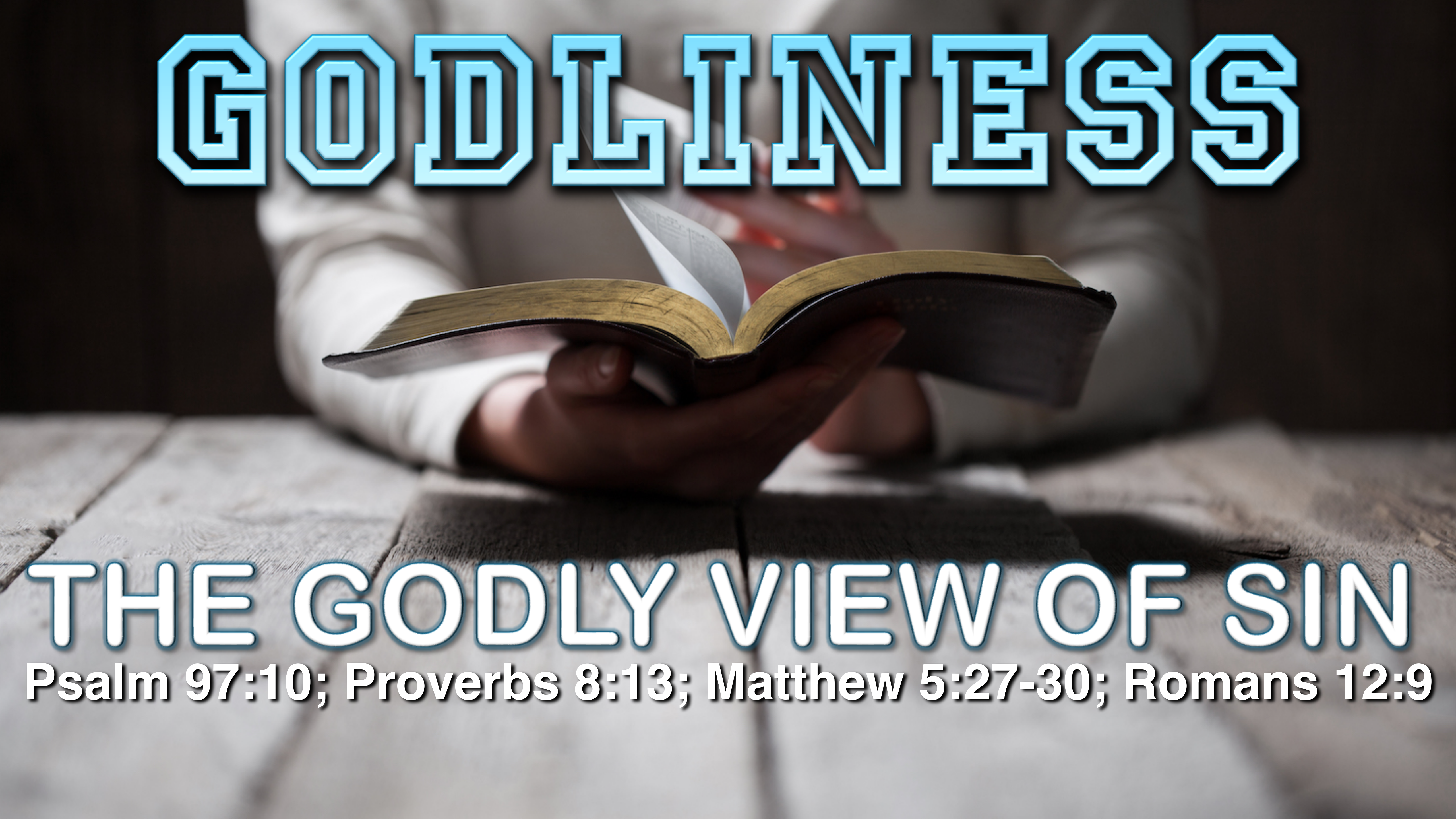


GODLINESS

A person wearing a white long-sleeved shirt is holding an open book with both hands over a rustic wooden table. The book is open to a page with text, and the person's hands are visible. The background is dark and out of focus.

THE GODLY VIEW OF SIN

Psalms 97:10; Proverbs 8:13; Matthew 5:27-30; Romans 12:9

GODLINESS - THE GODLY VIEW OF SIN

WHAT IS GODLINESS?

GOD



RELIGION



FAMILY



PROFESSION



LEISURE

GODLINESS – THE GODLY VIEW OF SIN



Psalm 97:10 (NKJV)

**10 You who love the
Lord, hate evil!**

- Sin is not a minor issue or a cultural preference.
- Sin is rebellion against the holy God who created us.
- Today, sin is increasingly celebrated, redefined, and even defended as personal freedom or identity.

GODLINESS – THE GODLY VIEW OF SIN

Psalm 36:1–4 (NKJV)

¹ An oracle within my heart concerning the transgression of the wicked: *There is no fear of God before his eyes.* ² For he flatters himself in his own eyes, When he finds out his iniquity *and* when he hates. ³ The words of his mouth *are* wickedness and deceit; He has ceased to be wise *and* to do good. ⁴ He devises wickedness on his bed; He sets himself in a way *that is* not good; He does not abhor evil.

vs.

Psalm 97:10–12 (NKJV)

¹⁰ You who love the Lord, hate evil! He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked. ¹¹ Light is sown for the righteous, And gladness for the upright in heart. ¹² Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, And give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.

GODLINESS – THE GODLY VIEW OF SIN

HOW TO BECOME DESENSITIZED TO SIN

Satan continues his efforts to make sin less offensive, heaven less appealing, hell less horrific and the Gospel less urgent.

John MacArthur

- ▶ Familiarity (Prov. 6:27,28)
- ▶ Rebranding (Isaiah 5:20)
- ▶ Laughing At Sin (Eph. 5:4)
- ▶ Sympathizers (Isa. 30:10)
- ▶ Comparison (2 Cor. 10:12)

GODLINESS – THE GODLY VIEW OF SIN

DANGER of COMPROMISING WITH SIN



We have
become so
comfortable
with **“wrongs”**
they are now
“Rights”

- Behaviors once widely recognized as sinful (sexual immorality, same-sex relationships, gender confusion, abortion, dishonesty in public life, etc.) are now often presented as rights, identities, or expressions of love.
- Media, education, and law increasingly normalize and protect what Scripture calls sin, defending sin with slogans such as “love is love,” “my truth,” or “progress.”

GODLINESS – THE GODLY VIEW OF SIN

DANGER of COMPROMISING WITH SIN

Presbyterian Church - 1978

“...Homosexuality is not God's wish for humanity...On the basis of our under-standing that **the practice of homosexuality is sin**, we are concerned that homosexual believers and the observing world should not be left in doubt about the church's mind on this issue during any further period of study.”

(Minutes of the 190th General Assembly [1978], United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., pp. 261-62)



We have
become so
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they are now
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GODLINESS – THE GODLY VIEW OF SIN

DANGER of COMPROMISING WITH SIN

Presbyterian Church - 1980

“In 1980, a General Assembly added: ‘Homosexuality presents a particular problem for the church. It seems to be contrary to the teaching of scripture.’”

