

THE THINGS GOD HATES

BIBLE TEXT : Proverbs 6:1-19.

LESSON 279 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "The commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life" (Proverbs 6:23).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Proverbs 6:1-19 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.

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.

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.

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I The Wisdom of Prudence

1. Suretyship's entanglements are shown, Proverbs 6:1-5.
2. Industry's virtues and the curse of idleness are portrayed, Proverbs 6:6-11.
3. The tragic end of the wicked is certain, Proverbs 6:12-15.

II Objects of God's Hatred

1. The **proud** are called an abomination to God, Proverbs 6:16, 17;

Proverbs 11:2 ² *When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.*

Proverbs 13:10 ¹⁰ *Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.*

Proverbs 16:18 ¹⁸ *Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.*

Proverbs 21:4 ⁴ *An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin.*

Psalms 10:4 ⁴ *The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.*

Psalms 119:21 ²¹ *Thou hast rebuked the proud that are cursed, which do err from thy commandments.*

Habakkuk 2:4 ⁴ *Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.*

Mark 7:20-23 ²⁰ *And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man.*

²¹ *For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,*

²² *Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:*

²³ *All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.*

- 1 **Timothy 3:6** ⁶ *Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.*

1 **John 2:16** ¹⁶ *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

2. The **speaker of lies** is placed in the same evil category, Proverbs 6:17;

Proverbs 11:1 ¹ *A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.*

Proverbs 19:9 ⁹ *A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall perish.*

Psalms 15:1-2 ¹ *LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?*

² *He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.*

Psalms 63:11 ¹¹ *But the king shall rejoice in God; every one that sweareth by him shall glory: but the mouth of them that speak lies shall be stopped.*

Isaiah 44:24-25 ²⁴ *Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;*

²⁵ *That frustrateth the tokens of the liars, and maketh diviners mad; that turneth wise men backward, and maketh their knowledge foolish;*

Ephesians 4:25 ²⁵ *Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of*

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.

another.

Revelation 21:8 ⁸ But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

3. **Murderers** are included in the list, Proverbs 6:17;

Genesis 4:8-15 ⁸ And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

⁹ And the LORD said unto Cain, Where *is* Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: *Am* I my brother's keeper?

¹⁰ And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

¹¹ And now *art* thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand;

¹² When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.

¹³ And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment *is* greater than I can bear.

¹⁴ Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, *that* every one that findeth me shall slay me.

¹⁵ And the LORD said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him.

Genesis 49:5-7 ⁵ Simeon and Levi *are* brethren; instruments of cruelty *are* in their habitations.

⁶ O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united: for in their anger they slew a man, and in their selfwill they digged down a wall.

⁷ Cursed *be* their anger, for *it was* fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel.

Exodus 20:13 ¹³ Thou shalt not kill.

Matthew 19:18 ¹⁸ He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,

Matthew 5:21-22 ²¹ Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:

²² But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

1 John 3:15 ¹⁵ Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

Romans 1:28-32 ²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

²⁹ Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

³⁰ Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

³¹ Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

³² Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which

commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

1 Peter 4:15 ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

Revelation 21:8 ⁸ But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

4. A **deviser of wicked imaginations** is shown his condition before God, Proverbs 6:18;

Genesis 6:5-7 ⁵ And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.

⁶ And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

⁷ And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

Genesis 8:21 ²¹ And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart *is* evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

Psalms 10:2 ² The wicked in *his* pride doth persecute the poor: let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined.

Psalms 38:12 ¹² They also that seek after my life lay snares *for me*: and they that seek my hurt speak mischievous things, and imagine deceits all the day long.

Psalms 33:10 ¹⁰ The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect.

Romans 1:20-25 ²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

²¹ Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

²² Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

²³ And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

²⁴ Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

²⁵ Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

2 Corinthians 10:5 ⁵ Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Job 5:12 ¹² He disappointeth the devices of the crafty, so that their hands cannot perform *their* enterprise.

5. The troublemaker finds that both he and his mischief are hated by God, Proverbs 6:18;

Proverbs 1:10-19 ¹⁰ My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.

¹¹ If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause:

¹² Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit:

¹³ We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil:

¹⁴ Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse:

15 My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path:

16 For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood.

17 Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird.

