

Clippings from Proverbs 6

Prepared for the 3C Sunday School Class

Calvary Baptist Church

Beginning January 20, 2013

This Portion Begins Sunday, April 27, 2014

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Divisions of Chapter 6 (Portions from the *New American Commentary*)

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 - B. Laziness (6:6-11)
 - C. The Conspirator (6:12-15)
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LEGAL ENTANGLEMENTS (6:1-5)

PULLING PROVERBS TOGETHER: Don't Take Another Person's Risk (6:1-5; 11:15; 17:18; 20:16; 22:26-27; 27:13) *Holman Old Testament Commentary*

IN A NUTSHELL: Not only must we work hard, but we must also make wise choices and avoid foolish risks. We must do the right thing at the right time and plan ahead. Do not let your concern for another person prompt you to take a foolish risk; you could both go down. *HOTC*

SUPPORTING IDEA: It may seem sensible or loving to cosign a loan for another person, but it puts you at great risk. You are responsible for the actions of someone you cannot control, and you could very well find yourself taking the loss when he acts irresponsibly or has bad luck. *H.O.T.C.*

Proverbs 6:1-5

I. The Pledge (6:1)

1 My son, if thou be surety for thy friend, *if* thou hast stricken thy hand with a stranger,

QUOTE: Solomon warns with surprising intensity of the foolishness of putting up security for a loan, making a commitment that could cause you to suffer great loss. He first describes the predicament in increasingly graphic terms. To **put up security for your neighbor** is to promise that you will pay back his loan if he is unable to do so. To strike **hands in pledge** is to formalize the agreement, as we would shake hands or sign on the dotted line. *HOTC*

II. The Problem (6:2)

2 Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.

QUOTE: Anyone who makes such a deal is in a snare; he has been **trapped** by his own **words**. His financial fate is out of his control, resting solely on his neighbor's willingness to pay off the loan. *HOTC*

QUOTE: [6:1-5](#) At first glance this passage would seem to say no more than that one should not cosign a note or, if one has already made that mistake, should get out of the arrangement as quickly as possible. While the text does say at least this much, it also implies that no one should get into legal entanglements and indebtedness in which circumstances are out of one's control. This is certainly the case where giving security for another is concerned.

Note that the Bible does not absolutely forbid taking on legal responsibilities for another person ([Phlm 18](#)). It does, however, here state that risking home and liberty in an enterprise over which one does not have direct control is consummate folly. Although we have no information on Israelite laws of surety, seizure of assets and home and even the selling of the debtor into slavery were common penalties for failure to make payment, and the cosigner could well have met the same fate. *New American Commentary*

III. The Prescription (6:3-5)

QUOTE: What is the appropriate response? Get out of the agreement! Gaining freedom from this dangerous position should be your top priority. *HOTC*

A. Instruction about Discussion (6:3)

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.

QUOTE: You should take the initiative and go to the other party and plead to be released. Since you have signed the agreement, you cannot demand; you must **humble yourself** (literally, crush or tread yourself down, demean yourself, make yourself small). **Press your plea** aggressively; don't take *no* for an answer; push it even if you are almost obnoxious. *HOTC*

B. Instruction about Delay (6:4)

4 Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids.

QUOTE: Finally, do not **delay**. Do not stop to take a nap; do it now! *HOTC*

C. Instruction about Deliverance (6:5)

5 Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand *of the hunter*, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler.

QUOTE: When a **gazelle** or a **bird** is caught in a trap, they do not nap for a while before they try to escape. They struggle immediately, knowing that it is only a matter of time before doom strikes. Debt works the same way; it is only a matter of time before the consequences arrive. *HOTC*

• **Do it in haste.** "*Do this now... Give not sleep to thine eyelids. Deliver thyself as a roe [running]... as a bird [flying]*" ([Proverbs 6:3-5](#)). Any involvement you want to extract yourself from requires promptness. Do not delay.

• **Do it in humility.** "*Go, humble thyself*" ([Proverbs 6:3](#)). To properly extract yourself from an involvement, you must be humble, i.e. readily admit you were wrong and take the blame.

- **Do it honorably.** "Make sure thy friend" ([Proverbs 6:3](#)). This may involve some action such as paying back some money or other like action. You must act responsibly. *Analytical Bible Expositor – Proverbs to Song of Solomon.*

LAZINESS (6:6-11)

Proverbs 6:6-11 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.