(Minutes of the 120th General Assembly [1980], Presbyterian Church in the United States, p. 213)



We have
become so
comfortable
with **“wrongs”**
they are now
“Rights”

GODLINESS – THE GODLY VIEW OF SIN

DANGER of COMPROMISING WITH SIN

Presbyterian Church - 1991

The church should “re-evaluate its definition of sin to reflect the changing mores of society.” ... the church should sound “a call for widening the circle of the faithful—not with children, but with non-reproductive gays, lesbians, and heterosexual singles who practice ‘safe sex.’ We feel that marriage is not what legitimates sexual gratification.”

(Roll Over John Calvin, Time Magazine, 5-6-91, p. 59)



We have
become so
comfortable
with “**wrongs**”
they are now
“***Rights***”

GODLINESS – THE GODLY VIEW OF SIN

DANGER of COMPROMISING WITH SIN



We have
become so
comfortable
with **“wrongs”**
they are now
“Rights”

- **1978** - Homosexuality is sin.
- **1980** – “Seems” to be contrary to Scripture.
- **1991** - Re-evaluate Definition of Sin.
- **2011** - deleted language "fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or chastity in singleness."
- **2014** - the General Assembly voted to change the constitutional definition of marriage from "a man and a woman" to "two people."

GODLINESS – THE GODLY VIEW OF SIN

DANGER of COMPROMISING WITH SIN



We have
become so
comfortable
with “**wrongs**”
they are now
“***Rights***”

- **The Episcopal Church:** In 2015 formally authorized liturgies for same-sex marriage.
- **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA):** voted at its 2009 Churchwide Assembly to allow the ordination of clergy in faithful, same-sex relationships.
- **The United Methodist Church (UMC)** in May 2024 voted overwhelmingly (692 to 43) to remove the 52-year-old ban on LGBTQ+ clergy and same-sex wedding prohibitions.

GODLINESS – THE GODLY VIEW OF SIN

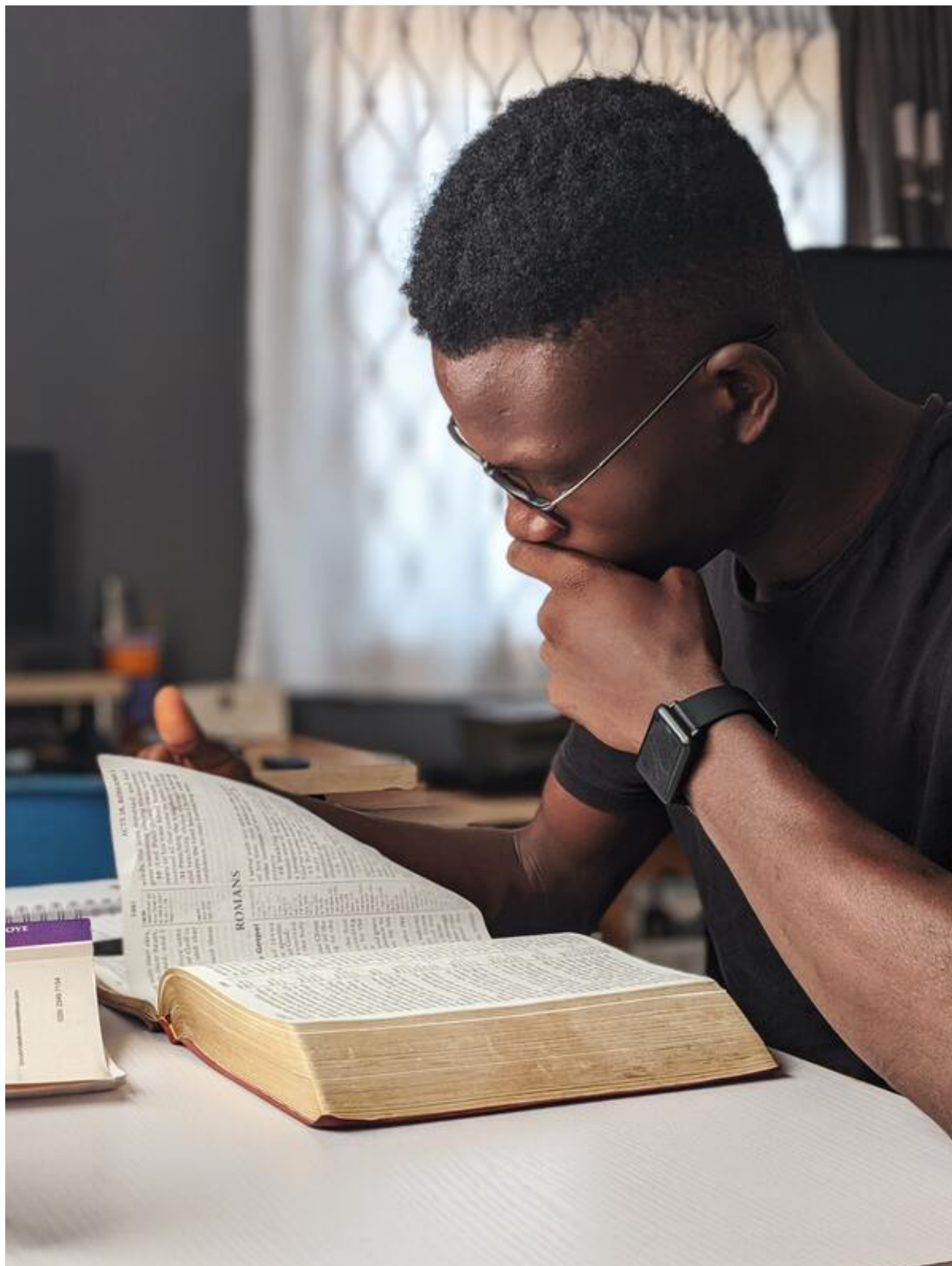
SIN IS NOT DETERMINED BY:



- ➡ **Majority** – Matt. 7:13-14; Gen. 6:5-7
- ➡ **Family Relations** – Matt. 10:34-37
- ➡ **Government** – Acts 4:19; 5:29
- ➡ **Sincerity** – Acts 26:9-11; 23:1; 1 Tim. 1:15
- ➡ **End Justifies the Means** – Rom. 3:8
- ➡ **Feelings** – Gen. 37:35; Prov. 16:25
- ➡ **Changing Mores of Society** – Acts 17:30

GODLINESS – THE GODLY VIEW OF SIN

SIN IS WHAT GOD SAYS IS SIN



- Sin is **lawlessness** — active rebellion against God's revealed will (1 John 3:4)
- If **not of faith**, violation of one's conscience (Romans 14:23)
- All unrighteousness, **injustice** (1 John 5:17)
- Sin includes sins of **omission**, failing to do what we know is right, O+A=R (James 4:17)
- Sin is falling short of God's standard He has prescribed (Romans 3:23; cf. Ecc. 12:13)

GODLINESS – THE GODLY VIEW OF SIN

1 Corinthians 6:7–11 (NKJV)

⁷ Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather *let yourselves* be cheated? ⁸ No, you yourselves do wrong and cheat, and *you do* these things *to your* brethren! ⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

GODLINESS – THE GODLY VIEW OF SIN

Galatians 5:19–21 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

GODLINESS – THE GODLY VIEW OF SIN

Defining What Sin Is

COMMISSION

Doing what God Forbids (Gen 2:17,18; 3:6,17; 1 Cor 6:9-11).

