

ABOMINABLE THINGS IN THE SIGHT OF GOD

Prov.6:16-19

Ed Dye

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Abominable and abomination defined.
 - a. Crudens Concordance: “A thing hateful and detestable”
 - b. Strong’s Concordance: “Something disgusting, an abhorrence”
 - c. “To emit a stench”
 - d. Web. “Extreme disgust and hatred; abhorrence, detestation; loathing; anything hateful or shamefully vile”
 - e. Gesenius’ Hebrew Lexicon adds that it is “Especially used of things which are made impure and illicit by the decrees of religion”
2. Though we are living in a time and a land when and where almost anything, if not everything, goes or is tolerated by the masses who have lost the ability to blush somewhat like Israel during the days of Jeremiah, the prophet of God.
3. Yet the Bible, the inspired written revelation of God’s holy will for man, lists many things that are an abomination to God – that are hateful, detestable, disgusting, loathsome, shamefully vile, a stench unto God.
4. Bring informed of these will, it is hoped, help us to avoid them and therefore keep ourselves well-pleasing to God. Also help us to help others avoid such things.
5. Our present study shall examine these things the Bible says are abominable in God’s sight.

II. DISCUSSION

A. IDOLATRY IS AN ABOMINATION IN THE SIGHT OF GOD.

1. Note the O.T. condemnation of idolatry branding it as an abomination unto the Lord, Deut.7:25,26; 17:1; 27:15; Cf. Exo.20:4.
2. The N.T. also condemns idolatry in any and all forms calling it an abomination and demanding that we flee from it, keep ourselves from it, 1Pet.4:3; 1Cor.10:14; 1Jno.5:21. See also Rom.1:20-25,32; Eph.5:5; Col.3:5; Heb.13:5; 1Tim.6:8-10; Rev.21:8.
3. Some things which may become our idol.
 - a. Work, our job.

- b. Our own comfort and happiness: “God wants us to be happy.”
- c. Our own desires.
- d. Our material possessions.
- e. Our loves ones.

B. DIVINATION AND ASTROLOGY ARE RELATED AND ARE ABOMINABLE THINGS IN GOD’S SIGHT.

1. Astrology is:
 - a. “The pseudo science which treats of the influence of the stars upon human affairs, and of foretelling terrestrial events by their positions and aspects,” Or, “A pseudo science claiming to foretell the future by studying the supposed influence of the relative position of the moon, sun, and stars on human affairs,” – Webster.
 - b. “The study of the movements and relative positions of celestial bodies interpreted as an influence on human affairs,” Reader’s Digest – Oxford Complete Wordfinder
 - c. See Isa.47:10-14.
2. Divination is:
 - a. “The act or practice of foreseeing or foretelling future events or discovering hidden knowledge,” Webster.
 - b. A “foretelling future events, or discovering things secret by the aid of superior beings, or other than human means.” – Smith’s Bible Dict.
 - c. Used in the Scripture of false systems of ascertaining the divine will.
 - d. An abomination unto the Lord, Deut.18:9-14; 2Kgs.17:17; Jer.14:14; Ezk.12:24; 13:6,7.
3. Those who practice divination assume that the gods or spirits are in possession of secret knowledge desired by men and that they can be induced to impart it (Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dict.)
 - a. This sounds much like what many want to do today.
 - b. They want to have séances to call up the dead.
 - c. They want to have the tarot cards read, i.e., cards used for fortune telling.
 - d. They keep up with their daily horoscopes.
4. We must not listen to the so-called diviners any more than Paul was willing to in Ac.16:16-18; for to listen to them is to be like the heathen of Jeremiah’s day, and it is an abomination unto God. See Jer.10:1,2.

5. There were numerous forms of divination used in O.T. times, all of which were condemned as an abomination unto God, among other reasons because:
 - a. Such clouds the mind with superstition.
 - b. It was an incentive to idolatry.
6. Now you can fully understand Paul's treatment of it in Ac.16:16-18.

C. HOMOSEXUAL BEHAVIOIR IS AN ABOMINATION IN GOD'S SIGHT.

1. It was so in the O.T., Lev.18:22; 20:13. Cf. Gen.19:4-13; Jude 7.
2. It is no less true in the N.T., Rom.1:18-28,32; 1Cor.6:9-11; 1Tim.1:10.