I. The Ant (6:6-8)

A. The Evaluation (6:6)

Proverbs 6:6 Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:

1. You Are Slothful (6:6)

"Thou sluggard"

Sluggard *awtsel* – indolent (adverse to activity), slothful.

2. You Are Stupid (6:6)

"be wise"

- If you need to watch the ant.
- If the ant can help you to become wise.
- Then the conclusion is that you are foolish!

B. The Exhortation (6:6)

Proverbs 6:6 Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:

- Here are three commands that must seem impossible to the sluggard!

1. Movement "Go"

Proverbs 19:24 A slothful *man* hideth his hand in *his* bosom, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.

Proverbs 12:27 The slothful *man* roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man *is* precious.

Pr 26:13-15 The slothful *man* saith, *There is* a lion in the way; a lion *is* in the streets. ¹⁴ As the door turneth upon his hinges, so *doth* the slothful upon his bed. ¹⁵ The slothful hideth his hand in *his* bosom; it grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth.

2. **Meditation** “consider”

Proverbs 15:19 The way of the slothful *man is* as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous *is* made plain.

3. **Motivation**

“Be wise”

Proverbs 26:16 The sluggard *is* wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason.

B. **The Example (6:7-8)**

1. **Self-Motivation (6:7)**

6:7 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,

- We could translate this as, “they do not have a supervisor, record keeper or boss.”

QUOTE: The ants are models of diligence in that they work tirelessly in spite of having no taskmaster to goad them on, and they prepare for the winter in spite of having no administration to lay out economic plans. Wisdom literature often examines the natural world for moral lessons. *New American Commentary*

2. **Supply (6:8)**

6:8 Provideth her meat in the summer, *and* gathereth her food in the harvest.

Meat = food in time of KJV.

a. **The Season of Wisdom**

"In Summer, in harvest"

QUOTE: This is foresight, thinking ahead, diligence, responsibility. The ant knew that to wait until winter to prepare its food would be too late. The ant prepared ahead. It thought ahead. Many people lack that sort of wisdom. *Analytical Bible Expositor*

b. **The Sweat of Wisdom**

"Provides food and gathers food"

QUOTE: It was not afraid of hard work. "*Provideth her meat... gathereth her food*" Providing and gathering are hard work. If you have ever watched an ant in an ant hill you know they are not afraid of hard work. Sluggards do not want to work hard. They are allergic to sweat it seems. *Analytical Bible Expositor*

c. **The Stewardship of Wisdom**

QUOTE: Harvesting during harvest season is to use your opportunities wisely. It is the farmer's philosophy of "make hay while the sun shines" and blacksmith's philosophy to "strike the iron while it is hot." The welfare program of our nation does not practice these wise philosophies but encourages sloth. A democratic economist, John Kenneth Galbraith, who has held high posts in the government, said,

"Those who dislike working should not be forced to work nor should they be penalized by depriving them of the benefits of society."

Such thinking is stupidity indeed. The Bible teaches a far different and far better philosophy ([2 Thessalonians 3:10](#) and [Proverbs 19:15](#) along with our text). *Analytical Bible Expositor*

2 Thessalonians 3:10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

Proverbs 19:15 Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger.

II. The Admonition (6:9-11)

A. The Consideration (6:9)

6:9 How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?

QUOTE: Those last few moments of sleep are delicious; we savor them as we resist beginning another workday. But Proverbs warns against giving in to the temptation of laziness, of sleeping instead of working. This does not mean we should never rest: God gave the Jews the Sabbath, a weekly day of rest and restoration. But we should not rest when we should be working. The ant is used as an example because it utilizes its energy and resources economically. If laziness turns us from our responsibilities, poverty may soon bar us from the legitimate rest we should enjoy.

Life Application Study Bible

B. The Consequences (6:10-11)

1. The Proximity (6:10)

6:10 *Yet* a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

Prov. 24:30-34 — I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding;³¹ And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, *and* nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down.³² Then I saw, *and* considered *it* well: I looked upon *it*, *and* received instruction.³³

Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:³⁴ So shall thy poverty come *as* one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.

2. The Poverty (6:11)

6:11 So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.

QUOTE: Laziness leads to inescapable poverty and ruin. Instead of poverty coming “like a bandit” and an “armed man,” it is better to translate v. [11](#) to say that poverty will come like a “vagabond” and a “beggar.” The point is not that it will attack suddenly, like armed robbers in ambush. Rather, poverty and indebtedness cling to the slothful like incorrigible beggars who always linger about the house and always want more. Laziness will siphon off resources until the indolent have nothing left. *New American Commentary*

Pr 10:4 — He becometh poor that dealeth *with* a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.