Adding to God's Word (Deut. 4:2; Rev. 22:19; 2 Sam. 6:3; Num. 4:1-15; Mat. 15:5,6).

Making substitutions (Gen. 4:4; Lev. 10; Heb 8:5).

OMISSION

Not doing what God Commands (1 Sam. 15; 1 Chro. 15:13).

Subtracting from God's Word (Deut. 4:2; Rev. 22:19; Mat. 23:1-3).

Knowing to do good and not doing it (Jam. 4:17)

GODLINESS – THE GODLY VIEW OF SIN

Defining What Sin Is



No such thing as situational ethics!!

Adultery – Homosexuality

Fornication – Murder

Lying - Stealing, etc. . . .

Absolute, Immediately Condemns –

1 Cor 6:9-11;

Gal 5:19-21

No Time - Heb 13:4

GODLINESS – THE GODLY VIEW OF SIN

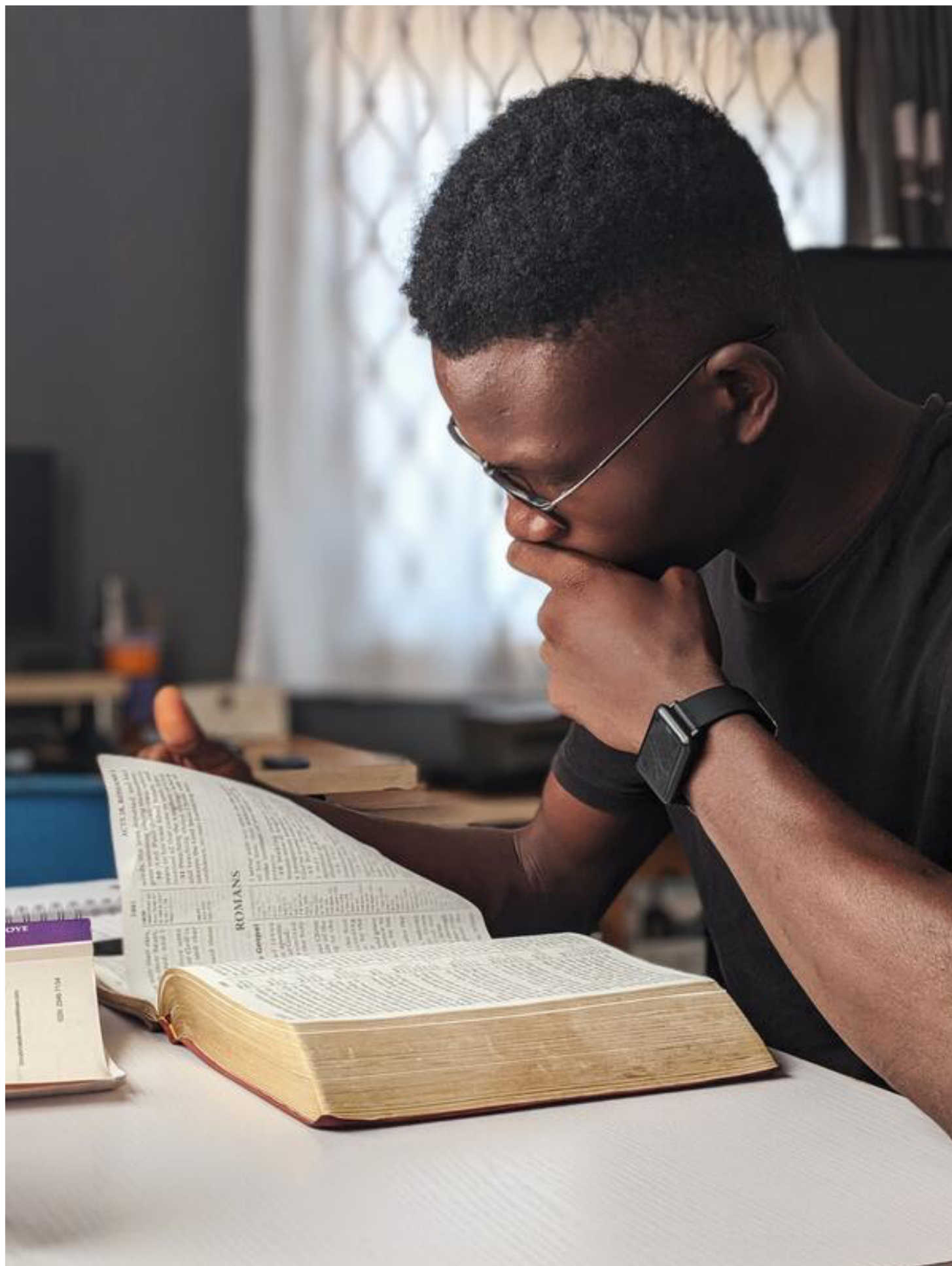
Defining What Sin Is



- The first sin is a case study of all sin - Gen. 3:1-6; 1 Jn 2:15,16
- Jesus was tempted through the same avenues - Mat 4:1-11; Heb. 4:15
- Sin OCCURS when desire is enticed and the will yields - James 1:13-16; 1 Cor 9:27

