

Sermon to the Saints of God assembled at Topeka, KS: Sunday, April 2, 2023

Proverbs 6 – Part 2:
7 Things that God Hates

The last time I preached (1/29/23), we began to look at Proverbs chapter 6. The following paragraph is how I introduced this topic:

“My friends, we can see the extreme doctrinal error of the phony Christian world around us; we can see the terrifying consequence of institutionalized sin falling out daily in the world around us; we can see this selfish, greedy, godless society crumbling as the long work of spiritual decay breaks through the surface bringing forth God-promised, irreversible destruction; we can see the ways that God has pickled this generation in sin, and now they are caught in their own snares; we can see the very earth revolting – groaning and travailing to bring forth the day of the Lord. We see all of this and know with great anticipation that it must be so; the Day of the Lord will not come, except these things (and more) come to pass. Yet, we are still watching and waiting; The Day has not yet dawned. We must keep our hearts focused on the Lord, and our hands tending to all things that He has appointed for us – raising up our families; ministering to the saints; preaching the Gospel of Christ. Our work is not done. To that end, Proverbs 6 is full of excellent, practical instruction, which I would like to explore over the next three sermons.”

In the first sermon:

- We considered the dangers and consequences of making foolish surety for another:
 - **Proverbs 6:1-5** “1 ¶ My son, if thou be surety for thy friend, if thou hast stricken thy hand with a stranger, 2 Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth. 3 Do this now, my son, and deliver thyself, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend. 4 Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids. 5 Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler”
- We considered the ways of the ant, and the dangers of being a selfish, lazy, sluggard:
 - **Proverbs 6:6-11** “6 ¶ Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: 7 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, 8 Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest. 9 How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? 10 Yet a little sleep, a little

slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: 11 So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.”

- Specifically, these amazing, tiny creatures instruct us to be orderly, strong, industrious, cooperative, undeterred, prepared, patient, focused, purposeful, reliable, resourceful, committed, and selfless.
- Furthermore, they make up a superorganism, wherein selfish desires are trumped by the needs of the colony around them. This is reflective of our duty within the body of Christ: our selfish desires are trumped by the needs of the body around us.

Today, we will consider verses 12-19:

Proverbs 6:12-15 *“12 A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth. 13 He winketh with his eyes, he speaketh with his feet, he teacheth with his fingers; 14 Frowardness is in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord. 15 Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy.”*

- Moving past the works of the sluggard, we come to the dedicated worker of iniquity. Consider how this chapter is building upon itself. We began with the person who is a presumptuous user of others, and then focused on the selfish sluggard who spends his days serving his own lusts. Those behaviors are the way of the depraved human heart. When left unchecked, they inevitably blossom into full-fledged working of iniquity. Such a path can only end in sudden and complete destruction.
 - **Ezekiel 16:49, 50** *“49 Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. 50 And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good.”*
- This word translated “naughty” is “Belial” [b^eliya‘al]
 - Ungodly, wicked, evil, worthless, good for nothing, unprofitable, base.
 - It is a name used for Satan: *“And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?” (2Corinthians 6:15)*
 - Thus we find “son of belial” frequently used in the scriptures to describe those men that set themselves apart with behavior that mirrors their father, the devil.
- “Wicked” man is the same word as “iniquity” in Psalms 5:5.
 - **Psalms 5:4-6** *“4 For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee. 5 The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of **iniquity**. 6 Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing: the LORD will abhor the bloody and deceitful man.”*

- Clearly then, we are discussing a godless man who employs his entire body and soul in the pursuit of whatever particular lust and pride motivates him. It is his vocation; it drives his daily activity. He ...
 - Walks with a Froward mouth:
 - Froward: habitually disposed to disobedience, difficult to deal with, contrary (dictionary); crooked, perverse, distorted (Strong's)
 - His whole life and conduct are marked by craftiness, deceit, perversion, and an utter lack of truth. He thinks it, speaks it, and walks about spreading it to others.
 - Winks with his eye:
 - He seduces people to follow his misconduct, thereby bringing sorrow to all who will listen to him. While he might accomplish his immediate desire, ultimately he brings himself to ruin as well.
 - **Proverbs 10:10** *"He that winketh with the eye causeth sorrow: but a prating fool shall fall."*
 - Speaks with his feet; Teaches with his fingers:
 - He is diligently employed in things that are contrary to God. He teaches his rebellion with every action that he takes. He is crafty, artful, and dedicated; this work encompasses his whole person; he works iniquity with every body part.
 - Has a froward heart that devises mischief continually:
 - His heart overflows with crooked and perverse imaginations, and it is there he nourishes his jealousy, his hatred, his malice, his ill will; It is there that he devises mischief continually. His heart is a dedicated workshop – a factory – that produces godless mischief.
 - Sows discord:
 - His father the devil sowed discord between man and his Maker, in the Garden of Eden. Likewise the reprobate man sows discord between men and God by teaching rebellion. Driven from his own selfish desires, he sows the seeds of discord between men; he takes delight in creating chaos and enmity between the closest of human relations. In the cruelest of irony, He does these things while his lips scream vain words about peace and unity! He is willing to tear apart his family, his community, his nation, and ultimately his own soul.
- The inescapable sentence for such a man is sudden, complete destruction.
 - **Proverbs 29:1** *"He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy."*
 - Righteousness exalts a nation (**Proverbs 14:34**); when the depravity of man is unbounded by the laws of God or man, there is only one possible outcome.

