

## ***"Blessed Are The Pure In Heart"***

Matthew 5:8

- B. Others greatly under-rate its value.
1. The impure at times **seem** to be blessed and loved of God as much; but many overlook the fact that their prosperity is brief (Psalm 37).
  2. A good reputation is often treated lightly or with contempt. Some say, "I don't care what people think;" but do not believe them! A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches and loving favor or good will rather than silver and gold (Proverbs 22:1). Yet some go out to merely make a **name** for themselves (Genesis 11:1-9).
- C. **Why then does Jesus insist, "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God"?**
1. **Because that is the way it is!** That is the way of life abundant and of supreme blessedness: *"He that would love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips that they speak no guile: And let him turn away from evil, and do good; Let him seek peace, and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, And his ears unto their supplication: But the face of the Lord is upon (against) them that do evil."* (1 Peter 3:10-12; Cf. Titus 1:15,16).
  2. It is the grand blessedness of seeing the invisible God Almighty by faith, here and now: (a) In His works which declare his glory (Psalm 10:1ff); (b) in His divine Book which reveals His Son (John 14:8,9); and (c) in His people who reflect and magnify Christ (Ephesians 4:6; Hebrews 11:24-27; 2 Corinthians 4:18).
  3. And it is the supreme blessedness of seeing God eternally face to face (1 John 3:2; Revelation 21:7).
- D. The supreme value of purity therefore is that it is a quality and condition essential to the most blessed life here, and it enables us to see God forever (John 14:27; Hebrews 14:17).
1. It was a grand privilege to see Christ on earth (Luke 19:3,4).
  2. It was an even greater privilege to see him after his resurrection (John 20:1-18, 24-29; 1 Corinthians 15:1-6).
  3. But to dwell with God forever is the supreme blessing.

### CONCLUSION —

- I. Jesus did not say, "Blessed are the great philosophers, the greatest comedians and entertainers, the intellectual giants, the great presidents and/or kings: for they shall see God;" but "*blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*" The pure in heart are granted a privilege denied the worldly wise and powerful.
- II. The impure do not see God because they are blind to his works, word and people. Let us pray, "*Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold, Wondrous things out of thy law*" (Psalms 119:18). **And then let us live like we pray!!!**

--Charles E. Crouch

### INTRODUCTION —

- I. This is probably the best known, the best loved, the most comprehensive of the beatitudes, and perhaps the most rewarding to experience and difficult to understand.
- II. IT SPEAKS OF THE WONDERFUL VALUE OF PURITY AND THE GIFT OF SIGHT.
  - A. It speaks of and promises the possibility of our seeing God.
    1. This possibility is a badge of human greatness.
    2. In this man is superior to all earthly creatures.
    3. "*Thou hast crowned him with glory and honor*" (Psalm 8:5)
  - B. It tells of man's deepest longing and highest possibility.
    1. A cry older than human history: As old as man himself.
    2. "*Oh that I knew where I might find him!*" (Job 23:3; 14:14).
    3. "*Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us*" (John 14:8).
  - C. This beatitude speaks to our supreme need.
    1. Any human audience has many different burdens and pressing needs which only God can understand, meet and lift (1 John 1:6, 7; 2:3).
    2. Not all people have the same vision, for different reasons.
    3. Three kinds of vision: Natural, mental, spiritual (1 Corinthians 2:9).
    4. Consider: (a) What some desire and pay to see; (b) Some things "I want to **see**;" (c) Some awesome scenes.
    5. The one big need of all of us is to come to God and ask Him to fill our needs and solve our problems (Phil. 4:19).

### DISCUSSION —

- I. **WHY IS PURITY OF HEART ESSENTIAL FOR SEEING AND COMING TO GOD?** (John 15:3; Acts 15:9)?
  - A. God has always required purity for he is pure (Isaiah 6:3,5).
    1. The words of God are ultra pure and flawless (Psalm 12:6).
    2. The precepts and commandments of God are pure and right (Psalm 19:8).
    3. The Son of God is pure (1 Peter 2:21,22).
  - B. Children of God must also be pure (Titus 2:11-14; 1 John 3:1-3; Ephesians 1:4; 5:27).
    1. The most blessed life is a pure life (Phil. 4:8; Heb. 12:14).
    2. Heaven is prepared and reserved for the pure: Nothing impure shall enter the heavenly eternal kingdom (Revelation 21:27; 22:14).