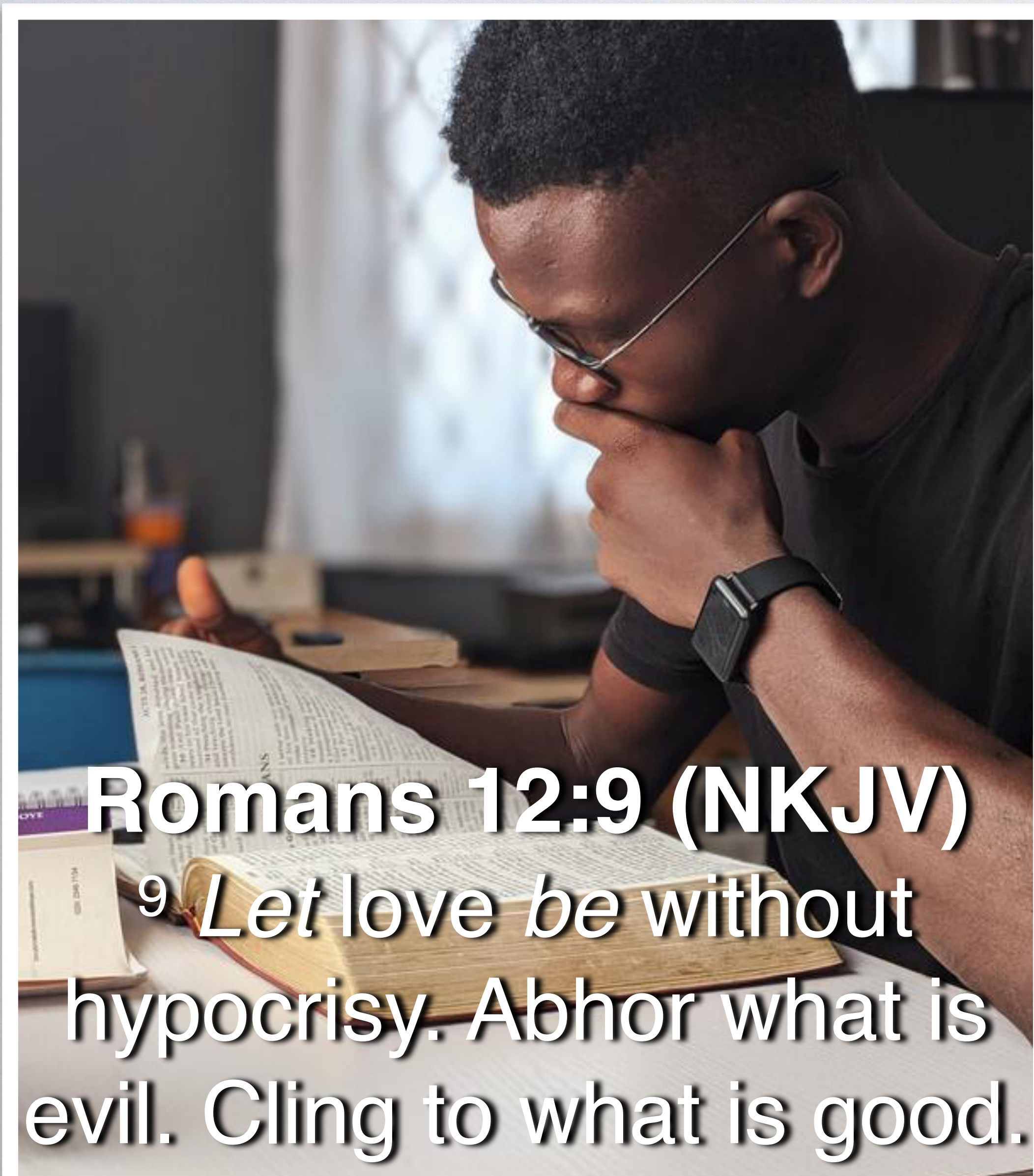
GODLINESS – THE GODLY VIEW OF SIN

Defining What Sin Is



- **Sin is not** merely a mistake, a weakness, social construct, or inherent human nature.
- **Sin is any** lack of conformity to or transgression of the law of God in thought, word, or deed, and is ultimately an offense against God's holy character (Psalm 51:4 — "Against thee, thee only, have I sinned...").
- Even "respectable" sins (pride, gossip, bitterness, greed, self-righteousness) are offensive to God.

GODLINESS – THE GODLY VIEW OF SIN



Romans 12:9 (NKJV)

9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.

- **Scripture calls God's people to a radically different attitude:**
 - ▶ Not acceptance, not indifference, not tolerance,
 - ▶ But a holy hatred of sin that flows from our love for God and His love for us.

GODLINESS – THE GODLY VIEW OF SIN

Psalm 97:10–12 (NKJV)

¹⁰ You who love the Lord, hate evil! He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked.

¹¹ Light is sown for the righteous, And gladness for the upright in heart. ¹² Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, And give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.

GODLINESS – THE GODLY VIEW OF SIN

Psalm 119:102–104, 127,128 (NKJV)

¹⁰² I have not departed from Your judgments, For You Yourself have taught me. ¹⁰³ How sweet are Your words to my taste, *Sweeter* than honey to my mouth!

¹⁰⁴ Through Your precepts I get understanding;
Therefore I hate every false way.

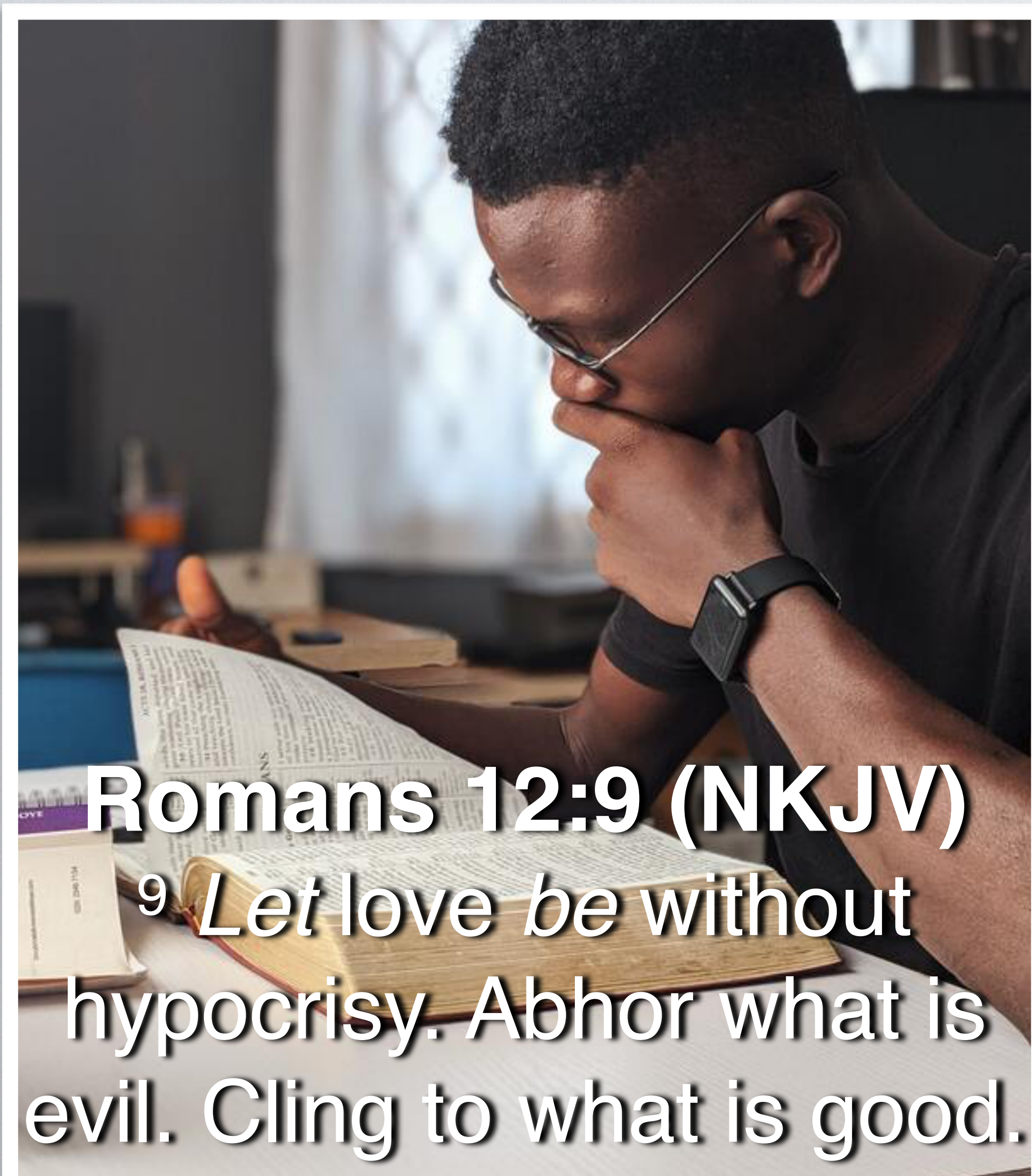
... ¹²⁷ Therefore I love Your commandments More than gold, yes, than fine gold! ¹²⁸ Therefore all *Your* precepts *concerning* all *things* I consider *to be* right; I hate every false way.

