

Proverbs 15:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD:
but the words of the pure are pleasant words.

Analysis

The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD: but the words of the pure are pleasant words. To'avat YHVH machshevot ra (תועבת יהוה מחשבות רע, an abomination to the LORD are thoughts of evil). God finds wicked machashavot (מחשבות, thoughts, plans, schemes) abominable. Uthorim imrey-no'am (וטהרים אמריהם, but pure ones—pleasant words). The pure person's words are no'am (נעים, pleasant, lovely, delightful). God judges not only actions but thoughts. Jesus taught that evil proceeds from hearts (Matthew 15:19). Believers must take every thought captive to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).

Historical Context

Israel's prophets confronted not only outward idolatry but heart idolatry (Ezekiel 14:3-5). God sees thoughts no human sees. This proverb warns against assuming hidden thoughts are safe from judgment. Jesus intensified this in the Sermon on the Mount, equating anger with murder and lust with adultery (Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28). True purity requires transformed hearts producing pure thoughts and words.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What thoughts habitually occupy your mind, and would God find them pleasant or abominable?
2. How can you 'take every thought captive to obey Christ' (2 Corinthians 10:5) practically?
3. In what ways do pure thoughts naturally produce pleasant words that honor God and bless others?

Interlinear Text

תּוֹעֵבִי ת	! הָיָה	מִחֲשָׁבֹת	כֵּן ע
are an abomination	to the LORD	The thoughts	of the wicked
H8441	H3068	H4284	H7451
וּ טְהוֹרֵי יִם	אֲמָרֵי	נְעִים:	
but the words of the pure	words	are pleasant	
H2889	H561	H5278	

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 19:14 (Word): Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Proverbs 15:23 (Word): A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!

Jeremiah 4:14 (Evil): O Jerusalem, wash thine heart from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved. How long shall thy vain thoughts lodge within thee?