## II. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE "PURE IN HEART"? CLEAN, FREE FROM EVIL AND UNDEFILED?

- A. On the surface it sounds forbidding and suggests the impossible.
  - 1. But to be pure in heart does not mean to be sinless.
  - 2. Neither does he say, "Blessed are the perfect."
  - 3. Nor does he say for us to cleanse the **outside** of the cup and the dish or platter, like the Pharisees did (Matthew 23:25,26).
- B. To be "pure in heart" means to be clean, undefiled, and free from evil: **Mentally, morally and doctrinally.**
  - 1. It means purity of **mind**: To be pure in thought, understanding, faith (John 15:3; Acts 15:9; Prov. 23:7; Matt. 13:15,16; Rom. 10:10; Phil. 4:8). It is primarily the inward man that needs to be pure (Mark 7:20-23). When the inward man is pure, the outward man will then be clean and the words and deeds will take care of themselves.
  - 2. It means purity of **affection**: To be pure in desire, love and trust (Romans 10:1; Matt. 22:37; 1 Cor. 13:6; Colosians 3:1,2; Proverbs 3:5). To be pure in heart means to be free inwardly from evil desire and pollution; to be free of guilt: Forgiven, innocent, clean, unsoiled and unadulterated.
  - 3. It means purity of purpose: To be pure in purpose, will, intention and obedience (2 Corinthians 9:7; Romans 6:17; Hebrews 4:12; Philippians 3:13,14; Titus 3:1). This includes sincere motives and undivided loyalty and allegiance to God. A pure heart is singleminded and free from dishonest motive and purpose, loyal and true to one supreme purpose, Master and God (Matt. 6:22-32; John 15:17-19).

## III. HOW DOES ONE WHO HAS SINNED BECOME PURE IN HEART, FREE FROM EVIL?

- A. It certainly does not happen by accident, chance, or just by "thinking happiness thoughts."
- B. Nor does it happen by human effort alone (Romans 4:4,5).
  - 1. When we are guilty, conscience condemns (1 John 3:20).
  - 2. And conscience cannot cleanse itself (Hebrews 9:22).
  - 3. There must be a foundation for true happiness thoughts, a truly adequate soil in which to grow a truly happy mind.
- C. This requires high motivation and wholehearted obedience to the gospel: Sincere acceptance of pardon through God's law (Hebrews 10:16-18).
  - 1. This **transformation** includes **believing** "unto righteousness," "**repentance** unto life," and being "**baptized** into Christ," where there is no condemnation (Romans 10:10; Acts 11:18; Gal. 3:27; Romans 8:1).
  - 2. Through obedient faith in and obedience to the gospel or word of Christ, the unclean sinful heart may be purified, cleansed and

sanctified (John 15:3; Romans 10:17; Acts 15:9; **1 Peter 1:22,23**).

- 3. **This is how** "many of the Corinthians" were washed, sanctified, justified, and became **saints** (Acts 18:8; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1:2).

## IV. HOW CAN WE REMAIN PURE IN A JUNGLE OF IMPURITY WHERE WE ARE CONSTANTLY BOMBARDED BY IMPURITY?

- A. To maintain purity requires "all diligence" (Proverbs 4:23; 2 Peter 1:5). Jesus said, "Watch and pray that you enter not into temptation" (Matthew 26:41; Colossians 3:1,2).
- B. By determination to maintain a pure mind, heart and hands (Matthew 12:34,35).
  - 1. "Put away" and "to death" evil desire, anger, wrath, malice (Colossians 3:8; 1 John 4:20).
  - 2. Abhor and abstain from evil; clean to and hold fast the good (Romans 12:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:22).
  - 3. Concentrate and focus our thoughts on "these things:" The true, honorable, just, pure, lovely and of good report (Philippians 4:8,9).
  - 4. We remain pure by a continual walk "in the light" of God and the message of his Son, which includes confession of sin, contact with Christ's blood, and fellowship with God (1 John 1:1-9).
- C. A fundamental way to put down sin in our hearts: Just as you expel darkness from a room, by turning on "the light of the world" (John 8:12; Hebrews 12:2; Romans 12:21).
  - 1. This may be done by looking into God's pure word daily and by walking in its light faithfully (1 John 1:7-9; Colossians 3:16, 17).
  - 2. By receiving the whole counsel of God and letting it dwell in us richly and constantly (Acts 20:26,27; 18:6; Ezekiel 3:17-19; Colossians 3:16).
  - 3. By speaking "as the oracles of God" and following its teaching (1 Peter 4:11).
- D. By close, unbroken fellowship with God's church in its services and work: **Because, To see God is to become useful and zealous for Him** (1 Peter 3:11; 1 Corinthians 15:33; Psalm 1).

## V. WHAT IS THE VALUE OF SUCH PURITY IN SPIRITUAL VISION?

- A. Many scoff at the idea (Psalm 1:1): Scoffers say there is no such thing; but they merely reveal their ignorance and blind impurity: "*To the pure all things are pure: but to them that are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled*" (Titus 1:15, 16).
  - 1. But they really do not believe what they say, for purity **in some form / measure** is considered by them a good thing.
  - 2. Water; milk, pure food, drug and air laws, speech, etc.