

Opening: Today, we will continue to grow in wisdom for our work ethic and in understanding 7 things that God detests so we will stay away from them and walk in His will for our lives.

Key Verse: Colossians 3:22-24 Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, work at it with your whole being, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

1. Wisdom honors those who work hard

- a. **Proverbs 6: 9-11** **9**How long will you lie there, O slacker? When will you get up from your sleep? **10** **A little** sleep, a little slumber, **a little** folding of the hands to rest, **11**and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and need like a bandit.
 - i. Bad decisions lead to bad habits that can devastate the trajectory of a life.
 - ii. Be careful we don't start off well and then become comfortable and coast downward. A little laziness can go a lot farther than it appears when compounded over time.
 - iii. Wisdom calls the Christian to work hard and to prosper because of it.
 - iv. **Proverbs 12:11** The one who works his land will have plenty of food, but whoever chases fantasies lacks judgment.
 - 1. Each of us was called to inherit a land of work that brings prosperity. While not all of us own land, there is a place in this earth where your hard work will produce prosperity for you. The bible encourages entrepreneurship and becoming your own boss where your labor succeeds for your family.
- b. How is your work ethic? Would your managers say you are the best worker they have ever had?
 - i. Wisdom will make you the best employee your company has ever had, so good they will have to promote you to upper management where you can truly prosper and shine for God.
 - ii. **Proverbs 18:16** A person's gift **makes room for him** and brings him before **great people**.
 - iii. **You may lack motivation for work because you are not doing what you were created for.**
 - iv. **Life Lesson: A person who does what they love for employment really doesn't work a day in their life.**
 - 1. We are not bound by this present world to just aimlessly endure our work. The gift of God is that we have been empowered to serve Him. Call upon the Lord for your work to become a joy to you instead of a burden you are enduring.

2. Wisdom tells us the seven hated abominations of the Lord Proverbs 6:17-18

- a. Satan is the author of all of these abominations. God hates this behavior and will bring his justice swiftly upon those who work wickedness.
- b. **Haughty eyes**
 - i. Haughty eyes are the result of a heart that is full of pride, looking down upon others around them, elevating themselves above others not because of righteousness but because of too high of an opinion of themselves.
 - ii. **Romans 12:16** Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!
- c. **A lying tongue**
 - i. While each of us is tempted to embellish the truth or omit information for our own benefit a lying tongue, devises ways to overcome what is good by a lie. Remember that God hates a lying tongue and will oppose those who boldly lie to commit sin and evil.
 - ii. **Key Point:** Each of these abominations is opposed and fought against by heaven. The one who lives by any of these becomes the enemy of God and their life will be hard because they will be fighting against God who hinders wicked behavior in the earth.
- d. **hands that shed innocent blood**
 - i. Have you ever been vexed when you hear of a brutal murder of an innocent young person while they are out for a walk, or an elderly person who is attacked and succumbs to their injuries? Both of these examples have recently been in the news and those who committed the atrocities did not receive earthly justice in the proportion they deserved.
 - ii. God hates those who kill the innocent and His servants also hate the same and will work to bring justice for the innocent who suffer at the hands of criminals. Never stand with anyone who endorses the shedding of innocent blood because God will bring justice for those who did wickedly.

iii. **Life Lesson:** God's grace belongs to those who humble themselves and receive his mercy, but to those who do evil, they should be terrified because God's justice requires every wrong to be repaid. Without Christ man has no standing in the courts of heaven and will receive the full penalty of every act of wickedness they have ever done.

e. **a heart that devises wicked schemes**

- i. To the ring leader of organized crime, God says it is an abominable person, and God hates what they do. These people use devious schemes to overcome laws, righteous leadership and to allow corruption to prosper. A wicked scheme is misleading, deceptive and full of lies to appear good but is meant for evil.
- ii. **Mark 13:4** "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?" Jesus began by telling them, "See to it that no one deceives you.

f. **feet that are quick to rush into evil**

- i. **A person without sense riots in the streets and causes damage and loss to others to prove there point.** Those who jump into the fray to prove a point are without good sense.
- ii. **"You wanna be tough better do what you can so beat it, but you wanna be bad, just beat it"** Michael Jackson
- iii. Getting involved in public fights doesn't benefit anyone. Youth who try and be the tough guy at school are only causing harm.
 1. Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." **Matthew 5:9**
- iv. Never encourage or be part of a group of hazers, ganging up on a persona God says He hates that behavior and those who do so will have God to deal with.
- v. Today we see so much fake anger, paid for agitators, everything is done for a video clip or a picture, but in the end real people's lives suffer needlessly.
 1. Satan loves to stir up a frenzy, to divide people needlessly and to cause destruction. Each Christian must patient since it is the tendency of our emotional feet that want to rush into the offense of another.

g. **A false witness who gives false testimony**

- i. This is a person who lies concerning another person. They distort facts concerning another person. The other person is innocent, but this person wants vengeance or to gain the upper hand and they must **lie to do it.**
- ii. The motive of this person is always hidden, and they do not share their true intentions for lying. Our legal system is supposed to severely deal with those who lie under oath.
- iii. How do you know a society is going the wrong way? When a lie is exposed and yet no justice is done due to bribes. God will still bring justice but the society that operates that way will not be blessed by God.
- iv. **Proverbs 19:9** "A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who breathes **out lies will not escape.**"

h. **One who stirs up discord among brothers.**

- i. **Discord defined:** In the Bible, discord means strife, contention, and a lack of harmony, especially among believers.
- ii. **The Bible uses the Hebrew word** medan meaning one who stirs up a contest, quarrel
 1. Medan occurs when someone has a desire for a future that is not shared by someone else.
 2. Medan is the result of a usurper with an agenda.
 3. God hates the actions of one who stirs up a contest or quarrels intentionally to gain their own agenda.
 4. There is a conflict that is unavoidable and can be resolved through communication, then there is a conflict that is pursued for an agenda, the conflict doesn't end until the person pushing it is removed.
 - a. Sometimes you have to make the hard decision to remove yourself from the conflict.
- iii. Overcoming discord in your life is a choice. As much as it is with you, live at peace with all people. If you are experiencing conflict today ask yourself the following questions honestly.
 1. **Did I cause this conflict?**
 2. **Did I inherit this conflict?**
 3. **Was this conflict unavoidable?**
 4. **Is this discord of human or demonic origin?**
 5. **What do I need to do to end this conflict?**
 6. **Do I have God's support in how I am handling this conflict?**

Conclusion: Wisdom allows us to see people for who they are even if they pretend to be someone else. Wisdom will allow you to fulfill God's purposes in your life no matter the obstacles that are sometimes arrayed against you.