D. ADULTERY, AS WELL AS FORNICATION, IS AN ABOMINATION IN GOD'S SIGHT.

1. Such things were considered an abomination unto God in the O.T., Lev.18:20-30; Exo.20:14; Deut.5:18. Cf. Gen.19:4-13; Jude 7.
2. The N.T. considers these sins no less abominable.
 - a. For they keep one out of the kingdom of God, Gal.5:19-21.
 - b. And all who do such things "shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death," Rev.21:8.
3. All sexual relations outside the divinely ordained marriage bed constitute either adultery or fornication, Heb.13:4.
4. Within the divinely ordained marriage bed such relations are holy; outside it they are unholy, sinful, condemned.
5. See Mt.5:27,28; 19:3-9; Mk.6:16-18; 10:11,12; Lk.16:18; Rom.7:1-3; 1Cor.7:1-3.

E. DISHONESTY IS AN ABOMINATION IN GOD'S SIGHT.

1. The practice of unjust wrights in buying and selling is a matter of dishonesty, doing un-righteously, and all such things are an abomination unto God, Deut.25:13-16; Cf. Prov.11:1; 20:23.
 - a. From days of old God has required the seller to be honest and give what is paid for, not less, not more.
2. Under N.T. Law:

- a. 1Th.4:6,11,12 is an example of what is required.
- b. We are required to:
 - (1) “Provide things honest in the sight of all men,” Rom.12:17.
 - (2) Be found “providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men,” 2Cor.8:21.
 - (3) “...walk honestly, as in the day...” Rom.13:13.
 - (4) Think on things that “are honest,” Phil.4:8.
 - (5) Have our “conversation (manner of life) honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may be your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation,” 1Pet.2:12.
 - (6) “Lie not on to another,” Col.3:9.
 - (7) Select men of “honest report” when choosing men to serve in positions of service, trust and responsibility in the Lord’s business, Ac.6:3.
- c. We are urged to pray for those “in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty,” 1Tim.2:1-3
- 3. See Mt.5:37; Jas.4:12; Mt.12:35-37.

F. THE PRAYERS OF THE IMPENITENT LAWLESS, THOSE WHO TURN THEIR EAR FROM HEARING THE LAW OF GOD, ARE AN ABOMINATION IN GOD’S SIGHT.

- 1. Consider this awesome, attention getting truth from the O.T., Prov.28:9; 15:29; Psa.34:15,16; 66:18; Prov.1:24-33; Isa.1:10-20.
- 2. The teaching of the N.T. on the prayer of the impenitent lawless ones is of the same character and force, Mt.7:21-23; 6:12,14,15; Lk.13:24-27; 16:19-31; Jno.9:31; 1Pet.3:12.
- 3. Will men of today do this? Do men of today do this?
 - a. The N.T. says they will: 2Tim.4:1-4; 1Tim.4:1,2; Mt.7:21-23.
 - b. The Denominational preacher is one who does this:
 - (1) By wearing a human name rather than the Lord’s name.
 - (2) When he teaches salvation at the point of faith before and without further acts of obedience.
 - (3) When he teaches one faith is as good as another.
 - (4) When he teaches that women may be gospel preachers.
 - (5) When he teaches and practices sprinkling or pouring for baptism.

- (6) By teaching and practicing the use of mechanical instruments of music in worship of God.
- (7) Present-day miracles through human agency.
- (8) Tongue speaking.
- c. Professed gospel preachers and erring brethren in Christ are those who turn their ear from hearing the law of God when they:
 - (1) Teach and practice Institutionalism; that is, the building, maintaining, and use of separate institutions through which to do the work of the local church; such as: M.S.; E.S.; Inst. O.H.
 - (2) Teach and practice Centralized Cooperation of Churches; such as, the Sponsoring Church arrangement.
 - (3) Teach and practice mechanical instrumental music in worship as some are doing. And some are advocating that it can be done with God's approval.
 - (4) Church sponsored recreation; Youth Ministers; Church fellowship halls, etc.

G. THE PACKAGE OF SEVEN THINGS WHICH THE LORD HATES, WHICH ARE AN ABOMINATION UNTO HIM, Prov.6:16-19.

- 1. "A proud look" or "haughty eyes" lit. "lofty eyes"
 - a. Pride is an excess of self-valuation.
 - b. It is not merely the look that is meant, but the temper of mind which the look expresses. The lofty look is the indication of the swelling pride which fills the heart.
 - c. Pride is perhaps put first because it is at the bottom of all disobedience and rebellion against God's laws. Cf. 1Tim.3:6
 - d. This Divine aversion for pride is deeply marked in the Bible. Examples:
 - (1) Psa.18:27: "For thou wilt save the afflicted people; but wilt bring down high looks."
 - (2) Psa.101:5: "...him that hath a high look and a proud heart will not I suffer."
 - (3) Prov.11:2: "When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom."
 - (4) Prov.16:5: "Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished." (No safety in numbers for the evil)

