

Journey Through the Bible

A New Heart and a New Spirit

Message 5: A NEW HEART (3): The Pure in Heart

Outline:

I. "Blessed are the pure in heart"—Matt. 5:8a:

- A. To be pure is more than to be clean:
 - 1. We may be clean but mixed and therefore not pure; to be mixed does not mean to be dirty but to have more than one goal and one aim.
 - 2. We need to be pure, single, in our heart that Christ may grow in us without frustration— Luke 11:34-36; 2 Cor. 11:3; Psa. 86:11.
- B. To be pure in heart is to be single in purpose, to have the single goal of accomplishing God's will for God's glory—1 Cor. 10:31:
 - 1. "Not as I will, but as You will"—Matt. 26:39:
 - a) God's will is God's wish, God's desire; God's will is what He wishes to do and wants to do— Rom. 12:2; Eph. 1:9.
 - b) Christ did not care for His own will; He only cared for God's will—John 4:34; 5:30; Psa. 40:8.
 - 2. The more we deny our own will, the straighter our pathway will be before God—Psa. 143:10
 - a) In making decisions or in choosing our paths, we should always say to the Lord, "Not as I will, but as You will"—Matt. 26:39; cf. Prov. 16:9.
- C. To be pure in heart is to have a heart that simply wants God Himself and has no aim or goal other than God Himself—Psa. 73:25-26; 42:1-2; 143:6:
 - 1. Psalm 73:25-26 says, "Whom do I have in heaven but You? And besides You there is nothing I desire on earth. My flesh and my heart fail, but God is the rock of my heart and my portion forever."
 - 2. We need to purify our heart until we seek nothing other than the Lord Himself as our goal— James 4:8b:
 - a) In order to purify our hearts, we need grace—John 1:17, footnote 1.
 - b) To purify our hearts is not a once-and-for-all matter; our dealing with our heart is according to the Lord's gradual shining.
- D. To be pure in heart is to have a heart fixed on God—2 Cor. 3:15-18; Psa. 27:4:
 - 1. Second Corinthians 3:15-16 says, "Indeed unto this day, whenever Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart; but whenever their heart turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away."
 - 2. The veil refers to all things that we pursue other than the Lord; the removal of the veil does not depend on anything other than turning our heart to the Lord.
 - 3. Once our heart turns to the Lord and desires the Lord in a single and pure way, we become a person who is pure in heart.
 - 4. Our spiritual progress depends on the degree to which our heart is turned towards God.

II. "They shall see God"—Matt. 5:8b:

- A. If we are pure in heart in seeking God, we will see God; seeing God is a reward to the pure in heart; this blessing is both for today and for the coming age.
- B. To see God is an experience and an enjoyment; when we see Him, He dispenses Himself into us, infusing Himself into our being—2 Cor. 3:18.

- C. If we see the Lord, we will see that the things and objects of this world are trash—Phil. 3:7-8. D. Once we see the Lord's beauty, we cannot help but love Him—v. 8; S.S. 1:2-4; Psa. 27:4.

Focus: By the Lord's grace, we need to continually turn our heart to the Lord and deal with our heart that we may be the pure in heart—those whose only goal, aim, motive, and desire is the Lord Himself.

READING EXCERPT

The Pure in Heart

To be pure in heart is to be single in purpose, to have the single goal of accomplishing God's will for God's glory (1 Cor. 10:31). This is for the kingdom of the heavens. Our spirit is the organ by which we receive Christ (John 1:12; 3:6), whereas our heart is the ground where Christ as the seed of life grows (Matt. 13:19). For the kingdom of the heavens we need to be poor in spirit, empty in our spirit, that we may receive Christ. We also need to be pure, single in our heart, that Christ may grow in us without frustration. If we are pure in heart in seeking God, we will see God. Seeing God is a reward to the pure in heart. This blessing is both for today and for the coming age.

TURNING OUR HEART TO GOD TO BE THE PURE IN HEART

If God wants to work in us but we do not cooperate with Him, He will use some ways to make us willing to cooperate with Him. Here we see that if we want God to work in us, we have to cooperate with Him; otherwise, we are asking for trouble. But what is the way to cooperate with God? First, it is a matter of our heart. If we want to cooperate with God and allow Him to work in us, first of all we must turn our heart to God, for those who are pure in heart shall see God. A pure heart in the Bible refers mainly to a heart that desires God. The object of those who are pure in heart is God Himself. They do not want money, position, or beautiful clothing and expensive perfume. They also do not focus too much on their husband or children. Their heart is solely for God. Matthew says, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (5:8); and the Psalms say, "Whom do I have in heaven but You? / And besides You there is nothing I desire on earth" (73:25). The pure in heart have a heart so pure that they just want God and nothing other than God.

It is hard for God to work in us because our heart is not pure. Once our heart is not proper, our focus is also incorrect. This is why the Bible says that whenever our heart turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away (2 Cor. 3:16). For this reason it is hard to see God's work in many of God's children. All their problems hinge on whether their heart is on money, on their children, or on God. Judging others does not avail, neither does merely searching the Scriptures. Only turning our heart to God is profitable to us. Some people have half of their heart turned to God, while other people have their heart completely turned away from God. We have to bear in mind that how much our heart is for God determines how much work God will do in us. May we all be those who are pure in heart toward Him.

TURNING THE HEART TO THE LORD

Second Corinthians 3:12-18 is a wonderful portion of the New Testament. On the one hand, it says that the sons of Israel are veiled, and on the other hand, it says that whenever their heart turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. The removal of the veil does not depend on anything

other than turning our heart to the Lord. When the veil is not taken away, there is no light, but once the heart turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. The veil refers to all the things that we pursue other than the Lord. Whenever our heart turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. All the veils are due to the fact that our heart is not focused on the Lord. Therefore, verse 16 says that whenever our heart turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Once our heart turns to the Lord and desires the Lord in a single and pure way, we become a person who is pure in heart. One who is pure in heart does not know anything; he just knows the Lord. He does not desire anything; he just desires the Lord. One who is pure in heart does not covet anything in the world; neither does he covet anything in the spiritual realm. He is able to say, "O Lord, whom do I have in heaven but You? And besides You there is nothing I desire on earth." His heart is so pure and is not covered by any veil. Furthermore, once his veils are taken away, light comes, and immediately he sees. We all must realize what our problem is. Our problem is that our inner being is not pure and that we still have a great deal of mixture in us. Therefore, our heart needs to turn to the Lord.

Questions:

1. How do we cooperate with God to allow Him to work in us?
2. What does the veil refer to in 2 Cor. 3:16?

SCRIPTURE READING

Matt. 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Luke 11:34 The lamp of the body is your eye. When your eye is single, your whole body also is full of light; but when it is evil, your body also is dark.

Luke 11:35 Watch out therefore that the light which is in you is not darkness.

Luke 11:36 If therefore your whole body is full of light and does not have any dark part, the whole will be full of light as when the lamp with its rays illuminates you.

Psa. 73:25 Whom do I have in heaven but You? / And besides You there is nothing I desire on earth.

Psa. 73:26 My flesh and my heart fail, / But God is the rock of my heart and my portion forever.

2 Cor. 3:15 Indeed unto this day, whenever Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart;

2 Cor. 3:16 But whenever their heart turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

James 4:8 Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-souled!

2 Tim. 2:22 But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.