Pr 13:4 — The soul of the sluggard desireth, and *hath* nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.

Pr 20:4 — The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; *therefore* shall he beg in harvest, and *have* nothing.

CONCLUSION

Diligence and Laziness Proverbs makes it clear that diligence—being willing to work hard and do one's best at any job given to him or her—is a vital part of wise living. We work hard, not to become rich, famous, or admired (although those may be byproducts), but to serve God with our very best during our lives. *Life Application Study Bible*

<i>The Diligent</i>	<i>The Lazy</i>	<i>Reference</i>
Become rich	Are soon poor	10:4
Gather their crops	Sleep during harvest	10:5
	Are an annoyance	10:26
Have plenty of food	Have no sense	12:11
Gain many rewards		12:14
Will become leaders	Will become slaves	12:24
Make good use of resources	Waste good resources	12:27

Will prosper	Want much but get little	13:4
Bring profit	Experience poverty	14:23
Path is open	Path is blocked	15:19
	Are like those who destroy	18:9
	Go hungry	19:15
	Won't feed themselves	19:24
	Won't plow in season	20:4
Stay awake and have food to spare	Love sleep and grow poor	20:13
Make careful plans	Make hasty shortcuts	21:5
Love to give	Desire things but refuse to work for them.	21:25,26
	Are full of excuses for not working	22:13
Will serve before kings		22:29
	Sleep too much, which leads to poverty	24:30-34
Reap abundance through hard work	Experience poverty because of laziness	28:19

THE CONSPIRATOR (PROVERBS 6:12-15)

REVIEW

- I. The Four Teachings (Prov. 6:1-19)
 - A. Legal Entanglements (6:1-5)
 - B. Laziness (6:6-11)
 - C. The Conspirator (6:12-15)

PULLING PROVERBS TOGETHER

To study other passages in Proverbs with a similar theme, turn to: 6:12-15; 10:10; 11:3; 16:30; 20:14; 23:6-8, 23-26.

OPEN

Sing Sing Shenanigans One time a lady who had acquired wealth and social prominence decided to have a book written about her genealogy. The well-known author she contracted for the project discovered that her grandfather was a murderer who had been electrocuted in Sing Sing, the famous maximum-security federal prison. He knew that the grandfather could not be left out of the book, so with rose-colored glasses on, he wrote: "One of her grandfathers occupied the chair of applied electricity in one of America's best-known institutions. He was very much attached to his position, and literally died in harness."

We all are tempted to put the best possible spin on things related to us, but Solomon teaches us that sincerity—genuineness, all the way down—is important. God knows what we are like on the inside, and people will find out. These verses in Proverbs show us that God sees below the surface, that he sees through feigned sacrifice, and therefore, the wise will see through duplicity. *H.O.T.C.*

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.

In a Nutshell

God wants us to be authentic, sincere, to serve him and others truthfully, and he frowns on hypocrisy and deceit We must be alert to insincerity in ourselves and others. *H.O.T.C.*

SUPPORTING IDEA: The wise person is careful to be sincere because God hates hypocrisy and deceit. And the prudent person keeps a wary eye open to detect those who would take advantage of him by false pretenses. *H.O.T.C.*

I. The Designation

Proverbs 6:12-15 A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth.

- Scoundrel is literally "man of Belial," a description of a worthless man ([1 Sam. 2:12](#); [1 Kgs. 21:10](#)).

1 Samuel 2:12 Now the sons of Eli *were* sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD.

1 Samuel 25:17 Now therefore know and consider what thou wilt do; for evil is determined against our master [Nabal], and against all his household: **for he is such a son of Belial**, that *a man* cannot speak to him.

1 Kings 21:10 [Jezebel commands] And set two men, sons of Belial, before him [Naboth], to bear witness against him, saying, Thou didst blaspheme God and the king. And *then* carry him out, and stone him, that he may die.

- The word can refer to a person's destructiveness ([Nah. 1:11, 15](#); [Ps. 18:4](#))

Nahum 1:11 There is *one* come out of thee, that imagineth evil against the LORD, a wicked counsellor.