- (5) Prov.8:13: “The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride and arrogancy...do I hate.”
- (6) Prov.16:18: “Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”
- (7) Prov.30:13: “There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! And their eyelids are lifted up.” (Instead of being cast down to the ground). Such intolerable arrogance! Cf. Lk.18:13.
- (8) Example, Herod in Ac.12:21-23.
- (9) See 1Pet.5:5,6: “...God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time”

2. “A lying tongue”

- a. Lying is hateful to God, because he is the God of truth.
- b. The Pulpit Commentary aptly observes: “Lying is the willful perversion of truth, not only by speech but by any means whatever whereby false impression is conveyed to the mind.”
- c. A “lying tongue” is called a “deceitful tongue” in Psa.120:2: “Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips, and from a deceitful tongue.”
- d. Psa.5:6: “...the Lord will abhor the bloody and deceitful man.”
- e. Ac.5:1-10 is a case in point – Ananias and Saphira.
- f. Col.3:10,11.
- g. Rev.21:8: “...all liars, shall have their part in the lake of fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

3. “And hands that shed innocent blood”

- a. God has ordained capital punishment for murder. The fact of it and the reason for it are first recorded in Gen.9:6.
- b. Shedding innocent blood (or murder) carried the death penalty under the law of Moses, Exo.21:12,14; Lev.24:17; Mt.19:18.
- c. Jesus recognized the death penalty as law during his personal ministry, Mt.26:52.
- d. It is still recognized as ordained by God under the N.T., Rom.13:1-4; Rev.13:10; Ac.25:10,11.
- e. This abomination would include the “hands of violence and injustice; for all such is a usurper of God’s authority; such action sets at naught the justice of both heaven and earth, the rights of God and men.

4. “An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations,” lit. “thoughts of iniquity,” or the heart active in devising wickedness; that is, a heart that thinks up evil (evil intentions, evil plots against others, etc); the malicious, scheming heart.
 - a. See Prov.6:14, which speaking of a wicked man, says, among other things: “Frowardness (perverseness, disobedience) is in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually.”
 - c. Cf. Gen.6:5 as an example of how far man can go or how far they sink into evil. Also see Rom.1:18-32; Eph.4:17-19.
5. “Feet that be swift in running to mischief”
 - a. Such are couriers of ill news, eager retailers of slander, ambitious in the use of hurtful words.
 - b. To run to mischief is to carry out readily and without delay what has been devised in the heart. It implies more than falling or sliding into sin.
 - c. Such is the mischief-maker; it is his intent!
6. “A false witness that speacketh lies,” the breather of lies; the lying informer; the ones who trade in falsehood; one who lies as a false witness.
 - a. My dad use to say: “Some people are such speakers of lies that they will claim a tree to tell a lie rather than stand on the ground to tell the truth!”
 - b. It has been said of certain persons: “He (she) fears no one or nothing, not even the Devil himself.”
 - c. I know what they mean by such a statement. But I am one who does fear someone and something. I fear a liar! The liar can destroy good people!
7. “And he that soweth discord among brethren.”
 - a. These last two, we might say, are evil spiritual twins!
 - (1) What an evil act (to utter lies about a person)!
 - (2) What an evil, destructive achievement (to divide good friends and brethren in Christ!
 - b. Jesus pronounces a blessing upon the “peacemaker” in Mt.5:9. Cf. Psa.133:1.
 - c. And this section of scripture shows the utter contempt God has for the opposite of the peacemakers –the discord-sowers!

H. THE WAYS AND THOUGHTS OF THE WICKED ARE AN ABOMINATION TO THE LORD, Prov.15:8,9,26. Reasons why:

1. Because of the harm they do to his own soul; for sin destroys one's soul.
2. Because of the misery they inflict upon others; for the innocent often suffer because of the wicked.
3. Because they are utterly at variance with God's thoughts and purposes.
 - a. Their who life is grievous to God.
 - b. Their worship is wholly unacceptable to him.
 - c. Their worship is positively offensive to God.
4. How lightly do the wicked think of the responsibility of their thoughts! As if they were their own, and they are at liberty to indulge them without restraint or with impunity. Cf. Prov.23:7; Mt.15:19,20.
5. Consider Tit.1:15,16 which describes a great contradiction, an hypocrisy, and a moral deficiency that is abominable in God's sight.
 - a. They were mere professors of godliness, possessing its form but denying its power, V.16. Cf. 2Tim.3:1-5-7.
 - (1) Their knowledge of God was purely theoretical or speculative.
 - (2) They were practical atheists.
 - (3) Hypocrites often profess great knowledge of God while denying him in works.
 - b. Their denial of God took a most practical form. Their conduct gave the lie to their profession.
 - (1) They were "abominable" in the sight of God.
 - (a) They were morally abandoned.
 - (b) They were as detestable in the sight of God as the idols of the heathen nations of the O.T.
 - (2) They were "disobedient" – incorrigible, despising all order and repudiating obligation.
 - (3) They were "reprobate unto every good work."
 - (a) They did no good works.
 - (b) They had neither knowledge nor inclination to do good works.
 - (c) Therefore they were quite useless in the service of God and man.
 - c. Herein we learn that moral defilement:
 - (1) Arises from unbelief: "Unto these that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure," V.15.
 - (a) Faith, genuine faith, gives spiritual insight, and enables one to distinguish the moral qualities of things.