GODLINESS – THE GODLY VIEW OF SIN

Proverbs 8:12–17 (NKJV)

¹² “I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And find out knowledge *and* discretion. ¹³ The fear of the Lord *is* to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate. ¹⁴ Counsel *is* mine, and sound wisdom; I *am* understanding, I have strength. ¹⁵ By me kings reign, And rulers decree justice. ¹⁶ By me princes rule, and nobles, All the judges of the earth. ¹⁷ I love those who love me, And those who seek me diligently will find me.

GODLINESS – THE GODLY VIEW OF SIN



Romans 12:9 (NKJV)

⁹ Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.

- God does not merely ask us to avoid sin or feel mildly uncomfortable with it (righteous Lot, *who was* oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked — (2 Peter 2:7)
- He calls His people to hate sin with a holy hatred that reflects His own character (1 Peter 1:16; cf. Lev. 11:44, 45; 19:2; 20:7).
- Jesus Himself reinforced this radical attitude toward sin ...

GODLINESS – THE GODLY VIEW OF SIN

Matthew 5:27-30 (NKJV)

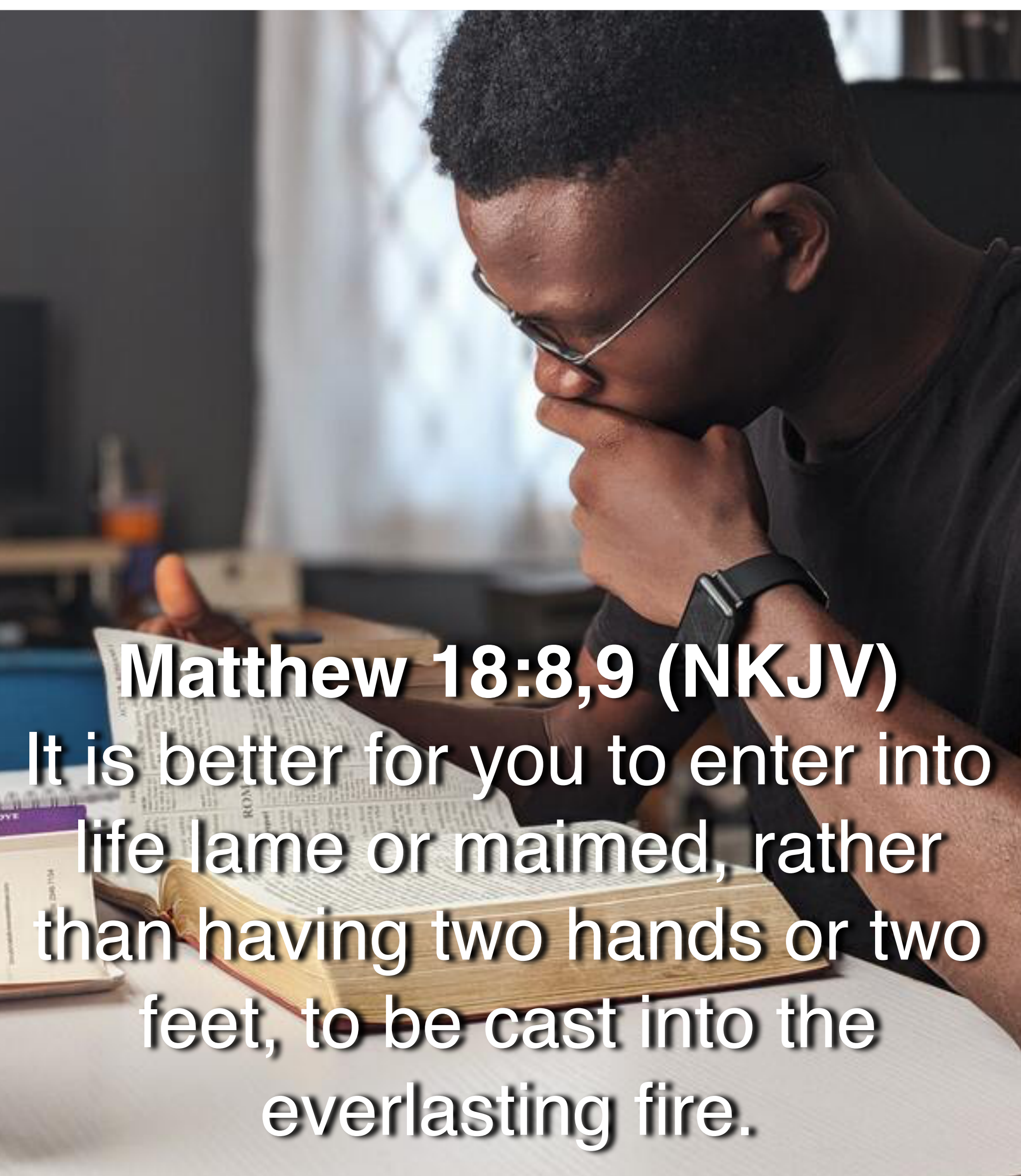
²⁷ “You have heard that it was said ⁹to those of old, ^g*‘You shall not commit adultery.’* ²⁸ But I say to you that whoever ^hlooks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ ⁱIf your right eye causes you to ¹sin, ^jpluck it out and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to ²sin, cut it off and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

GODLINESS – THE GODLY VIEW OF SIN

Matthew 18:8,9 (NKJV)

⁸ *i*“If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast *it* from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire.⁹ And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast *it* from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into ²hell fire.

GODLINESS – THE GODLY VIEW OF SIN

A man with short dark hair and glasses is shown in profile, looking down at an open Bible on a table. He is wearing a dark t-shirt and a black watch on his left wrist. His right hand is resting on his chin, and his left hand is pointing to a verse in the Bible. The background is slightly blurred, showing a window with light coming through.