Nahum 1:15 Behold upon the mountains the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace! O Judah, keep thy solemn feasts, perform thy vows: for the wicked shall no more pass through thee; he is utterly cut off.

Psalms 18:4 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.

- and was later used as a name for the devil ([2 Cor. 6:15](#)).

2 Corinthians 6:15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

QUOTE: What are the marks of such a man? He is known for having a corrupt or twisted mouth, full of deceptive words.

“walketh with a forward mouth”

FROWARD *iqgesuth* A feminine noun meaning perversion, deceitfulness. It is used to describe a mouth that speaks without integrity, that does not speak truth but rather

deception and immorality; a mark of an evil, worthless person ([Prov. 4:24](#); [6:12](#)). *AMG Complete Word Study Dictionary*

Proverbs 4:24 Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.

Proverbs 8:13 The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

Psalms 59:7 Behold, they belch out with their mouth: swords *are* in their lips: for who, *say they*, doth hear?

Psalms 73:8-9 They are corrupt, and speak wickedly *concerning* oppression: they speak loftily. 9 They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth.

Matthew 12:34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

Acts 20:30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

II. The Deeds (6:13-14)

QUOTE: He uses his body language liberally; he winks with his eye ([Prov. 10:10](#); [16:30](#); [Ps. 35:19](#)), signals with his feet, and motions with his fingers. These gestures are probably ways to signal his fellow plotters. *HOTC*

QUOTE: Apparently this was common in the East. Fearing detection, and to hide his intention, the deceiver spoke lies to the victim while giving signals with his eyes, hands, and feet to someone else who was in on the deception to carry out the intrigue. *The MacArthur Study Bible.*

A. The Secret Signals (6:13)

ILLUS: Judas' kiss.

1. Eyes

13 He winketh with his eyes,

Proverbs 10:10 He that winketh with the eye causeth sorrow: but a prating fool shall fall.

Proverbs 16:30 He shutteth his eyes to devise froward things: moving his lips he bringeth evil to pass.

Psalms 35:19 Let not them that are mine enemies wrongfully rejoice

over me: *neither* let them wink with the eye that hate me without a cause.

2. Feet

he speaketh with his feet,

3. Fingers

he teacheth with his fingers;

B. The Secret Sin (6:14)

QUOTE: But underneath the sleight-of-hand trickery, the man of Belial has a heart bubbling with deceit. His heart is brimming with plots, even though his external actions may give no clue of the treachery under the surface. Wherever he passes, he leaves dissension in his wake, pulling other people into angry quarrels. *HOTC*

NOTE: Some of these actions are part of the seven deadly sins in the section to follow.

1. Defilement: He is Perverted

14 Frowardness *is* in his heart,

FROWARDNESS: *tapuhkah* A feminine noun meaning perversity. It is used of a generation of Israelites who deviated and distorted the Lord's ways, turning from Him ([Deut. 32:20](#)), for their true life is found in Him. It describes deceptive and corrupt speech, things that are distorted ([Prov. 2:12](#)). Evil itself features perversity, a distortion of what is straight and right ([Prov. 2:14](#)). Evil persons create perversity in their hearts ([Prov. 6:14](#)). God hates a perverted mouth, perverted speech ([Prov. 8:13](#)). A slanderer is a perverted person ([Prov. 16:28](#)). *CWSD*

Deuteronomy 32:30 How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?

Proverbs 2:12 To deliver thee from the way of the evil *man*, from the man that speaketh froward things;

Proverbs 2:14 Who rejoice to do evil, *and* delight in the frowardness of the wicked;

Proverbs 8:13 The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

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

2. His Devising: He is a Plotter

he deviseth mischief continually;

Psalms 36:4 He deviseth mischief upon his bed; he setteth himself in a way *that is* not good; he abhorreth not evil.

Micah 2:1 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.

3. Disunity: He is a Peace Breaker

he soweth discord.

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

Romans 16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

APPLY:

Proverbs 16:28-30 A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends. 29 A violent man enticeth his neighbour, and leadeth him into the way *that is* not good. 30 He shutteth his eyes to devise froward things: moving his lips he bringeth evil to pass.

III. The Discovery (6:15)

- We could label this as “his disaster.”
- The idea seems to be that, because he has a life-long track record of being shifty, it all catches up with him and he loses everything.

6:15 Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy.