18 And they lay wait for their *own* blood; they lurk privily for their *own* lives.

19 So *are* the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; *which* taketh away the life of the owners thereof.

Proverbs 4:14-19 ¹⁴ Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil *men*.

15 Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away.

16 For they sleep not, except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause *some* to fall.

17 For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence.

18 But the path of the just *is* as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

19 The way of the wicked *is* as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.

Isaiah 59:1-8 ¹ Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear.

3 For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness.

4 None calleth for justice, nor *any* pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity.

5 They hatch cockatrice' eggs, and weave the spider's web: he that eateth of their eggs dieth, and that which is crushed breaketh out into a viper.

6 Their webs shall not become garments, neither shall they cover themselves with their works: their works *are* works of iniquity, and the act of violence *is* in their hands.

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.

8 The way of peace they know not; and *there is* no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.

Micah 2:1-3 ¹ Woe to them that devise iniquity, and work evil upon their beds! when the morning is light, they practise it, because it is in the power of their hand.

2 And they covet fields, and take *them* by violence; and houses, and take *them* away: so they oppress a man and his house, even a man and his heritage.

3 Therefore thus saith the LORD; Behold, against this family do I devise an evil, from which ye shall not remove your necks; neither shall ye go haughtily: for this time *is* evil.

Acts 13:10-11 ¹⁰ And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, *thou* child of the devil, *thou* enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?

11 And now, behold, the hand of the Lord *is* upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.

Romans 3:10-18 ¹⁰ As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

13 Their throat *is* an open sepulchre; with their tongues

they have used deceit; the poison of asps *is* under their lips:

¹⁴ Whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness:

¹⁵ Their feet *are* swift to shed blood:

¹⁶ Destruction and misery *are* in their ways:

¹⁷ And the way of peace have they not known:

¹⁸ There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Psalm 10:4-11 ⁴ The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek *after* God: God *is* not in all his thoughts.

⁵ His ways are always grievous; thy judgments *are* far above out of his sight: *as for* all his enemies, he puffeth at them.

⁶ He hath said in his heart, I shall not be moved: for *I shall never be* in adversity.

⁷ His mouth *is* full of cursing and deceit and fraud: under his tongue *is* mischief and vanity.

⁸ He sitteth in the lurking places of the villages: in the secret places doth he murder the innocent: his eyes are privily set against the poor.

⁹ He lieth in wait secretly as a lion in his den: he lieth in wait to catch the poor: he doth catch the poor, when he draweth him into his net.

¹⁰ He croucheth, *and* humbleth himself, that the poor may fall by his strong ones.

¹¹ He hath said in his heart, God hath forgotten: he hideth his face; he will never see *it*.

6. A perjurer is not shown toleration, Proverbs 6:19;

Proverbs 19:5 ⁵ A false witness shall not be unpunished, and *he that* speaketh lies shall not escape.

Proverbs 19:9 ⁹ A false witness shall not be unpunished, and *he that* speaketh lies shall perish.

Proverbs 24:28 ²⁸ Be not a witness against thy neighbour without cause; and deceive *not* with thy lips.

Proverbs 25:18 ¹⁸ A man that beareth false witness against his neighbour *is* a maul, and a sword, and a sharp arrow.

Psalm 24:3-4 ³ Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?

⁴ He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

Matthew 5:33 ³³ Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths:

Exodus 20:7 ⁷ Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Exodus 23:1 ¹ Thou shalt not raise a false report: put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness.

Deuteronomy 19:16-21 ¹⁶ If a false witness rise up against any man to testify against him *that which is wrong*;

¹⁷ Then both the men, between whom the controversy *is*, shall stand before the LORD, before the priests and the judges, which shall be in those days;

¹⁸ And the judges shall make diligent inquisition: and, behold, *if* the witness *be* a false witness, *and* hath testified falsely against his brother;

¹⁹ Then shall ye do unto him, as he had thought to have done unto his brother: so shalt thou put the evil away from among you.

²⁰ And those which remain shall hear, and fear, and shall henceforth commit no more any such evil among you.