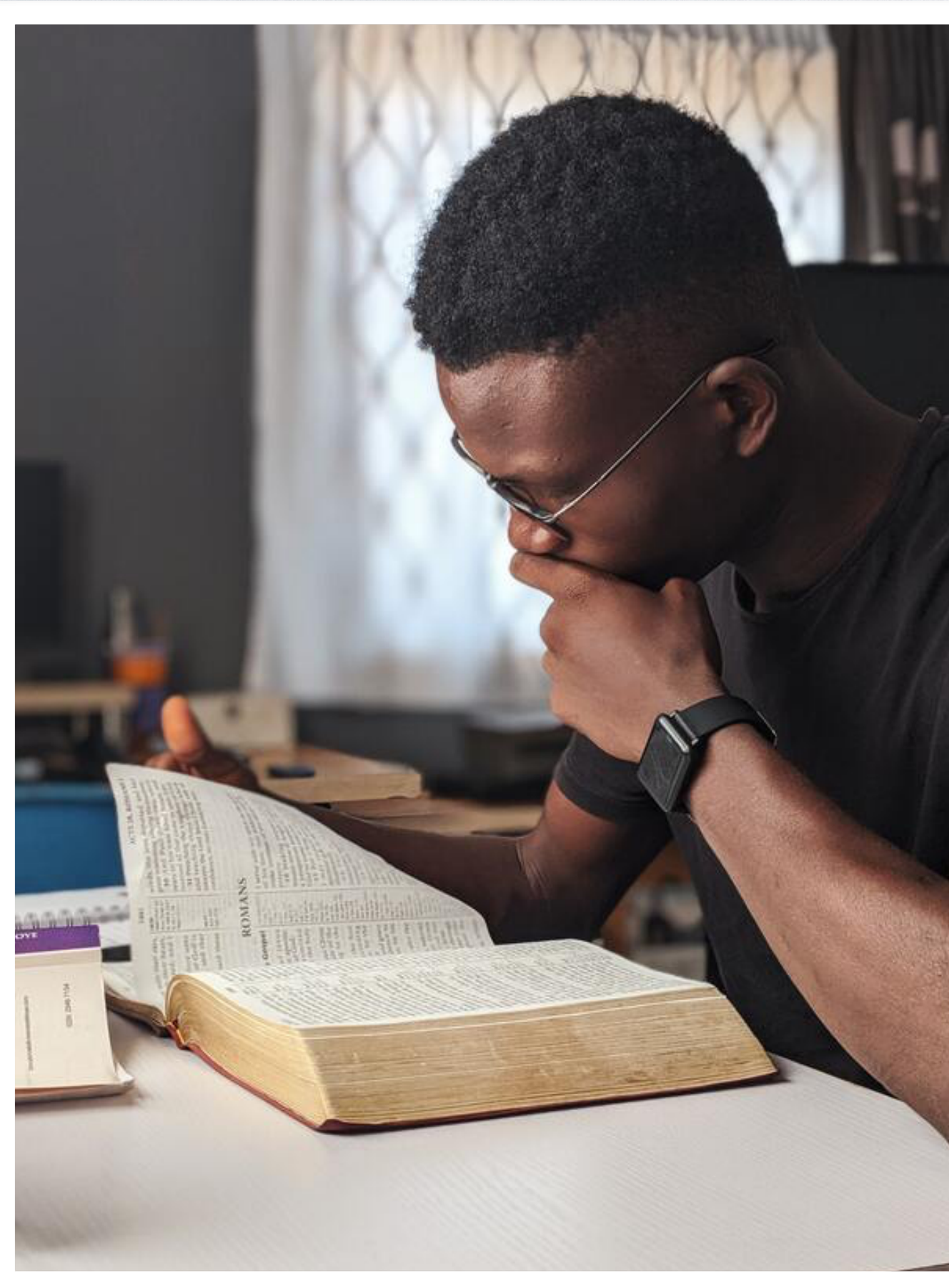
Matthew 18:8,9 (NKJV)

It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire.

- We are to treat sin with such holy hatred that we are prepared to amputate its sources at great personal cost rather than allow it to remain and lead us (and others) into judgment.
- This illustrates the depth of abhorrence toward sin that God requires of those who claim to love Him.

GODLINESS – THE GODLY VIEW OF SIN

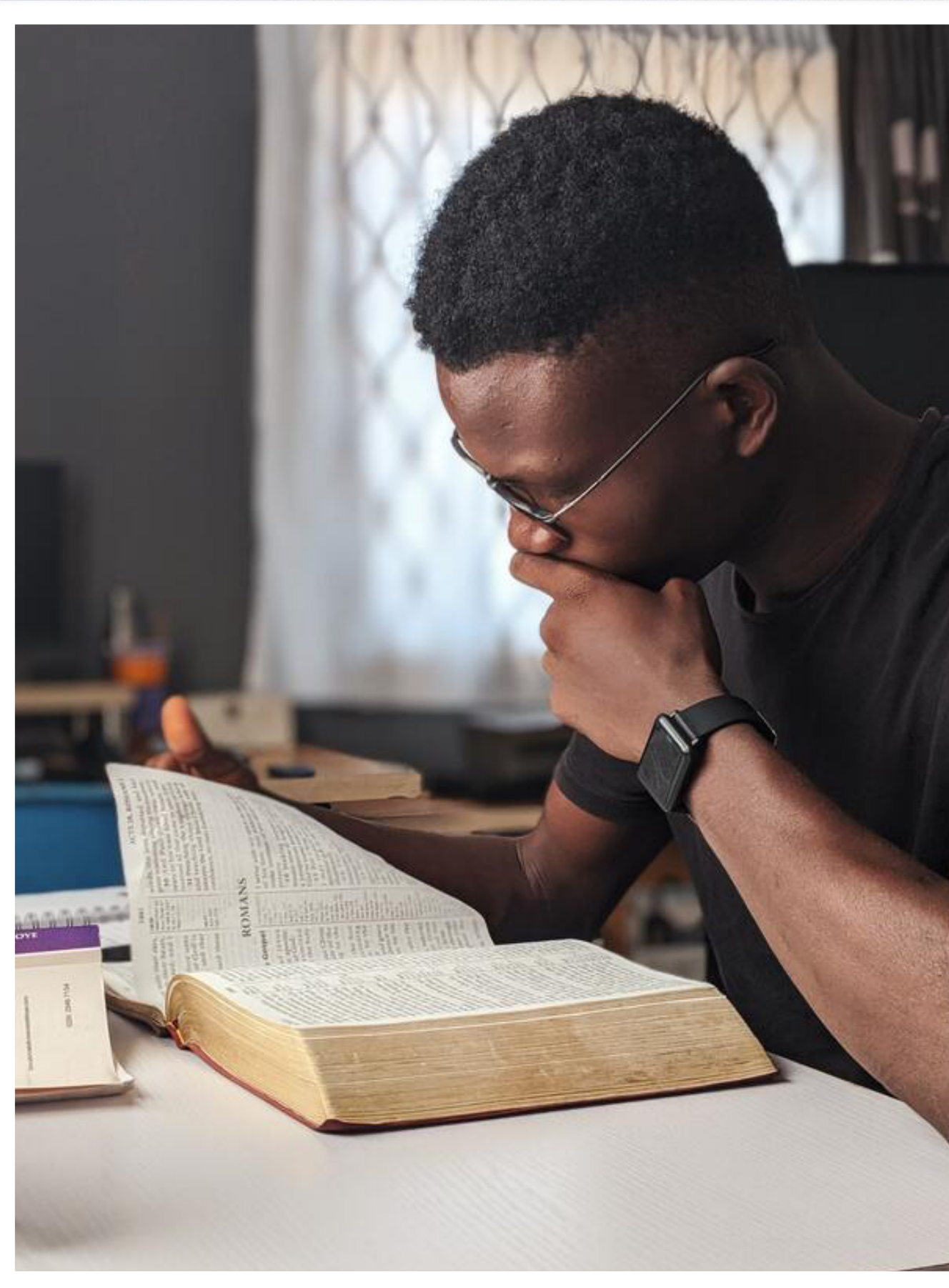
HOW TO CULTIVATE A GODLY VIEW OF SIN:



- ▶ Regular, prayerful engagement with Scripture — The more we love God's Word, the more we will hate every false way (Psalm 119).
- ▶ Mortification of sin (Rom. 8:13; Col. 3:5-10).
- ▶ Putting on Christ (Rom. 6:3-19; Col. 3:12-17)
- ▶ Guarding the heart and avoiding temptation — Flee from what fuels sinful desires (Prov. 4:23; Mat. 5:29-32; 1 Cor. 6:18).

