

Psalms 97:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.

Analysis

The command to 'hate evil' (sane' ra) isn't mere disapproval but active opposition to wickedness. This hatred flows from loving God—you cannot love God while being indifferent to what He hates. 'Preserveth the souls of his saints' (shamar—guards, keeps) promises divine protection for the righteous. Deliverance from 'the wicked' demonstrates that God actively intervenes on behalf of His people. This verse refutes antinomianism (faith without ethics) by linking love for God with moral distinctiveness.

Historical Context

Israel's covenant included both blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience, with God promising to preserve faithful remnants even during judgment.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What specific evils does God call you to actively hate and oppose, not just passively disapprove?
2. How have you experienced God's preservation and deliverance from spiritual dangers?

Interlinear Text

אֱהָבֵי י	יְהוָה ה	שִׂנְאָה ו	כָּ ע	שׁ יֵר	נַפְשׁ וְ	חַסִּידֵי יו
Ye that love	the LORD	hate	evil	he preserveth	the souls	of his saints
H157	H3068	H8130	H7451	H8104	H5315	H2623
מִיָּד	יְשׁוּעַ יִם	יִצִּילֵם:				
them out of the hand	of the wicked	he delivereth				
H3027	H7563	H5337				

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 8:13 (Evil): The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

Psalms 145:20 (Love): The LORD preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy.

Romans 12:9 (Love): Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

Psalms 34:14 (Evil): Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

Jeremiah 15:21 (Evil): And I will deliver thee out of the hand of the wicked, and I will redeem thee out of the hand of the terrible.

Daniel 3:28 (Parallel theme): Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.

Psalms 31:23 (Love): O love the LORD, all ye his saints: for the LORD preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer.

Proverbs 2:8 (Holy): He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.

Amos 5:15 (Love): Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.

2 Thessalonians 3:2 (Evil): And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.

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