

# Beautiful Abominations

by Thomas Brooks

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*Having the right motives and ends is crucial in pleasing God and ensuring our services are not void.*

**Scripture:** Isaiah 1:13

**Topics:** "True Worship", "Intentions of the Heart"

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## Description

Thomas Brooks emphasizes that regardless of a person's outward religious practices and fervent desires, if their intentions are misguided, their actions are ultimately meaningless, described as 'beautiful abominations.' He illustrates this by comparing the righteous acts of David and Daniel with those of the Pharisees, who performed similar duties but lacked the right motives. Brooks warns that without proper aims, all efforts in prayer, fasting, and giving are futile and lead to spiritual loss. The sermon serves as a call to examine the heart behind our actions, stressing that God values the intent behind our service.

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## Transcript

Let a man's profession be ever so glorious, let him be ever so abundant in the performance of duties, let his desires after this and that holy thing be ever so strong --yet if his ends and aims are wrong, all his pretensions and performances are but beautiful abominations.

Did David pray three times a day? So did the pharisees.

Did David and Daniel fast? So did the pharisees--and that twice in the week. Did Cornelius give alms? So did the pharisees. Did Abraham pay tithes? So did the pharisees; they tithed their very mint and rue. But their ends and aims being wrong--their time was lost, and their pains were lost, and their duties were lost, and

their alms were lost, and their souls were lost--and  
that forever. God writes a zero upon all those services  
wherein men's ends are not right.

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Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/thomas-brooks/beautiful-abominations/>

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