GODLINESS – THE GODLY VIEW OF SIN

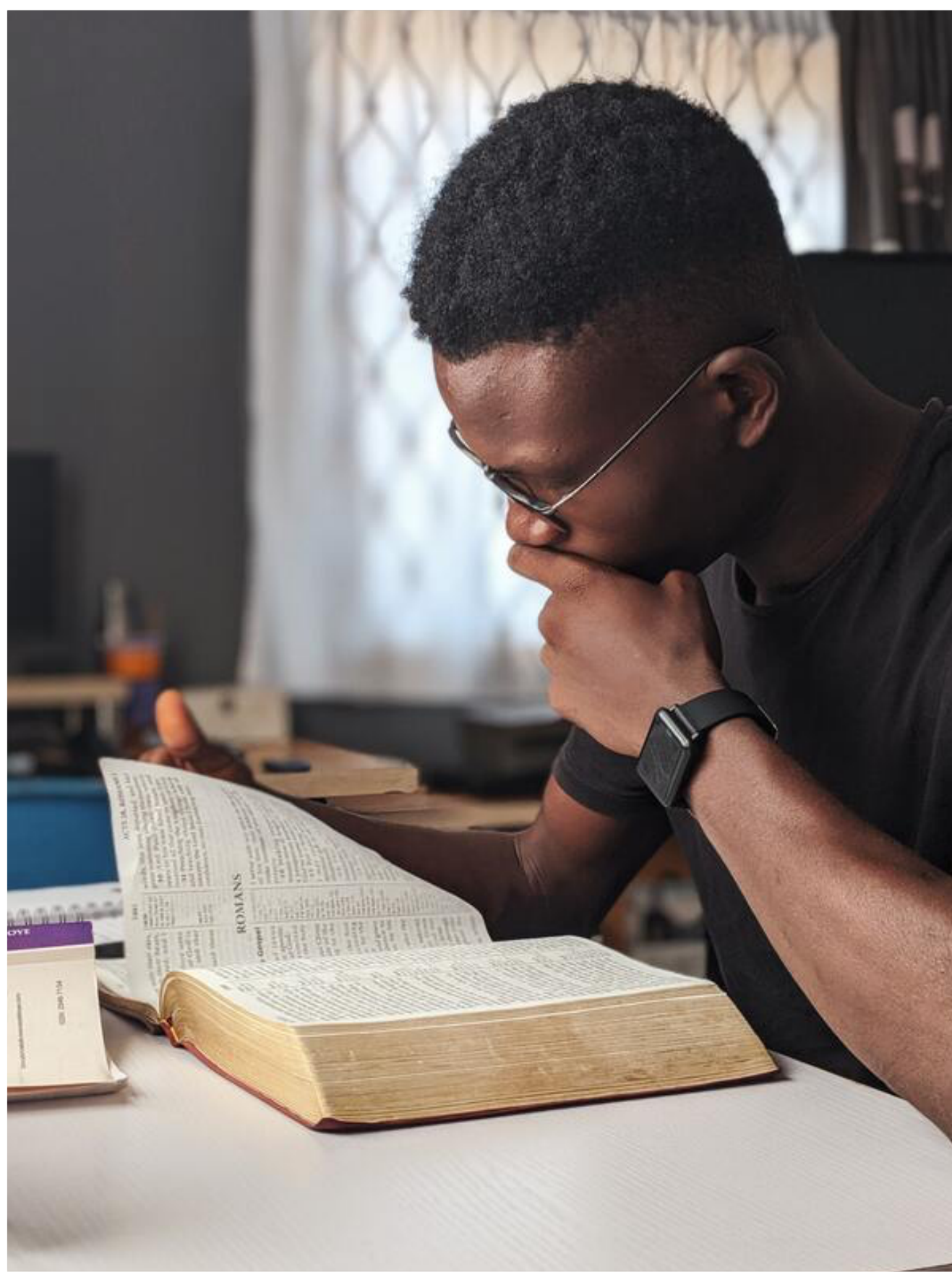
HOW TO CULTIVATE A GODLY VIEW OF SIN:



- ▶ Pray for conviction and hatred of sin (Psalm 139:23-24 — “Search me, O God...”).
- ▶ Daily self examination, confession and turning from sin (1 John 1:9; 2:1-2).
- ▶ Fixing our eyes on JESUS (Hebrews 12:1) Meditating on who Jesus is and what He accomplished makes sin appear increasingly ugly and offensive.
- ▶ Surround yourself with believers who will speak truth in love (Heb. 3:12-13; 10:24,25).

GODLINESS – THE GODLY VIEW OF SIN

HOW TO CULTIVATE A GODLY VIEW OF SIN:

