



Sermon – June 3, 2018

Verses Covered

Proverbs 6:12 – 19

Jeremiah 29:10 - 12

Ephesians 2:6 - 7

So we have arrived at the sixth chapter of Proverbs. We looked last week at the fact that we need to earn our money and make sure nothing is in control of it except us and Jesus Christ. And then we come today to kind of a unique passage. It's going to be strong. We're going to look at verse 12 through 19. Now listen to what it says and then we'll come back, obviously, and work through it. He says:

¹²A worthless person, a wicked man, goes about with crooked speech, ¹³he winks with his eyes, he signals with his feet, he points with his finger; ¹⁴with perverted heart devises evil continually sowing discord. ¹⁵Therefore calamity will come upon him suddenly; and in a moment he will be broken beyond healing. ¹⁶There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to Him:

Now he's going to list those seven things. Now I want to share a couple things before we get into the text. When children come into my office on Wednesday morning and we walk through what it is to come to Christ, I have a set kind of routine of questions that I walk them through. One of the questions is, "Have you, do you know what sin is?" Next one is, "Have you sinned?" I had a little seven-year-old guy in the other day. I came to that point and I said, "Have you sinned?" And he went, "A whole lot." So I don't know if he's dealing drugs. I don't know if he's stealing cats and selling them on the black market. I don't know what he's doing. But apparently it's pretty bad. And then I always ask them two follow-up questions. I say, "Does God like your sin?" Never had a kid say, "Yes, He does." And then I ask a second question, "Does He like you?" I have never had a child look at me and say, "No." Every time I deal with a child and I say, "Have you sinned?" "Yes." "Does He like your sin?" "No." "Does He like you?" "Yes." I have never had a kid struggle with that. But somehow when we get to be adults, we struggle with that. He's going to say there are seven things the Lord hates, that are an abomination to Him. Things. Not you. If you engage in these activities, He hates the engagement of the activity. He does not hate you. I don't know how we get to the point where, as parents and as adults, we struggle with that concept. But the fact is, that He does not hate you ever. We just sang about the beauty of the name of Jesus. The fact that He died on the cross. So understand He does not hate you. So even though the

strength of that is an abomination, He hates, He hates the action, not the person performing the action.

Now one other thing before we get into the text. When God lists these things, they're not arbitrary. He doesn't sit up there and think, "You know, I think today I'll just be mad about this." They are things that He despises because they violate His character. They are not what He would do if He were in human form. As a matter of fact, we're going to see that, particularly a couple of them in the life of Jesus. So it's not these arbitrary rules. It's a reflection of His character. That He wants us, who are in His image, to best reflect that and to show off His glory. And we can't do that when we're stepping away with His design. So these are things that are against His design for us and His character in Himself. So they're not arbitrary rules. They're not Baptist rules. So listen. We're going to walk through them real quickly and then I want to come back and tell you why they're critical. Now listen to what he says. Six things the Lord hates; seven that are an abomination. One: haughty eyes. He hates the idea that any of us think we're better than someone else. As a matter of fact, if you think about it, Jesus is the one guy that had the right to haughty eyes. He was better than everybody else. He didn't have any sin. That's the problem. That's why we are level. Because every one of us sin. I don't care what your sin is, but every one of us sins. So we're on level ground at the foot of the cross. When you get to the ground at the foot of the cross, it's not elevated. It's flat. All of us stand in the same spot. Not Jesus. He never sinned so as a man He was perfect and then innately, He's God. He beats us on all counts. He had the right to be arrogant. He had the right to be haughty. He had the right to think He was better than everybody else. And yet, amazingly, He does not exercise it. He goes into Jericho. There's Zacchaeus. Everybody in the town hates him, and rightfully so. Because what a tax collector did in that day; Rome made a deal, they would find a countryman and they would pull you out and say, "Look, here's the percentage that we're going to take. You get whatever you can beyond that and it's yours and we will back you." So Zacchaeus has been ripping his people off for years. He made a ton of money. He's wealthy. But he hears about Jesus, climbs up in the tree, and Jesus comes into town. Everybody hates him. Jesus steps into town, having every right to look at him and say, "You know, you are a sorry piece of dirt. I can't believe you're even looking at me. Get away from me. I'm way better than you." And yet He looks up at him and he basically says, "Hey," I love the King James, "Hasten on down." And the Bible, the King James, says, "He hastened down." He said, "Come on down. We're going to lunch at your house." Nobody had been at lunch at his house because they all thought they were better than he was. Jesus, who was better than he was, had lunch at his house because He didn't live out that spirit. So if God doesn't do that when He's in the flesh, then you and I have no right to think we're better than anybody else. So there's the first thing.