QUOTE: And even though the scoundrel may seem to succeed, we may be sure that God will eventually bring disaster that strikes unexpectedly (in an instant), quickly (suddenly), and with no way to offset the loss (without remedy). Whether the verse is

speaking of natural consequences or the direct act of God in judgment, we can be sure that judgment will eventually hit the wicked. *HOTC*

Proverbs 11:6 The righteousness of the upright shall deliver them: but transgressors shall be taken in *their own* naughtiness.

Proverbs 22:8 He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity: and the rod of his anger shall fail.

Hosea 8:7 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 6:7-8 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 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.

ILLUS: David (He sinned with Bathsheba, tried to cover the pregnancy, then tried plotted to kill Uriah, but it all came home to roost). But, David is an example of a good man that messed up, and also of a sinner that knew how to respond!

QUOTE: Besides causing discord among people by his deceptive words and his sinister gestures, a scoundrel brings **disaster** on himself. It comes unexpectedly and quickly (**in an instant** and **suddenly**) with no way to offset it (**without remedy**). Whether natural consequences or more direct divine intervention is in view is not clear. But his downfall is quick, complete, and certain. *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*

CONCLUSION

Fingers On the Scales

Many years, ago on the cover of *The Saturday Evening Post*, the famous American illustrator Norman Rockwell painted a picture of an elderly lady buying a Thanksgiving turkey. The turkey was on the scales, and the butcher was standing behind the counter. The customer, a lady of about sixty, stood watching the weigh-in. The focal point of the painting is on the faces, as each has a pleased look. Nothing unusual seems to be going on.

A closer look, however, reveals the butcher pressing down on the scales with a thumb while the woman is pushing up with her finger. We smile because the little tug-of-war seems harmless on that level. We get the impression that they "break even" on the deal, and no one is out. But if we truly use that tactic to gain an advantage over another, it is a clear sin that God frowns on. Honesty is the best policy. *HOTC*

LET'S TAKE THE LESSONS HOME

- You can't fool God.

- You can't fool others for very long. Sooner or later, who you truly are will be known by everyone. It cannot be hidden because it is revealed not only by what we say and do but by what we don't say and don't do.
- Honest people must be alert to the possibility that other people may be dishonest.

ISRAEL'S SEVEN DEADLY SINS (6:16-19)

REVIEW

- I. The Four Teachings (Prov. 6:1-19)
 - A. Legal Entanglements (6:1-5)
 - B. Laziness (6:6-11)
 - C. The Conspirator (6:12-15)
 - D. Israel's Seven Deadly Sins (6:16-19)

OPEN:

QUOTE: [Verses 16-19](#) enumerate things that God hates, in a clear, numerical manner for easy memorization. The first five things mentioned in this list are body parts. These body parts are set in a sequence that moves from the head to the feet ([6:17-18](#)). These five items concern general moral characteristics: pride, dishonesty, and a violent or manipulative character. The last two are types of people that specifically belong to a court or governmental system ([6:19](#)). *Layman's Bible Commentary*

QUOTE: six... seven. The sequence of these two numbers was used both to represent totality and as a means of arresting attention (cf. [30:15, 18](#); [Job 5:19](#); [Am 1:3](#)). These 7 detestable sins provide a profound glimpse into the sinfulness of man. These verses act as a summary of the previous warnings: 1) haughty eyes ([v. 13a](#), "winks"); 2) lying tongue ([v. 12b](#), "perverse mouth"); 3) hands ([v. 13c](#), "fingers"); 4) heart ([v. 14a](#)); 5) feet ([v. 13b](#)); 6) false witness ([v. 12b](#)); and 7) strife ([v. 14c](#)). *The MacArthur Study Bible*

PULLING PROVERBS TOGETHER: Dissension and Strife (6:16-19; 17:1; 18:18-19; 26:17)
Holman Old Testament Commentary

THE FOLLOWING IS FROM MY STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE IN 2014 ENTITLED "THE STEWARDSHIP OF MY TEMPLE." REFER TO THIS AS LITTLE OR AS MUCH AS NEEDED FOR THE CLASS.

GOD CAUTIONS US AS TO THE USE OF EACH MEMBER OF OUR BODY

- First, let's look at some concentrated truth in two passages from Proverbs.

Proverbs 4:23-27 (KJV)

- 23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.
24 Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.
25 Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.
26 Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.
27 Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.

- We are to guard our HEART
- We are to guard our MOUTH
- We are to guard our EYES
- We are to guard our FEET

Proverbs 6:16-19 (KJV)

- 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.