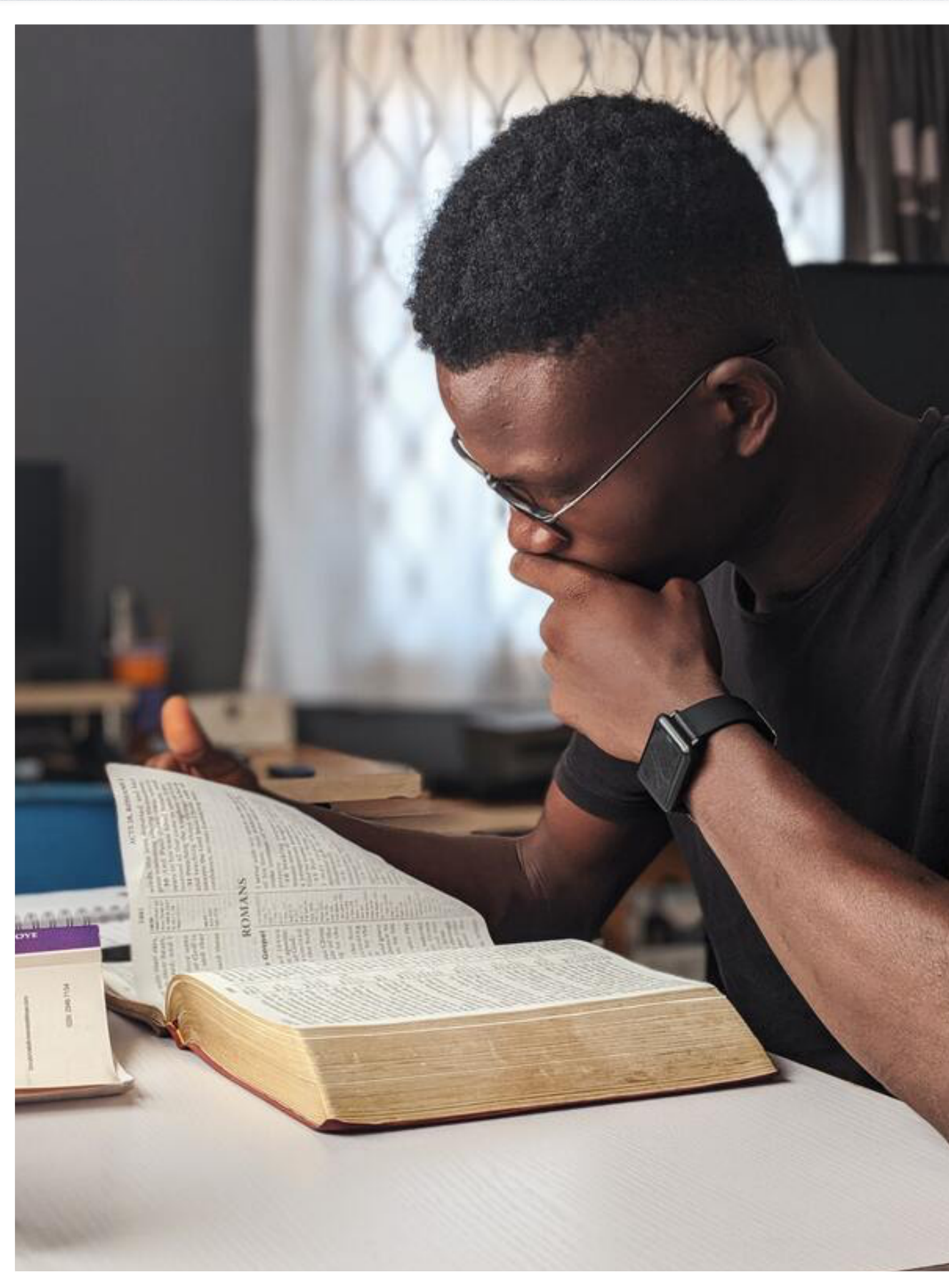


James 4:7–10 (NKJV)

⁷ Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. ⁹ Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

GODLINESS – THE GODLY VIEW OF SIN

IF YOU ARE DEAD IN SIN ...



- ▶ **Obey the Lord Jesus — Mat. 17:5; Heb. 1:1,2**
- ☑ **Hear Him — Romans 10:17**
- ☑ **Believe in Him — John 8:24**
- ☑ **Confess Him — Romans 10:9,10**
- ☑ **Turn from self and sin to humbly submit to Him (Repent) — Acts 17:30**
- ☑ **Be baptized in the name of Jesus — Mat. 28:19; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-6**
- ☑ **Abide in His word — John 8:31,32; 2 Jn. 9**

GODLINESS

THE GODLY VIEW OF SIN

Psalm 97:10–12 (NKJV)

¹⁰ You who love the Lord, hate evil! He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked. ¹¹ Light is sown for the righteous, And gladness for the upright in heart. ¹² Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, And give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.

THANK YOU FOR BEING WITH US TODAY



100 CORNERSTONE ALEXANDER AR, 72002

You Are Welcome At Any
And All of Our Services!

MEETING TIMES:

Sunday A.M. Bible Study: 9:00

Sunday A.M. Assembly: 10:00

Sunday P.M. Assembly: 4:00

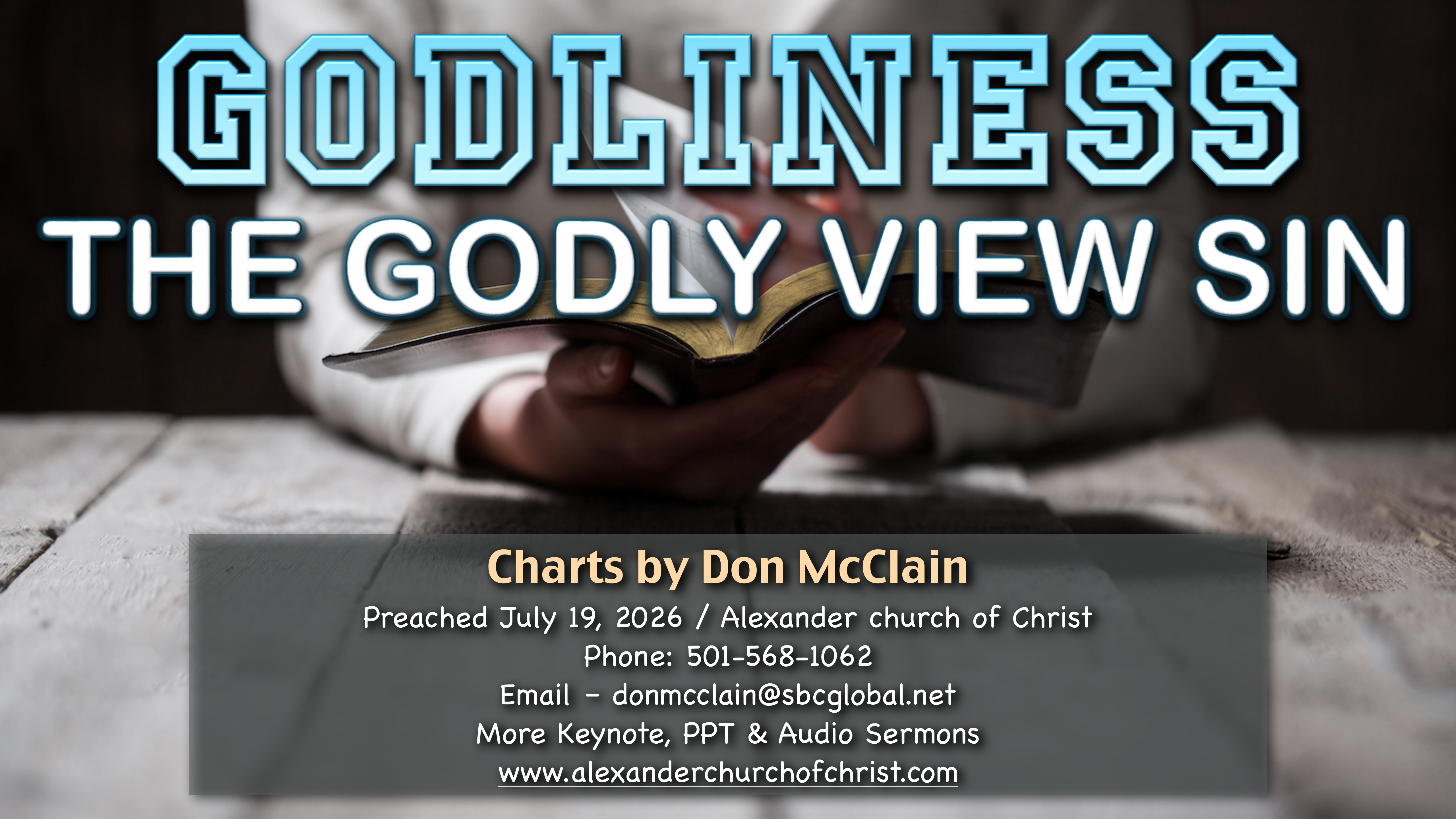
Wed. P.M. Bible Study: 7:00



ALEXANDERCHURCHOFCHRIST.COM

GODLINESS

THE GODLY VIEW SIN

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding an open Bible. The person is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt. The Bible is open, showing the text on the pages. The hands are resting on a wooden surface, possibly a table or desk. The background is blurred, showing more of the wooden surface and the person's arms.

Charts by Don McClain

Preached July 19, 2026 / Alexander church of Christ

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