Here's the second thing. Look at what he says: a lying tongue. Great thing you know about Jesus and the reason you don't lie is because He didn't lie. When He's standing there and the thief on the cross is dying and he's at the end of his life and he realizes Jesus is not who he thought he was at the first, and he looks over at Jesus and says, "Lord remember me when you come in Your kingdom." And Jesus says, "Today you'll be with me in paradise." That word was an absolute truth and he stands in heaven with Jesus today. It's a great truth and that's why you and I don't have a lying tongue because Jesus didn't have a lying tongue. And I'm telling you, that's the best thing to know that when I read this book I can be sure of what it says. So you're not allowed to lie because He doesn't lie.

Hands that shed innocent blood. You don't shed innocent blood. Now there's a lot of stuff. I hate to walk through this, almost digressing from the text, but I really think we've got to look at this. Police and military don't shed innocent blood. Now maybe there's some bad military people; some bad policemen, bad preachers, bad lawyers. I get all that. But let me just put this in my own perspective here. Police officer stops you and you've got a hand on the steering wheel and you've got a hand down here and he says, "Please put both hands on the wheel." And you refuse to do that, you are no longer innocent. So let's just be clear. Military; guy has to do what he has to do to protect people, then you're not innocent. You say, "Well what if a guy breaks into your house, preacher?" Well here's my rule. If we hear him break in the house, we're going to lock the door, my wife and I are. We're going to call 911 and he can take anything he wants because if insurance pays off, I get better stuff anyway. So I'm totally good. As a matter of fact, if he'll let me, I'll help him carry the TV out to the car. Because I want a 4K and I'll get a 4K for free. "Allstate. Yeah we were robbed. Here's what I want." So I'm good. But if he tries to come in the bedroom where my wife is, then he's no longer innocent. I'm not taking a man's life over furniture, but I will take a man's life over my family. And he's lost his innocence. Now so there are people that are not innocent who's blood is shed by military, by police. Sometimes from those within our homes. But we all know when you're in the womb, you're innocent. And I don't care what the Supreme Court says, God despises the taking of innocent blood. Now let's be clear, OK. He doesn't despise the person doing it. That's not what it says. He hates the act. Why? Because every single person's born in the image of God. And you and I have no right to take what God's purpose is for another life and snuff it out. So He doesn't like hands that shed innocent blood.

A heart that devices wicked plans. There are two ways to sin. One is you just stumble into. You're walking along and you're not paying attention and the next thing you know you fall into it. And then there are some of us; we plot it. If you want to know the difference between Judas and Peter, besides repentance and remorse, that's the difference. Peter stumbled into it. You say, "Well Jesus told him he would." Yeah, but Peter told Him he wouldn't. Jesus said, "You're going to deny me." And Peter said, "No I'm not. I'm not going to deny You. I don't care what You say. I'm standing firm." And listen, Peter did that. When that mob comes and Judas kisses Him and Peter takes the sword out and he whacks the guy's ear off and he stands there, because he was aiming for the head and missed, but he gets, Jesus picks it up, puts it back on him, He tells Peter to stop it. Peter stood his ground. He didn't deny Him. He didn't fail Him until everybody's gone. And as the demons coalesced in the area, now he faces a spiritual battle, not a physical battle. And he fails miserably. Not because he plotted it. Not because he planned it. Not because he devised it. He fell into it. Not Judas. Tuesday night before the Friday of the crucifixion, Judas is in a room and Mary comes in and anoints Jesus with about \$60 to \$80 thousand dollars of perfume and Judas rebukes Jesus and Jesus rebukes Judas. He says, "You have the poor with you all the time. This is one time she can do something for Me and she's anointing Me for My burial." So Judas leaves that night. He goes to the Sanhedrin. He devises wicked plans. He goes to him and says, "Look I'll find Him when you can get Him." They pay him 30 pieces of silver. He cuts the deal and sure enough, he waits and waits. And that night at the table Jesus said, "What you have to do, do quickly." He leaves, he goes back, he comes back in. Peter's embarrassed over his denial. Judas walks right up to Jesus, grabs Him, and kisses Him on the cheek. He devised his evil; not Peter. There's a distinction between those two. It's not that it's OK to fall accidentally, but He really despises somebody, not somebody, but despises the activity of planning it. I knew a counselor