- EYES. God hates a proud look.
- TONGUE. God hates a lying tongue.
- HANDS. God hate hands that harm the innocent.
- HEART. God hates a heart caught up in wicked imagination.
- FEET. God hates feet that are quick to run toward wrongdoing.
- MOUTH. God hates a false witness that spreads lies, and He hates someone who spreads discord and dissent among His people.

HERE ARE SOME FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE BIBLE ON THE USE OF THE PARTS OF OUR BODY.

1. **Our Heart/Mind (Prov. 28:26; Jer. 17:9; Ps. 139:23-24; Mt. 12:35)**

Proverbs 28:26 He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Psalms 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: 24 And see if *there be any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Matthew 12:35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

Cf. also, Proverbs 23:19; 29:11

2. **Our Mouth/Tongue/Lips (Jn. 8:44; Eph. 4:25, 29, 30-31; Jam. 1:26)**

John 8:44 Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

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

Ephesians 4:29 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.

Ephesians 4:30-31 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:

James 1:26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridled not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion *is* vain.

Cf. Also, Proverbs 8:8; 12:22; Ps. 120:2

3. **Our Eyes (Ps. 101:3A, 5; Mt. 6:22)**

Psalm 101:3A I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes.

Psalm 101:5 Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer.

Matthew 6:22 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

Cf. also, Job 31:1; Proverbs 30:13; Psalm 119:37

4. **Our Feet (Josh. 1:7; Ps. 1:1; 40:2; Hag. 1:5; Eph. 5:15; 2 Thess. 3:3)**

Joshua 1:7 Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it *to* the right hand or *to* the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

Psalm 1:1 Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

Psalm 40:2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, *and* established my goings.

Haggai 1:5 Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.

Ephesians 5:15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

2 Thessalonians 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep *you* from evil.

Cf., Psalm 119:59

5. **Our Hands (Gen. 3:22; Ps. 47:1; Prov. 31:19-20; Isaiah 1:15; Jn. 19:3; 1 Thess. 4:11)**

Genesis 3:22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

Psalm 47:1 O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.

Proverbs 31:19-20 She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. 20 She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.

Isaiah 1:15 And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

John 19:3 And said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote him with their hands.

1 Thessalonians 4:11 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

Cf. Isa. 59:3-6

THE FOLLOWING IS COMMENTARY FROM DR. JOHN PHILLIPS IN HIS COMMENTARY ON PROVERBS (MOODY PRESS). I MAY CHOOSE TO MERGE THESE NOTES WITH THOSE ABOVE.

I. An Evaluation: The Lord's View of Wickedness (6:16)

Proverbs 6:16 (KJV) These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him:

Solomon shifted the focus of his attention. He still had more to say about the criminal but he wanted to say it with special reference to the Creator. God's absolute morality places Him unswervingly on the side of right and against all wrong.

The fact that we do not always see God's hand visibly at work redressing wrongs on earth does not mean for a moment that He does not care. He cares much more than we do. Nor does it mean that He does not act. He acts decisively, but other factors enter into the equation: His compassion, His patience, His infinite grace, His wisdom, and the prayers of His people.

A preacher friend of mine was once confronted by a distraught parent who was angry against God because his only son had been tragically killed. "Where was God when my son was killed?" the father demanded. My friend wisely replied, "Where He was when *His* Son was killed." The greatest demonstration of God's reaction to wrong, of course, is Calvary.

[Proverbs 6:16](#) gives insight into the Creator's attitude toward wickedness: "These six things doth the Lord hate; yea, seven are an abomination unto him." "Six

things... yea, seven" is an idiomatic Hebrew expression. The prophet Amos used it with great effect in his opening broadside against the sins of the nations in his line of fire ([Amos 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 13; 2:1, 4, 6](#)). The expression implies that the list is not exhaustive. The seven things listed in [Proverbs 6:17-19](#) are all characteristics of fallen Lucifer, and all of them stand in stark contrast to the characteristics of the Lord Jesus.

II. An Explanation ([6:17-19](#))

A. The Lord hates the *disdainful look*

—the "proud look" in [Proverbs 6:17](#).

We use a similar expression when we speak of a person "looking down his nose" at someone else. Pride is the father of all sin. The proud look is scornful and contemptuous, the look of a person who imagines himself to be much better than others. Satan cast his evil gaze on the throne of God and planned an even higher seat of glory for himself. The Lord Jesus looked down from His lofty throne in compassion and grace upon poor, fallen man, made of the dust of the earth.