²¹ And thine eye shall not pity; *but* life *shall go* for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

Zechariah 5:3-4 ³ Then said he unto me, This *is* the curse that goeth forth over the face of the whole earth: for every one that stealeth shall be cut off *as* on this side according to it; and every one that sweareth shall be cut off *as* on that side according to it.

⁴ I will bring it forth, saith the LORD of hosts, and it shall

enter into the house of the thief, and into the house of him that sweareth falsely by my name: and it shall remain in the midst of his house, and shall consume it with the timber thereof and the stones thereof.

Malachi 3:5 ⁵ And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in *his* wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger *from his right*, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.

7. The last listed abomination is the inexcusable **sower of discord among brethren**, Proverbs 6:19;

Proverbs 16:28 ²⁸ A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.

2 Thessalonians 3:11-12 ¹¹ For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

¹² Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

1 Timothy 5:13 ¹³ And withal they learn *to be* idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.

1 Peter 4:15 ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

Hosea 8:7 ⁷ For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind: it hath no stalk: the bud shall yield no meal: if so be it yield, the strangers shall swallow it up.

Galatians 6:8 ⁸ For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

NOTES:

Voluminous, indeed, have been the rhetorical efforts of men, who from the earliest days have attempted to show the ways taken by mankind that are pleasing to God, as well as those ways that are not pleasing to Him. But in the Bible is found a simple and concise statement, understandable and clear, of those things, which are not pleasing to God. This statement is the theme of our lesson.

In the chapter, these few verses are preceded by several passages that teach the wisdom of prudence in our temporal affairs and in our spiritual attitudes. And in considering what we have chosen as the theme of this lesson, we do not want to create the impression that we regard the other parts of the chapter as being of little importance. Space forbids the handling of the chapter completely; and since the message brought by the first part needs no further comment, we will begin these notes with an analysis of the message that, though concise in itself, is nevertheless all-inclusive in its extent and far-reaching in its ramifications.

“These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him.”

In this manner we are introduced to the four verses under consideration. We must meditate upon this verse if we would derive the full benefit of those that follow.

“The LORD” is none other than **Jehovah**, the covenant-making and covenant-keeping God of the universe; the God of mercy, love, and goodness; the God whose holiness is absolute

and perfect; the God who cannot look upon sin with any degree of allowance; the God who is no respecter of persons. This God is capable of hate – a hatred that is perfect, that is justified, and that, we can say, in itself, is the very essence of His immaculate holiness and purity.

We shall see that when men hate they are guilty of sin – actually of the sin of murder itself. But God's hatred is quite different from that which is common in unregenerated man. Man often seeks revenge because of hatred. He hates because he is sinfully jealous. He hates because he cannot have his own way or see brought to execution the plans he has conceived. But God's hatred is hatred of sin. He despises uncleanness, that which is unholy and defiled. He hates rebellion. And quite naturally, and justifiably, God hates the pride that would send mankind to death and eternal despair if it were allowed to remain in the heart.

God hates that which is opposite to His perfect will, because every other way than His leads to ruin and eternal despair. God hates the shedding of innocent blood. God hates other things also, and in considering them we shall see more reasons why He can hate them and do so in righteousness and in the purity of holiness. But for man to think that he can sinfully hate because God exhibits hatred in these ways is nothing but a demonstration of the very first thing that is mentioned in this Scriptural list of things that are an abomination to God. A person who excuses his sin of hatred for this reason is full of **pride**. Therefore, let us consider this gross and basic sin.

Pride in Men's Hearts

Pride may be defined as **conceit, or an unreasonable or inordinate delight in one's position, achievement, or possessions**. The Word of God tells us that the pride of a heart can deceive the one who allows it to remain there. Therefore, from this definition and from the Biblical injunction concerning its insidious workings, we can see that it is a very dangerous thing.

Since the workings of this terrible sin are so subtle and so fatal, it is important that we constantly examine ourselves to see if the small and insignificant beginnings of it are present. One might say: "But the pride that I have is very small and very slight. That surely cannot be wrong or dangerous." But if it, in its own inherent and intrinsic characteristics, is capable of deceiving the one who allows it to remain in his heart, it must not be tolerated nor allowed to remain unpurged.