who had a couple in his office. And they were just weeping. This guy had been caught breaking the marriage vows. And he was so grieved and she was grieved. They were praying together and they were going to make it work and he wasn't going to do it again and all that kind of stuff. And the counselor thought, "Man this is great. I mean there's repentance here." They learned later that while this guy's sitting in there weeping, that inside his coat pocket is a ticket, airplane ticket, that he's telling his wife he's going out of town, and he's going to see this lady. That is the devising of wicked plans. There are two ways to sin. You don't think it's happening and you stumble and fall and then there are times you flat plot it. You get bitter, you hate somebody, you can't wait to get them back. Listen, He despises people that devise sin in their life. He doesn't despise people; He despises that activity.

Feet that make haste to run to evil. He despises it when you chase the things that will wreck your life. Let me, stay in Proverbs, but the scripture talks about the fact, and I realize that this has application to Israel, but it slides over to us. Listen to this.

¹⁰"For thus says the Lord, 'When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and I will fulfill to you My promise and bring you back to this place. ¹¹I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare, not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹²Then you will call on me and come and pray to me."

I hate the feet that make haste to run to evil which is exactly the opposite of what God plans for us. What He hates is when we chase something that's going to undo God's plan for our life. John 2. Jesus comes into the temple. He throws them out, right. He calls the moneychangers, says, "This is My Father's house. You've made it a den of thieves." He chases them out because they're chasing money instead of the Father. John 3. Nicodemus shows up in the middle of the night, tries to con stuff. Jesus won't buy it. He said, "You've got to be born again." He says, "What do you mean?" He explains it to him. He says, "You're a teacher and don't get this." Nicodemus is chasing righteousness with his effort when Jesus says, "You can't chase, by your effort, holiness. You've got to have something I declare about you through my cross." John 4. You've got a woman who meets Jesus at the well. Jesus says, "I'm thirsty. Give me something to drink." They get into dialog. Finally, Jesus says, "You know, if you drink what I have for you, you'll never thirst again." She talks to Him a little bit and finally He says, "Listen bring your husband." She says, "Well I don't have a husband." He said, "You're right. You've had five husbands and the man you're living with now is not your husband." You're chasing men to do something only my Father can do for you. So he hates the idea that we chase the things that wreck us.

A false witness who brings out lies. Why is that? Because God never says anything about you or anybody else that isn't true. So we don't do that. A lot of us in the convention this last two weeks have been embroiled in a mess at my seminary. Had to fire the president for some activity that was just, I don't know that repulsive is a strong enough word. But in the course of that, I was on Twitter, everybody's going nuts. And I pull up this tweet by some lady I don't know and in the tweet she says, "You know the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention years ago, the SNAP people came, which were people, it was an organization designed to stop clergy abuse, and they came to the Executive Committee. And then she said, "And the Executive Committee derided them and would not do what they asked to do. Because the Executive Committee did not care about clergy abuse." She made one false mistake. I was on that committee.

As a matter of fact, I chaired that committee. So I sent out a tweet and said, “You know, number one, we didn’t deride them because we did everything we could to make them feel at home with us. But the reason we couldn’t do what they asked is because what we are as Baptists. Methodists, Presbyterian, they’re controlled from a group from the top. They’re controlled top down. Catholics, Episcopalians are controlled by one person, top down. Now Baptists. In Baptist life, every church is autonomous. We’re not controlled by anybody in the convention. So we couldn’t do what they were asking. So I laid both those out and that’s exactly what’s going on. You read Twitter today, you read Facebook, I don’t know how many lies I read about different people. God despises the idea that as a false witness who brings out lies. Why? Because He would never do that. He never lies about who we are and what we are.

