

## “AN ABOMINATION TO GOD”

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On one occasion when Jesus was warning His disciples about the perils of riches and materialism, the money-loving Pharisees heard His teaching and ridiculed Him.

AND HE SAID UNTO THEM. YE ARE THEY THAT JUSTIFY YOURSELVES BEFORE MEN; BUT GOD KNOWETH YOUR HEARTS: FOR THAT WHICH IS HIGHLY ESTEEMED AMONG MEN IS ABOMINATION IN THE SIGHT OF GOD” (**Luke 16:15**).

It is obvious that the Lord referred to their love of money when he spoke of that which was “highly esteemed among men” in this context. Perhaps more souls (both worldlings and God’s people) will be sentenced to Hell because of their love of money (and all that it represents) than any other sin. No wonder the Bible warns of dishonesty materialism, and greed, and exalts benevolence, generosity, and honesty on almost every page. No wonder Paul wrote, “FOR THE LOVE OF MONEY IS THE ROOT OF ALL KINDS OF EVIL” (**I Timothy 6:10**). We are not to understand that materialism is an abomination to God merely on the ground that men highly esteem it (some things highly esteemed of men are pleasing to God [cf. Galatians 5:22-23]). Materialism is an abomination because it damns the soul. We must ever guard against the abomination of “COVETOUSNESS, WHICH IS IDOLATRY” (**Colossians 3:5**)

Notice now the broader principle of the Lord’s statement: The fact that a thing is highly esteemed by men does not mean God favors it. In fact, through out history, it is almost axiomatic that if most men esteem something highly, God does not do so. At present we should not be surprised at this, since the vast majority of men are atheists and pagans, and even among professed believers, most give only lip service to His law. Let us make some applications.

1. Roman Catholicism has hundreds of millions of adherents, but its combination of paganism, superstition, and several Old Testament forms is an abomination to God. Jesus built His church (**Matthew 16:18**), and He (not a pope) is its head (**Ephesians 1:22-23**). Its worship is simple (**John 4:24**) rather than the intricate ritual of tradition and human doctrines that render worship vain (**Matthew 15:9**).
2. Millions of people highly esteem protestant denominationalism with its thousands of different religious bodies, but it is an abomination to God. Jesus built only one church (Matthew 16:18), and he prayed that all who profess to follow Him would be one, even as He and His Father are one (**John 17: 20-21**). The New Testament constantly demands unity in doctrine (**Matthew 7:15-20; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Galatians 1:6-9; 2 Timothy 4:2-4; Revelation 22:18-19**; etal.).

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3. The doctrine of salvation by faith alone is highly esteemed by the millions in the Protestant denominations but it is an abomination to God. Men are saved by faith and cannot be saved without it (**Romans 10:9-10**), but not by faith only. Sins are not forgiven and one is not saved before baptism (**Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21**; etal.).
- 4, The Muslim religion is highly esteemed by 1 billion people, but it is an abomination unto Jehovah because it represents error, sin, and blasphemy. The Christ (not Christ and Mohammed) is the only way to God and salvation (**John 14:6**).
5. More and more foolish, misguided, and wicked people are being persuaded to esteem highly those who engage in homosexual behavior and/or the behavior itself. It is clearly an abomination to God (**Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, I Timothy 1:9-10**)

A list of highly esteemed items that are an abomination to God would be almost endless, it would surely include drinking, abortion, using instruments of music in worship, unscriptural divorce, and many others. Will men never learn that the only way to please God is to do what He authorizes in His Word, rather than doing something because they like it?