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AN OUTREACH OF RICHARD HUGHES MINISTRIES, INC.

THE PEN OF A READY WRITER

...I SPEAK OF THE THINGS WHICH I HAVE MADE TOUCHING THE KING:
MY TONGUE IS THE PEN OF A READY WRITER (PSALM 45:1).

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Seven Things are an Abomination to God

These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: a proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood; an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren (Proverbs 6:16-19).

A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit (Proverbs 29:23). Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall (Proverbs 16:18). Cain is the first example of pride in Scripture (pride among men).

I say that because Cain walked away from God. Adam and Eve humbled their hearts and became obedient to the Lord and the offering he showed them. Abel followed in their steps, bringing to God of the firstlings of the flock. Cain had his own idea: he brought of the fruit of the ground (Genesis 4:3).

When God showed no respect unto Cain and to his offering, Cain became very wroth, and his countenance fell (Genesis 4:5). He had been shamed before his parents, before Abel, and before God. His pride kept Cain from doing well and being accepted of God.

Cain's pride led to contention with his brother. Pride always leads us to contention (Proverbs 13:10). Cain slew Abel. Why? Because Cain's works were evil, and his brother's righteous (1 John 3:12). Cain's works were in disobedience to God; Abel's works were in obedience to the Lord. The firstlings of the flock pointed to the Lamb of God. He takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29).

What made Cain's "works" evil? They denied God's offering and substituted man's opinion in its place. God's offering provides a covering for man's sin. Just as God made coats of skins for Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:21), he provides us "that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith" (Philippians 3:9).

This righteousness, God's righteousness, is by faith of Jesus Christ, unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God, being justified freely by God's grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus (Romans 3:22-24).

Six things God hates, yea, seven things are an abomination to him: a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaks lies, and he that sows discord among brethren (Proverbs 6:16-19).



Vickie Wilkerson
Hughes

Finding Real Joy in Christ!

My daughter-in-law and I were talking the other day about how little time we have with our children. They are only on loan from God for a very short time. Before you know it, they are going away to college. I remember when both my boys left home. I did not want either one of them to go far away. One went to Northland in Dunbar, Wisconsin. The other to Sacramento, California. Those times were

hard. They were stepping out on their own. My prayer for them was that the Lord would go with them and help them to remember the things that we had tried to instill in them from God's Word. Our children are now raising their children and facing trials of their own.

I want to increase my prayer life, and the time I spend with the Lord in daily Bible reading. I want to spend time with my grandchildren because they mean the world to me (and I love spending time with them)!

My daily prayer is that God will protect them from this world and draw them to him. I want each of them to know the joy that I have found in His salvation!

THE IMPERATIVE MUST IN JOHN

The word, "must," appears in nine verses in John's Gospel: 3:7, 3:14, 3:30, 4:4, 4:24, 9:4, 10:16, 12:34 and 20:9. Three occur in the third chapter. (1.) Jesus declares to Nicodemus: *Ye must be born again.* (2.) The Lord follows that "must" with this: *As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up.*

The absolute need for man to be delivered from Hell and the eternal Lake of Fire is known to God, whether men scoff at their condemnation or have the courage to confess their sinfulness. Yet, our need of forgiveness required God the Father to give His Son and the Lord Jesus Christ to die in our stead.

All who come to the Lord by faith understand the price Jesus paid. Like John the Baptist, they know Christ died for them. (3.) And, with John, they echo the words: *He must increase, but I must decrease.*

In order for the Lord to increase in our lives, we must decrease. Our wants, our desires, our attitudes – we let too many things get in the way of our prayer time, Bible reading, church attendance and soul-witnessing. Will you decrease that He can increase?

HEED the SIGNS

The youth pastor had picked up part of his Sunday School bus-route when they came across a major problem.

Needing to warn any who might come that way, they thought of the signs still on the bus from their street-preaching last week.

One read simply, STOP! Two others, THE END IS NEAR! and TURN AROUND!

They had just finished placing the signs when a convertible slowed down as it passed by. The driver waved an arm at them and yelled, "Idiots!"

They watched him round the curve at a good clip. Then, they heard what they feared: the screeching of tires, followed by a big splash.

"We need a new sign," one of the teens said.

"Yes," the youth pastor replied, "One that says: BRIDGE OUT!"