



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. 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. (Prov 6:1-19)

This chapter of Proverbs three major divisions and a number of subdivisions:

- I. God's Admonitions (6:1-15, 24-35) Under this division are four subdivisions of people being warned:
  - i. The thoughtless and impulsive person
  - ii. The shiftless (vs 6-11)
  - iii. The ruthless (vs 12-15)
  - iv. Those without virtue (24-35)
- II. God's Assurances (vs 20-23)
  - i. God's Word will protect us (20-22)
  - ii. His Word will be a Light and Guide to our feet (v 23)
- III. Seven Abominations that God hates in a person (v 16-19)

In Part I, we will undertake God's admonitions revealed in verses 1 thru 19 of Proverbs 6, sort of the **good**, the **bad** and the **ugly** if we substitute "**foolish**" for good.

It is thoughtless to undertake responsibilities and commitments which we may be unable to satisfy. It is easy to make a commitment with one's mouth, but altogether a different matter to satisfy that commitment. Of course, there is no sin in offering genuine support for a friend that you can surely perform, but lip-service is a characteristic of man with which the Lord is all too familiar. You will not have helped a

friend in offering false hope in the same way that you will not have satisfied the Mercy of God by claiming His Son as your Lord and Savior with your mouth, and rejecting His holiness with your living testimony. **5 *Better is it that thou shouldst not vow, than that thou shouldst vow and not pay.*** (Eccl 5:5) The false professor of Christ places himself in great danger for he presumes that his false profession has satisfied the premises of Grace with God, but not so! **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.*** Truly, words have consequences. Our commitments to God offer freedom and liberty if we are sincere, but our commitments to man become a burdensome yoke if we find ourselves unable to meet them.

If we have created either a debt of money or of action with a friend, and find we cannot meet the terms of the debt, please do not hide your face from your friend. If we are honest with our friend, he will still remain our friend; but, if we simply avoid his face in silence, his friendship will turn cold. **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.*** Do not let an unsatisfied debt fester in the heart of a friend, or of a stranger.

**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.*** I often wonder if Aesop, an ancient Greek story-teller of wisdom (c. 620–564 BC), may have had access to the earlier writings of Proverbs since his Fables as so close to that given in Proverbs. Verse 6 is perfectly illustrated in Aesop's account of the Ants and the Grasshopper: "**THE ANTS were spending a fine winter's day drying grain collected in the summertime. A Grasshopper, perishing with famine, passed by and earnestly begged for a little food. The Ants inquired of him, "Why did you not treasure up food during the summer?" He replied, "I had not leisure enough. I passed the days in singing." They then said in derision: "If you were foolish enough to sing all the summer, you must dance hungrily to bed in the winter." (Translated by George Fyler Townsend - Aesop's Fables) Please note that anyone who labors not for his bread and eats the bread of others is called, by God, a SLUGGARD. "**.....if any would not work, neither should he eat.**" (2 Thess 3:10) This principle is a far cry from that of our present day welfare state who boasts of giving away free cell phones to all comers. The all-nurturing welfare state leads to a constant upgrade in totalitarian principles and away from those principles of perfect Liberty offered by God and His Word.**

**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.*** Exorbitantly leisure leads to poverty in the same way that regular labor leads to strength of character. **11 *So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.*** Your desires for what you lack will dominate your thoughts and impoverish your soul.

**12 *A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth.*** For far too long, the American people have tolerated profane and uncouth language in all public places. The wicked have no restraint of morals on their speech, so the restraint must arise from decent society itself. If society remains silent, the public decorum will degenerate. **13 *He winketh with his eyes, he speaketh with his feet, he teacheth with his fingers;*** If the tongue of the wicked is curtailed by civil circumstance, he will devise lurid signs by

which to transmit his wicked intentions. *14 Frowardness is in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord.* Wickedness is not an impulse to the evil person, but an established habit. There are no moments of daily life in which he is not contemplating some wickedness against humankind. *15 Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy.*

God is slow to anger but quick to forgive. He abides in patience until the iniquity of a person or nation is full, then He lowers His strong Arm of Judgment with it's a final indictment of the sinner. There is a point at which the sinner becomes reprobate – not because the Holy Ghost ceases it's beckoning – but because the conscience of the sinner has become hardened as a wound seared with a hot iron. *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron* (1 Tim 4:1-2) The sin may be so egregious that God will give them over to a reprobate mind as with the sin of homosexuality: *And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. 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* (Romans 1:27-28) I fear for our beloved Land when I recognize that our very own political leaders are calling for the acceptance of this filthy sin.

Now we come to the six things that God hates in the character of man, and even a seventh: *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.* God often adds, by traditional language, one additional matter as an emphasis to the total number of seven. The first thing that God hates in man is a **PROUD LOOK**. Those who put on airs of false wealth or accomplishment are repugnant to God. Pride is a terrible sin when it exceeds legitimate bounds. It is natural for a mother to be proud of her children, but pride of station and profession often incur the wrath of God. There is a great example of pride that led to much of the pain and suffering on this earth. Lucifer was lifted up with pride and decided that he would be like unto God Almighty! For this rebellion, he was cast out of heaven along with his following of unfaithful angels. We owe our every benefit to God and His grace. We can claim no accomplishment of our own except our sins.

God hates a **LIAR!** We are told that there was a man named Ananias, and his wife, Sapphore, who lied to the Lord and to His people. The sorrowful account is given in Acts 5:1-10. The lives of both were demanded by the Lord the selfsame instant. Now, friends, consider seriously that next characteristic that God hates: *“Hands that shed innocent blood.”* Can you imagine any blood more innocent than a child who is deprived of glimpsing his first sunrise by a mother who aborts the child for convenience only? Is America about to experience a hard judgment for our depravity?

What of the *“HEART THAT DEVISETH WICKED IMAGINATIONS?”* What percent of the people of America today sit before a constant panorama of pornography and bloody images? Has not our nation become a purveyor of pornography and violence around the world? Will God exact a price for this sinful propagation? If He doesn't, perhaps He will feel obligated to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah. Do not

the feet of many Americans *today run to the scent of mischief*? How many are killed on our highways by drunken drivers, or overdose on some sensual narcotic?

The worst form of the LIE is **a FALSE WITNESS** whose lies lead to the ruin of the innocent. The False Witness is, disgracefully, heard in the chambers of our national Congress more frequently than on the streets of the ghetto. How did we come to this state of affairs? Did we not reject morals and justice long ago when prayer was deprived our children in public schools in contravention of the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights? Am I getting too political for you? Good, then you are the one to whom I address these words. Have morals improved, or degenerated, among our youth since that time? Have Christians become like skunks with a yellow line, instead of a white one, running down their limp spines? When did we first begin to fear to speak out against immorality sponsored by government and education?

What of those who seek influence by creating division in the church and society itself? Are such not "*he that soweth discord among brethren.*" What of those who would divide a church body over the color of carpet or drapes? What of those in government, which should reflect the justice of God, who pit race against race and wealthy against poor? When we survey these offenses against God, it seems that it is a detailed description of modern day America. Perish the thought. I pray that the Holy Spirit will once again move upon the "Face of the Deep of America" and say, "Let there be Light!" and the Light of Christ will become our Day Star if that day comes soon.