighbor

and leads him in a way that is not good.

30 Whoever winks his eyes plans dishonest things;

he who purses his lips brings evil to pass.

### THE TROUBLEMAKER'S DESTINY

15 therefore calamity will come upon him suddenly;

in a moment he will be broken beyond healing.

- "Therefore..." this links the troublemaker's destiny with his dishonest speech, devious gestures, and perverted heart.
- The calamity they brought upon others through their malevolence will boomerang upon them.
- This is judgment. Though this verse doesn't tell us who the agent of the judgment is, the next section certainly does—the LORD is the agent of the troublemaker's calamity.
- The two adverbs "suddenly" and "in a moment," highlight the unexpected character of the judgment.
- It will seem like a surprise to the troublemaker and to those who know them.
- "Broken beyond healing" - like a ship crashed upon the rocks and broken apart, such is the outcome of the troublemaker. It is what they deserve.

- There is nothing that can heal them, nothing can cure them from the inevitable disaster and doom when it strikes.
- The troublemaker's destiny is eternal death.
- We know that apart from Christ, that is the outcome of our lives as well.
- We deserve to be utterly and completely broken.
- Apart from Christ we are beyond healing and deliverance.
- **1 Cor. 6:9-11** Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

### III. SEVEN THINGS GOD HATES

16 There are six things that the Lord hates,  
seven that are an abomination to him:

17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue,

and hands that shed innocent blood,

18 a heart that devises wicked plans,

feet that make haste to run to evil,

19 a false witness who breathes out lies,

and one who sows discord among brothers.

- This next section in our passage is connected to the first through the catalog of unhealthy body parts of the troublemaker.
- Six things...seven... is an ancient teaching tool that gives a list but doesn't include everything.
- This one illustrates the depravity and perverted heart of the troublemaker.
- The covenant name of God is used, Yahweh (LORD).
- There are things the LORD hates.
- God's hatred is not like ours. Our hatred is tainted by our sin nature.
- God's hatred stems from his holiness.
- When God hates something he is perfectly justified and right in hating that thing.
- And what God hates is sin and wickedness.
- Notice, our passage does not just include things that God hates, it mentions people that God hates as well.
- Scripture tells us that God has a holy hatred for evildoers and the wicked.
- Psalm 5:5-6 The boastful shall not stand before your eyes you hate all evildoers. 6 You destroy those who speak lies; the Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.
- Psalm 11:5 The Lord tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence.
- You cannot separate sin from the sinner.
- How great is our need for salvation and forgiveness if this is how God views sin and sinners.

#### 1. Haughty eyes

- Arrogant eyes.
- All sin has pride as its root because we think we know better than God.
- But God exalts the humble person; the lowly person.
- God hates the prideful person.

#### 2. A lying tongue

- This is speech that is used to deceive others. This is the tongue that spreads falsehood.
  - And we see here just how much God hates words that are not of the truth and are used for evil purposes.
  - Every time we speak we are showcasing what is at the very center of our heart.
  - Nothing you say is neutral.
  - Jesus said that we will be judged for every idle and careless word we speak (Matt. 12:36).
  - God detests falsehood. He hates it because it is contrary to his very nature. God is truth.
  - When we use our mouth to distort the truth, change facts and details to be contrary to what they truthfully are, when we use lies to protect ourselves to avoid consequences of sinful behavior, or we lie to make others believe things about us that are not truthful, we are going against God's way of wisdom and truth.
  - God hates lying lips!
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- Some are used to lying about a lot of small things. But that eventually leads to lying about bigger things.
  - Colossians 3:9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices
  - We will have a lot more to say about our words as we continue in Proverbs.
  - God hates the lying tongue.

### **3. Hands that shed innocent blood**

- The violent person has no concern whatsoever with killing an image-bearer. And that is because they have no concern for God.
- Genesis 9:6 "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.
- God hates the person who takes an innocent life.

### **4. Heart that devises wicked plans**

- Again we see that the heart is the epicenter of all of the wicked words and schemes.
- The heart calculates, computes, and invents all manner of wickedness.
- God hates the heart that devises wicked schemes.

### **5. Feet that make haste to run to evil**

- The imagery here is of the whole body in motion moving towards the evil that the person wants to achieve.
- God hates the person who wastes no time in doing what is evil.

### **6. A false witness who breathes out lies**

- Every breath of their mouth is a lie, a falsehood.
- They cannot be counted on to give truthful testimony.
- God hates a false witness.

### **7. One who sows discord among brothers**

- Again, this repeats what we have already seen from the troublemaker, their lies and scheming results in the severing and damaging of relationships between brothers and friends.
- These are people who love to stir up division. They despise unity.
- Titus 3:10-11 As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, 11 knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.
- God hates the person who seeks to divide brothers through lies and schemes.

## **CONCLUSION**

- God is showing through Proverbs the things that he hates and he is pointing us to the path of wisdom, which is Christ.
- We read the caricature of the troublemaker and it's easy for us to say that we are not that person.

- But we say that because we fail to see ourselves as the wretched sinners that we are apart from Christ.
- You and I are that troublemaker!
- **Romans 3:10-18** as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” 13 “Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive.” “The venom of asps is under their lips.” 14 “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.” 15 “Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 in their paths are ruin and misery, 17 and the way of peace they have not known.” 18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”
- That fits the description of the troublemaker and Paul writes, both Jews and Gentiles are under sin. This is us!
- We are not good—there is and has only ever been, one truly good person—Jesus.
- And what did God allow him to endure?
- All of the wickedness that worthless people could heap upon him.
- All of the things that God hates were done to Jesus.
- But *“he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.” (Is 53:5-6)*
- The troublemaker will be broken beyond healing. That’s the destiny of the wicked and rebellious.
- But thanks be to God, because of Christ, the wisdom of God and wisdom from God, we are healed.