

WHAT GOD HATES

Friday, January 23

Reading: Proverbs 15

Proverbs 15:3 *The eyes of the LORD are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.*

The proverbs present wisdom for daily living. They are how things normally work, allowing for some exceptions. Though “the fear of the Lord” is the key to this book, the mentions of God are often limited. That is why it is important to notice each time God is brought into the picture. The mentions of God have been building since chapter 14 and will crescendo in the first part of chapter 16. In this chapter we get a glimpse of who God is and what He expects from those who walk in the fear of the Lord.

GOD IS IN CONTROL (15:3, 11) – Sometimes we think that evil is out of control in our world and wonder if God even notices. These verses remind us that God sees all and knows all (15:3) and the human heart is an open book before Him (15:11). God’s sovereignty will be expressed further in chapter 16. The impact God should have on our hearts will be discussed in tomorrow’s devotions.

GOD HATES OUTWARD SHOW WITHOUT INWARD DEVOTION (15:8-9) – This chapter uses the word “detests” several times. As discussed before, this is a very strong Hebrew word meaning offensive and loathsome – an abomination. A person may outwardly be worshipping and sacrificing while their heart is far from Him. People may be impressed by our outward actions, but not God. The prayers of the righteous may go unnoticed, but they are what bring pleasure to God. It is not conforming to visible actions but our way of life springing from the heart that pleases God.

GOD HATES THE PROUD BUT EXALTS THE HUMBLE (15:25-27, 33) – Here is a picture of wicked people who think only of themselves. They exalt themselves and are greedy to advance only themselves. This is shown by their attempts to steal the property of helpless widows. Each family in Israel was given their assigned piece of property (boundary stones) in the Promised Land that was passed down from generation to generation. The wicked plan to advance themselves through greed and bribes that would leave the widow destitute. This will ultimately “bring ruin to their households” as God promises to defend the cause of the helpless. Those who are gracious, who live in the fear of the Lord, and seek honor from Him will humbly follow His lead. “‘God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.’ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time” (1 Peter 5:5-6).

GOD IS NEAR (15:29) – God is “far from the wicked” because they have chosen to be far from Him. They refuse to live according to His wisdom and do the things that He hates instead. They miss out on the blessings of God’s presence and His help in times of need. However, God hears the prayer of those who are right with Him. He is near to answer and provide for their needs. “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you” (James 4:8). “Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need” (Hebrews 4:16).