To allow a thing to remain in our possession that would eventually destroy us, all the while deceiving us regarding its true character and the work of destruction it is doing, would be folly indeed. The very fact that a person would make such a statement, in defence of the so-called small beginnings of this terrible sin, proves beyond question that the deception has already begun in that heart. The beginnings, then, we can see, are not small at all. They are fatal; and unless they are torn out and destroyed, dire consequences are ahead. Their killing work has begun, and the covering over by the deceptive characteristic of this sin causes the victim to be unconscious of the actual effect of the sin. It is no wonder that God hates pride!

"But what is the actual sin in pride?" might be asked. Pride exalts man, the creature; and pride debases God, the Creator.

Pride elevates man, in his own estimation, and thereby causes him to be guilty of idolatry; for he is giving his adoration and his attention to something other than to God. Anything that takes the place of God is an idol. If we are proud of our position, our achievements, or our possessions, those things have taken the place of God in our affections and in our attention. The proud, therefore, are not only guilty of self-exaltation and of defamation of God, but are guilty of idolatry also. God will judge and condemn the idolater, and the proud heart is an abomination to Him.

The Lying Tongues of Mankind

Since God is a covenant-making and a covenant-keeping God, and since He created man in His own image and desired that mankind remain always like Him, we can see from the very first examination of this portion of our lesson text that those who speak lies would be an abomination to Him.

Men have classified falsehood, saying there are some that are justified by circumstances and are, therefore, not sin. But God has pronounced judgement upon "all liars," saying their part would be the second death, from which there is no hope of deliverance.

"All liars" certainly include so-called **white liars**. Maneuverings of diplomacy, international or personal, where No is said when Yes is meant, where a promise is made that is never intended to be kept, or where a statement is made that is contrary to fact, are falsehoods and are condemned by God.

Some people would justify a lie if it is used, as they say, to further the Kingdom of God. God's ways are truth. Jesus is the Truth. The Holy Spirit leads into all Truth. God's Word is Truth. God cannot sin. God cannot lie. And neither will His servants sin or lie, let alone do so under the pretext of advancing His cause through such a sin.

Murder

In the very beginnings of time, Cain killed Abel and became the first recorded murderer. God's judgment was swift and sure upon Cain; and he, himself, testified that his punishment was more than he could bear. Life is given to us by God and it is His sole right to take it again. Under the Mosaic Law, God delegated to recognized authorities the right to take human life as a civil judgment for certain sins. He also specifically commanded that whole nations of God-haters be removed from the earth to prevent the furtherance of their destructive ways. But the fundamental right of taking life remains His.

Murder is the killing of a human being with premeditated malice. Killing in war that is unjustified is murder. So-called mercy-killings and abortions are murder. Accidental killings or the killing of animals are not to be considered murder. The commandment, "Thou shalt not kill," has been interpreted and explained for us in the New Testament. In the first place, it is restated there as being, actually, "Thou shalt do no murder" (Matthew 19:18). And Jesus interpreted the Law and showed the higher New Testament requirements by telling us that if we hate someone we are guilty of the sin of murder (**Matthew 5:21-22** ²¹ **Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:**

22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. 1 John 3:15 15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.)

Suicide is also murder. Man has no right to take his own life. It is true that in committing suicide a person sins against himself and because of that he must suffer the consequences of that sin. But one who is a suicide also sins against God and will have to answer for that sin when he stands before the Throne.

The Remaining Four Abominations

The remaining four things that God hates, which we have yet to consider, are no less an abomination in the sight of God. The "heart that deviseth wicked imaginations" and "a false witness that speaketh lies" are included in what we have already written regarding the lying tongues of mankind. The hearts of men, from the fall of man in the beginning, have been corrupt and inclined toward evil. Satan lost no time in fully debasing those who, by disobedience to God, chose to leave the kingdom of right and enter that of wrong instead. Since that time there has been a steady increase in ungodliness in the world. This ungodliness became so widespread at one time that God destroyed the entire population of the world, with the exception of the mere handful He spared in the Ark. But the basic sin of these who were killed in the Flood, and of all mankind that has retained his sinful nature since the Flood, has been that "every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5).