And then, last thing, one who sows discord among brothers. You know it’s tough. Jesus made a statement. He said, “I didn’t come to bring peace.” He said, “I came to bring a sword. I came to set a man at odds within his own family. A son against a father. A daughter against her mother. Brother against sister.” He said, “I’ve come to set that sword.” And He’s right. If you’re the only one in your family that stands for Jesus Christ and stands well, you’re going to be at odds. So one of the reasons you have a church is so you can have a safe place to go to when your family despises you. So whenever any of us sows discord among the church so that this is no longer a safe place to be, we have absolutely left scriptural directives. And I’m telling you, I am weary with, look, all I know is Baptists. OK. Never been Methodist. Never been Presbyterian. I just know Baptists. We are nuts. When we hear the joke, two Baptists, three opinions. That’s pretty much correct. And I’ve known Baptist churches. I know one, this is absolutely true, got both hands on the Bible, they split. The congregation split because the water fountain was put on that side of the hall instead of this side of the hall. So I don’t think God thinks that’s funny. And I think anything that sows discord among those of us who need each other because outside, particularly now they’re beginning to disavow who we are, if there’s ever been a time we make sure we don’t sow discord among each other, it’s today. Because we need each other in this building.

So seven things, right. He lays them out. Now, accept for the murder thing, those are not Baptist sins, man. Nothing about dancing in there. Those are not our normal Baptist sins. Nothing about being drunk. Nothing about molestation. Nothing in there that’s normal our Baptist bad things. So why are they so bad? Why does God struggle with those activities? Why does He do that? Now I’m going to close and tell you two things, OK. The first reason He struggles with that, He made you and me as the top of the line of the created order. Bible says at the end of time; we will rule on thrones with Him. We’re the only beings said to be in His image. No angels are called that. No cherub. No seraph. The four living beings in Revelation are not called that. Nothing that He’s ever created is in His image except us. Which means we bear the brunt of delivering the fullest beauty of His glory than any other creation in the world or actually in the entire universe. I want to read you; listen to the second chapter of Ephesians. Listen to what he says.

[⁶He raised us up, sat us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that, now listen to this, in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.](#)

We are what He will use in eternity to show off who He is. And so right now He wants to show off who He is and that doesn’t occur when these seven things are violated in my life. Not to be

perfect, but there's to be a consistency of direction in my life where I reflect His glory as best I can. Number one, to honor Him, but number two because of the people outside these walls. Now let's just put this on the table. OK. If the Bible's true, it says, here's the basic deal, there's a Creator. Created people in His image that spit on Him. But He figured out a way, knew it before time, to redeem them, and He put His Son on a cross, and His Son shed His blood, absolutely perfect, and that bloodshed is the ransom payment for that spitting. And if I believe in that ransom payment and what the Holy Spirit tells me about that, I can be saved and redeemed. And my blood becomes innocent. Now that's what the Bible says and that the terror and the blessing is that if you're born in the image of God, you're eternal. When you die it's either eternal away from God or eternal in God. There's nothing in between. There's no purgatory. And both these are eternal. Now I know that because it's in here. But here's the problem. I don't think you see many people that don't believe in Jesus going to Lifeway and buying a Bible. People outside these walls don't buy Bibles. We buy Bibles. And here's the problem. The only way you can know about what I just told you is inside this book that they don't buy and they don't read and they don't look at. They read Baldacci and Lee Child and John Grisham. They do not read this book. They don't buy this book. They don't go to Lifeway. So since what's in this book is critical to their destiny, you are their Bible. You're the only thing they're ever going to read about Jesus. So you have to live a life that is consistently in a direction toward Christ and show off enough glory of God that at some point they look at you and they hear you talk about Jesus and they look at you and go, "Listen, I do see a change in you. You talk about Jesus. What in the world has happened to you?" And there's your chance to say, "Let me tell you what the Bible says." You are their Bible. So it's imperative that we live in a way that they know the truth about our King. Because they're going to read that. They don't have this. They're going to read that in us.

Let's pray.

Father drive that truth home to us. Your word is, at times, actually every time, it's penetrating, it's difficult, it's hard. And yet, Father, it always winds up cathartic. It always honors and blesses who we are. Half those commands here are for our protection. And Father we want to be a church that shows off who you are in every single thing we do. Honor us in that. Let us protect each other. Tell the truth about each other. We're not better than each other. And Father let us live in a way that we're a real clear Bible to those out in that world. Thank You for what You've done in us and now we ask You to do something through us. In Jesus Christ name.