B. The Lord also hates the *deceitful tongue*—

the "lying tongue" of [Proverbs 6:17](#).

Satan is the father of lies ([John 8:44](#)). He came into the garden of Eden to deceive. The idiom of his language is the lie. He is the author of all untruth, the ultimate source of all religious, philosophical, scientific, social, economic, and political error. The Lord Jesus is the Truth. It is impossible for Him to lie. He told the truth to Caiaphas knowing it would cost Him His life ([Matthew 26:62-66](#)). Pilate tried to fend off the growing feeling that he was the one who was really on trial by asking, "What is truth?" even while staring it in the face ([John 18:38](#)).

C. The Lord hates the *deadly hand*, the "hands that shed innocent blood"

([Proverbs 6:17](#)).

Jesus said that Satan "was a murderer from the beginning" ([John 8:44](#)). Little did Eve realize, as she listened to the serpent's buttered lies, that her firstborn son would grow up to be a murderer. Since then, rivers of blood have flowed in crimson tides. We think of gruesome murders

committed out of malice, spite, envy, and greed. We think of blood shed in atrocities, persecutions, repressions, rebellions, and holocausts. We think of blood shed in the name of war. And the end of bloodshed is not yet. John foretold that when the winepress of God's wrath is trodden without the city, blood will come out of the winepress, "even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs" ([Revelation 14:20](#)). This distance is roughly two hundred miles.

But turn your eyes from the murderer's hands and look at the hands of Jesus. They were placed in blessing on the heads of little children. Those hands gave sight to the blind. At their touch leprosy fled and the dead arose. His hands fed the hungry multitude, restored the severed ear of Malchus, and provided the precious blood that cancels all our sin. His hands still bear the imprint of the Roman nails.

- D. **According to [Proverbs 6:18](#) the Lord also hates the *depraved heart*,**
the "heart that deviseth wicked imaginations."

Adam lived long enough to see what sin had done to his ruined race, to realize that as far as man was concerned, "every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" ([Genesis 6:5](#)). Adam lived for 930 years, long enough to see wickedness take deep root on earth, long enough to see the sinful trend that would take hold of his posterity and end in the flood.

How Satan gloats over the depravity of man. The depraved heart is seen today, for example, in people who publish, peddle, and purchase pornography. They are an abomination in the sight of God. In contrast to the condition of their hearts, the heart of the Lord Jesus is pure, holy, and undefiled ([Hebrews 7:26](#)). He "knew no sin" ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#)).

- E. **Then too the Lord hates the *delinquent foot*.**

"Feet that be swift in running to mischief" are an abomination to Him ([Proverbs 6:18](#)).

Satan ran swiftly to cause trouble for Job. When Satan appeared before the living God to give an account of himself, the Lord asked, "Whence comest thou?" Satan replied, "From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it" ([Job 1:7](#)). Clearly he was up to no good.

Asked if he had taken note of Job and his integrity and piety, Satan immediately slandered him. Given permission to destroy Job's wealth, Satan wasted no time.

A sequence of disasters befell Job with lightning speed. A messenger came with the news of the theft of Job's oxen and asses and the murder of his herdsmen. "While he was yet speaking" another messenger came with the news of the destruction of Job's sheep and servants ([Job 1:16](#)). "While he [the second messenger] was yet speaking" another came with the news of the loss of Job's camel caravans and the slaughter of their keepers ([1:17](#)). "While he was yet speaking" another came with news of the death of all Job's children ([1:18-19](#)). Each disaster followed hard on the heels of the previous one. Satan's feet were truly swift in running to mischief.

In contrast, the feet of the Lord Jesus always brought Him swiftly to where He could help and heal. Back and forth He went—north and south, east and west—always seeking out the diseased, the downtrodden, and the distressed. He was never in a hurry, yet He was never too late or too soon.

F. The Lord also hates the *dishonest witness*,

the "false witness that speaketh lies" ([Proverbs 6:19](#)).

In contrast to the dishonest witness, the Holy Spirit says of Jesus that He is "the faithful witness" ([Revelation 1:5](#)).