Man's desires are evil. The inclination of his heart is toward sin. He imagines sin and then commits it. This is a result of his sinful nature. There is nothing else that can be expected of him in his unregenerate state. The only course he can take is to Calvary, through the prayer of repentance, if he is to escape the judgments of eternity. The way of truth is not in him. He speaks lies – or tells the truth – as it best suits his fancy or convenience and as he is led by the one whom he has taken to be his master in the place of the only True Master, the Lord God Almighty. Man in this unregenerate state is, therefore, an abomination to God. He will remain in that terrible and hopeless state unless he turns from his sin and invokes the mercy of a God who is repeatedly calling him to repent and be saved.

"Feet that be swift in running to mischief" and "he that soweth discord among brethren" are different only in the fields in which they operate or the people whom they influence or harm.

Mischief is defined as trouble or vexation caused by human agency. God has called us to peace. He has told us that we must be long-suffering, merciful, kind, and gentle. The troublemaker does the very opposite of this. The one who creates vexation, or who delights in it when it is committed by others, is certainly not following the desires of the infinitely Holy One who wants us to be like Him. He has told us to "follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14).

The sower of discord is an abomination to God particularly when he sows discord among brethren. This person, in reality, is

attempting to thwart the work of God and to hinder the Kingdom of Christ. He is, in this way, allied with the spirit of antichrist.

Where there is peace, the sower of discord makes war. Where there is trust, he brings in distrust. Where there is confidence, faith, and hope, this unworthy one, who is hated by God, brings in a question against any of these godly virtues or against all. Others build, through the grace and wisdom of God, but this person destroys that which has been built. Others work hard to construct those things which will endure and which will further the Kingdom of Heaven, but this abominable person insidiously labours to destroy even that which has been reared to the honour and glory of God alone.

This discord-sower does not always use truth. He tells lies or suggests error. He does not always need facts, for his work seems to prosper better if facts are not known and if suspicion is substituted instead. He follows the example of his master, Satan, who is the accuser of the brethren, and his master is quick to give him all the help that is needed to make this work successful for the infamous cause.

The Necessity of Watchfulness

Let us not be allied with the archenemy of men's souls by being guilty of anything that God hates and which is an abomination to Him. We can see, from the language of our text, that God hates not only the **things** that are mentioned there but that He regards also the **persons** who do those things as an abomination to Him.

We are not worthy of God's love, of the mercy of His sacrifice, or of His goodness. But He has bestowed all the good and perfect gifts upon us because of that love, mercy, and kindness. Since these attributes are infinite and eternal in their extent they can reach even the most defiled of mankind. Hell will be a place of infinite horror because all who are there will know that they are hated by God. To be hated by God and not to be loved by Him, not to be extended mercy by Him, and not to be blessed by His goodness, would be worse than anything that anyone could imagine.

How thankful we are that we need not enter into this place of despair and hopelessness. One simple, well-loved, and most often quoted verse in the Bible is enough to give us the hope that we need. If we receive the message of this verse, and receive the Gift that God gave, we shall feel, instead, the joys of eternal bliss, the peace that defies description or analysis, and all the other eternal blessings and rewards that He has promised to us. How thankful we are that **"God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life!" (John 3:16).**

QUESTIONS

1. Why should one be careful about accepting the responsibilities of suretyship for another?
2. What do the first verses of our lesson tell us we should do if we have accepted this responsibility?
3. What example in nature does God use to teach us industry?
4. What is the result of slothfulness in either spiritual or temporal matters?
5. What is the end of the naughty man?
6. Name the seven things which God hates, which are an abomination to Him.
7. Take each one of these seven things and tell why it is hated by God and what the effects will be if it is allowed to continue unpurged.
8. Quote other verses from both the Old and the New Testament to show the extreme evil in each one of these seven things.
9. What hope does the person have who is guilty of these things?
10. Memorize and quote Romans 5:8 to those who you feel are without hope in God.