- (b) Unbelief is itself defiling, and leads to increased defilement. Cf. the Gentiles of Rom.1.
 - (c) If men really believed in God and virtue they would never commit the wickedness they do.
 - (2) Affects the whole man: "...even their mind and conscience is defiled," V.15.
 - (a) When the conscience is defiled, the whole soul is defiled.
 - (b) Sterne said: "Trust that man in nothing who has not a conscience in everything."
 - (3) Is evident in the outward life, V.16.
 - (a) Such an one's profession of godliness is a lie. Cf. 1Jno.1:6.
 - (b) Mere hypocritical, lying profession of knowing God produces a spirit of inveterate wickedness which will issue in final rejection.
 - (c) Such a life when tested will be found utterly worthless in God's sight and will be eternally reprobated.
 - d. Herein we learn that purity is not necessarily in outward things, but in the right state of the heart of the person: "Unto the pure (those free from corrupt desire) all things are pure," V.15. Cf. 1Cor.6:12.
 - e. Such hypocritical, abominable professors existed both then and now! Beware!
6. Sometimes:
- a. The wicked sacrifice, pray, and keep up a "front" of religion, but it does them no good because according to Prov.15:8,9,26; 21:27; 28:9, their "thoughts," their "sacrifices," and their "way" are "abominations unto the Lord."
 - b. Sinners even look down upon others who do not live as they live, go where they go, and indulge in what they indulge in. According to 1Pet.4:4 they seem to be very "sold" on themselves and their ways, even thinking it "strange" that the righteous do not "run with them to the same excess of riot" and even "spaking evil of them."
7. But according to such passages as Prov.15:8; Jno.9:31; 1Jno.3:22, God is pleased to hear the prayers of the godly.

I. THE FROWARD, THE OBSTINATELY WILFUL, ARE ABOMINABLE TO THE LORD, Prov.3:30-32.

1. This is the perverted or wicked man, the obstinately willful man who turns aside from the way of uprightness.
2. The oppressor is “forward”. He will not submit to the voice of instruction or correction, but will be his own absolute lord and master (marg. A man of violence).
3. His actions, if not his words, say: “Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice?”
4. See Prov.6:14,15; 8:13; 11:20; 15:9; Mic.2:1,2.

J. WHAT IS HIGHLY ESTEEMED AMONG MEN IN EFFORTS TO JUSTIFY THEMSELVES IS AN ABOMINATION IN GOD’S SIGHT, Lk.16:15. Cf. Isa.55:7-9; Prov.14:12.

1. Note some things in the spiritual realm that are highly esteemed (exalted or lofty) among men in an effort to justify themselves that are an abomination in the sight of men.
 - a. The right to the faith or the church of one’s choice.
 - b. The right of the woman to choose in the abortion controversy.
 - c. One’s right to an alternate life-style in the homosexual controversy.
 - d. “What is or way good enough for momma and daddy and for grandma and grandpa is good enough for me.”
 - e. The obligation to work for a living to the exclusion of assembling to worship God.
 - f. etc., etc., etc.

III. CONCLUSION

1. Things we have considered that are an abomination in the sight of God.
 - a. Idolatry.
 - b. Divination and astrology.
 - c. Homosexual behavior.
 - d. Adultery and fornication.
 - e. Dishonesty.
 - f. The prayers of the impenitent lawless.

- g. The package of seven things in Prov.6:16-19.
 - h. The ways and thoughts of the wicked.
 - i. The froward, the obstinately willful.
 - j. Various things highly esteemed among men who seek to justify self.
2. Without a doubt this is proof positive that all sinful actions are acts of sin against God. Cf. Gen.39:7-9; Psa.51:4.
- a. They may be sins against self.
 - b. They may be sins against others.
 - c. They may be sins that seemingly hurt or harm no one.
 - d. But they are always sins against God! Cf. Joseph and David.
3. Can we not see that God hates and abhors all sin – that it's an abomination in his sight?