- **Luke 17:26,27** “26 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. 27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.”

Proverbs 6:16-19 “16 These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: 17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, 19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.”

- The previous verses identify some of these same seven behaviors, while describing the worker of iniquity. Here we have them restated, in a stand-alone manner. Why? I don’t believe that this is just repetition for effect. The first passage focuses on the nature of the reprobate man. We are very familiar with such men, and can easily see the application. Now the focus becomes the sinful behaviors themselves. While those behaviors run rampant in people who have not been given the gift of faith, they are also behaviors that every single one of God’s elect must war against within ourselves. These tendencies well up in each of us, driven from the pride and envious lust of our flesh. We don’t get to apply this outwardly, and then walk away from the passage. We must soberly, honestly look these sins in the face, so that we can effectively engage bloody war within our own heart. It would be a big mistake to see this as only applying to “wicked” men. We must apply it to ourselves – every day – every hour. God hates these behaviors, so why would we grieve the Spirit of God by engaging in them?
 - **Ephesians 4:17-32** “17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, 18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: 19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. 20 But ye have not so learned Christ; 21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. 25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. 26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: 27 Neither give place to the devil. 28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. 29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the

use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. 30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

- **Proud Look:**

- *Matthew Henry: "Haughtiness, conceitedness of ourselves, and contempt of others — a proud look. There are seven things that God hates, and pride is the first, because it is at the bottom of much sin and gives rise to it. God sees the pride in the heart and hates it there; but, when it prevails to that degree that the show of men's countenance witnesses against them that they overvalue themselves and undervalue all about them, this is in a special manner hateful to him, for then pride is proud of itself and sets shame at defiance."*
- My friends, pride is a constant with us, and it is the foundation of so many sins. Pride is deceitful. Our hearts are apt to be puffed up in pride at any moment of the day. Many sermons have been dedicated to this topic, so I won't belabor the general point here, but I do want to focus on one particular. By the time pride has taken root to the point that it brings forth a proud, froward, defiant countenance, you are in major trouble. The Lord God has kindly provided us a remedy to help us avoid getting to that place: the church! The very nature of the church is that we should be provoking one another to love and good works. However, if you isolate and shield yourself from being inspectable and provokable, then you have slandered the blessing of God in this matter, and have invited sorrow upon yourself, and upon the body. *"But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."* (**Hebrews 3:13**)

- **Lying tongue:**

- *Henry: "Falsehood, and fraud, and dissimulation. Next to a proud look nothing is more an abomination to God than a lying tongue; nothing more sacred than truth, nor more necessary to conversation than speaking truth. God and all good men hate and abhor lying."*
 - **Colossians 3:8-10** *"8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. 9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:"*
- Lying comes as naturally as breathing to the depraved human. Often we have an instinct to lie in order to escape discomfort, or to ensure that we can control a situation. It is habitual. If we're going to put away lying, then it has to be done with purpose and intent. Purpose that you will be truthful, and

that you will trust God that He is able to keep you; we don't need to lie in order to help Him get the job done. If it happens, don't justify why it was necessary – call it the sin that it is, and stop doing it.

- **1Peter 2:11, 12** *“11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; 12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.”*

- **Hands that shed innocent blood:**

- *Henry: “Cruelty and blood-thirstiness. The devil was, from the beginning, a liar and a murderer (#Joh 8:44), and therefore, as a lying tongue, so hands that shed innocent blood are hateful to God, because they have in them the devil’s image and do him service.”*
- Satan is a murderer; so are his children. From the beginning, depraved men have been willing to shed blood if it enables them to stay on their wicked course and accomplish their earthly desires.
- This doesn't have to equate to murder. Any way in which you injure another in defense of your pride, or pursuit of your desires, would fall under this category. Included in that would be gnashing upon one another with our vicious, self-righteous mouths. *“But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.” (Galatians 5:15)* We have no business getting worked up to a froth, grinding on a perceived offense; spinning it in our mind; building up support with others; preparing the missiles to fire at one another when the opportunity arises. We don't need to be venting our spleen, or getting something off of our chest. Deal honestly and peaceably with one another. Kind, tender, pitiful, merciful. Meekness is the order of the day! Engaging in bloody, contentious wrangling is the business of the world, not the saints.

- **Heart that devises wicked imaginations:**

- *Henry: “Subtlety in the contrivance of sin, wisdom to do evil, a heart that designs and a head that devises wicked imaginations, that is acquainted with the depths of Satan and knows how to carry on a covetous, envious, revengeful plot, most effectually. The more there is of craft and management in sin the more it is an abomination to God.”*
- Our flesh brings forth awful thoughts on a daily basis. The question is what will we do with them? Our duty is to war against those thoughts with scriptural preparation and understanding, with prayer, and with putting our feet in motion to do those good works that the Lord has set before us. Thereby we are to mortify those thoughts when they arise. The alternative

is to give them place, nurture them, and cause them to erupt into poisonous and deadly behavior.