Satan tried to use false witnesses to secure the death of Christ. The wretched men who ran the religious affairs of Israel were his dupes. They knew they could get nothing on Jesus. Any honest witness would tell of His feeding the five thousand with a little lad's lunch, of His ridding the Gadarene demoniac of a legion of evil spirits, of His healing of people by the thousand, and of His raising of the dead—Jairus's daughter, the son of the widow of Nain, and Lazarus. Blind Bartimaeus would tell of receiving his sight, Zaccheus of being made good, the woman at the well of being made pure, and Malchus of being healed within that very hour. The religious leaders were not interested in honest witnesses. They wanted false witnesses who would distort Jesus' words, take them out of context, and give them a sinister twist. [Matthew 26:60](#) says, "Many false witnesses came." Two were willing to twist Christ's teaching concerning

the temple. But even that charge was inadequate, and the priests decided to force Him to confess His deity publicly so they could use that claim against Him.

G. Finally the Lord hates the *deliberate meddler*,

the one who "soweth discord among brethren" ([Proverbs 6:19](#)).

Satan the meddler stirred up Cain against Abel, Ishmael against Isaac, Esau against Jacob, and the sons of Jacob against Joseph. Jesus, on the other hand, is the healer of broken homes, the reconciler of estranged brethren, the Prince of Peace. He matched Peter the doer with John the dreamer; Simon the Zealot with Matthew the former traitor; down-to-earth Philip with guileless Nathanael.

CONCLUSION:

How well I recall a little fellowship of believers with whom I met in a small building on the slopes of mount Carmel to remember the Lord during my army days in Haifa. In that peaceful circle were Jews and Arabs, British and Germans, Russians and Armenians—all one in Christ. Only Christ could have made them true brothers and sisters, loved of the Lord and beloved of each other. In the world outside, Satan—the great mischief-maker—set Germany and England at war, Arab and Jew in bitter hostility, and Russians and Armenians at odds.

In secular and sacred history we can find many people who were living incarnations of these seven things the Lord hates. The one who comes most forcibly to my mind is Jezebel.

She had a *proud look*. Apparently she was a handsome woman, for she is famous for painting her face and adorning her hair. Indeed it seems she thought her looks would somehow influence the redoubtable Jehu ([2 Kings 9:30](#)). But she was sadly mistaken.

We can picture Jezebel's proud look when she asked Ahab if he was going to allow Naboth to keep his vineyard. We can see the flash in her eye as she said, "Dost thou now govern the kingdom of Israel?" ([1 Kings 21:7](#)) We can see the proud toss of her head as she said, "I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth." No stubborn citizen would stop this imperious daughter of a neighboring pagan king!

Jezebel also had a *lying tongue*—or what amounted to the same thing: she forged letters. "She wrote letters in Ahab's name," the historian said ([1 Kings 21:8](#)). Lies were a useful instrument of statecraft in Jezebel's reign.

Jezebel's *hands shed innocent blood*. They were dyed crimson. She "cut off the prophets of the Lord" ([1 Kings 18:4](#)) and would have murdered Elijah if she could have laid hands on him ([19:1-2](#)). Indeed her name is linked with the first recorded use of civil power in Israel against the true faith.

Jezebel's *heart devised wicked imaginations*. Her evil heart gave Israel over to an immoral idolatry far worse than the idolatry of Jeroboam ([1 Kings 16:30-33](#)). She was a devotee of the Phoenician goddess Astarte. And Jezebel's evil heart planned the murder of Naboth.

Jezebel's *feet were swift in running to mischief*. The awful relentless plan and purpose of Jezebel is underlined in the polysyndeton that carries on the story of Naboth: "And she wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people: *And set two men, sons of Belial, before him, to bear witness against him.... And then carry him out, and stone him, that he may die*" ([1 Kings 21:9-10](#), italics added).

Jezebel demanded *that false witnesses* be used to doom poor Naboth. They were to accuse him of blaspheming God and the king ([21:10,13](#)).

To complete the picture of Jezebel, we note that she *sowed discord* in the land. When her son Joram hoped to come to some kind of terms with Jehu, Joram said, "Is it peace, Jehu?" Jehu answered, "What peace, so long as the whoredoms of thy mother Jezebel and her witchcrafts are so many?" ([2 Kings 9:22](#)) It is no wonder that many centuries later when exposing the spiritual degeneracy of the church at Thyatira, the Lord referred to "that woman Jezebel" ([Revelation 2:20](#)). The behavior of that church was reminiscent of wicked Jezebel who embodied the things the Lord hates.

John Phillips Commentary Series, The - The John Phillips Commentary Series – *Exploring Proverbs*, Volume One: An Expository Commentary.