- **Romans 13:13,14** *“13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. 14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”*
 - **James 1:15-16** *“15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. 16 Do not err, my beloved brethren.”*
 - **Colossians 3:5-7** *“5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6 For which things’ sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: 7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.”*
- **Feet that be swift in running to mischief:**
 - Henry: *“Vigour and diligence in the prosecution of sin — feet that are swift in running to mischief, as if they were afraid of losing time or were impatient of delay in a thing they are so greedy of. The policy and vigilance, the eagerness and industry, of sinners, in their sinful pursuits, may shame us who go about that which is good so awkwardly and so coldly.”*
 - When the wicked imaginations of the heart are nurtured, they spring into life; this is a diligent pursuit of sin.
 - **Isaiah 59:7** *“Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths.”*
 - We are supposed to have virtue, zeal, and diligence for God and truth, not for sin. We have to choose each day: who will I serve? God, or my own desires? We have to choose **with our behavior**, not our words and intentions. We will either be swift to run to serve the King, or we will be swift to run to the mischief that our proud, deceitful, covetous heart invents. Yesterday doesn’t count – who will I serve today?
 - **Luke 12:32-37** *“32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. 34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. 35 Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; 36 And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. 37 Blessed*

are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them."

- **False witness that speaketh lies:**

- *Henry: "False-witness bearing, which is one of the greatest mischiefs that the wicked imagination can devise, and against which there is least fence. There cannot be a greater affront to God, nor a greater injury to our neighbour (all whose interests in this world, even the dearest, lie open to an attack of this kind) than knowingly to give in a false testimony. There are seven things which God hates, and lying involves two of them; he hates it, and doubly hates it."*
- Our work against this destructive and pernicious sin must begin in the heart. We are prone to be offended with one another, and then the machinery fires up, and we testify to our own heart just how right and righteous we are, and just how wrong and evil someone else is; usually the facts are a small part of what we bring to that inner trial – the bulk of the evidence is built on the cruel slander of our assumptions. This is wickedness, my friends. We are supposed to war against that and make it dead in the heart where it is born.
- Once we move to airing our grievance against someone in the ears of others, we are now damaging that person in the eyes of others. Once again, our "truth" is often and largely based upon a few facts (heavily shaded by perception), and a truck load of assumptions, inflamed by bringing forth past offenses to pile on top of current ones. We have no business doing this. Full stop. This is particularly sinful when we intentionally speak such words in the ears of someone who is likely to support our anger, rather than give us words of scriptural direction; and / or when it is a person who will likely be inflamed by our words.
- When someone is venting their spleen in my ears about someone else, I have a duty to: 1) stop them, 2) Push them to the scriptural viewpoint of such things, and 3) push them to the scriptural remedies, including putting down their weaponry, assumptions, and old grievances, so that they can hastily make peace with the person in question.
 - **Proverbs 25:23** *"The north wind driveth away rain: so doth an angry countenance a backbiting tongue."*

- **He that soweth discord among brethren:**

- *Henry: "Making mischief between relations and neighbours, and using all wicked means possible, not only to alienate their affections one from another, but to irritate their passions one against another. The God of love and peace hates him that sows discord among brethren, for he delights in concord. Those that by tale-bearing and slandering, by carrying ill-natured stories, aggravating every thing that is said and done, and suggesting jealousies and*

- evil surmises, blow the coals of contention, are but preparing for themselves a fire of the same nature.”*
- This is the pinnacle item in this list, just as it was in the description of the wicked man. The previous six all contribute to this grievous sin. This is deadly and destructive in the extreme; it does great violence to the individual, and to the church. God will not wink at this behavior! Notice that this makes three of these seven sins that are directly related to the evil of the tongue.
 - **James 3:5,6** *“5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.”*
 - **1Peter 3:8-12** *“8 ¶ Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: 9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. 10 For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: 11 Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. 12 For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.”*
 - We are supposed to be pursuing peace like a diligent and desperate hunter. This is not a passive willingness to be peaceful – it is an active, humble, and often humiliating work of submission. God will reward His humble servants with peace when we put our pride down and submit ourselves to one another.
 - **Psalms 133:1-3** *“1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! 2 It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron’s beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; 3 As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.”*
 - Contention, division, strife, discord – these are hallmarks of the world around us, and so much the more as the day of the Lord approaches. Therefore, our love for one another will increasingly distinguish us as the servants of Jesus Christ.
 - **John 13:35** *“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”*

- My friends, we have to put a watch over our mouths, and do everything in our power to provoke and preserve the unity of the spirit in the body. No exceptions, no excuses.
 - **Ephesians 4:2,3** *“With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; 3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”*
 - **Psalms 141:3-5** *“3 Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips. 4 Incline not my heart to any evil thing, to practise wicked works with men that work iniquity: and let me not eat of their dainties. 5 Let the righteous smite me; it shall be a kindness: and let him reprove me; it shall be an excellent oil, which shall not break my head: for yet my prayer also shall be in their calamities.”*

Galatians 6:18 *“Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.”*