

Blessed Are The Pure In Heart

Psalm 24:1-6; Matt. 5:8

Introduction

- These verses stress the need for purity of heart in each of our lives.
- To see God, to be blessed we must be pure in heart.
- National epidemic: heart problem. Impure, unclean, defiled hearts.
- Battle for your heart:
 - God wants our hearts, minds, souls. (Matt. 22:37)
 - The devil seeks a claim on our hearts, minds, and souls. (I Pet. 5:8; Lk. 8:12; II Cor. 11:2-3)
 - Each one chooses to whom they will give their heart, mind, soul...

I. What Is The Heart?

- The part of you that thinks, has affections, wills, plans, determines, loves, hates, etc.
 - Intellect. (Thinks, Gen. 6:5); (Believes, Rom. 10:10); (Understands, Matt. 13:15)
 - Affection. (Desires, Rom. 10:1-2); (Loves, I Pet. 1:22)
 - Will. (Purposes, II Cor. 9:7); (Intends, Heb. 4:12), (Determines, Dan. 1:8)
 - Conscience. (Acts 2:36-37; I Tim. 1:5)
- This is the heart that must be pure: clean, unmixed with contaminants, unadulterated; free from every tint and mixture of evil.

II. Purity Of Heart Is Reflected In...

• Our attitude and demeanor in worship:

- Single-minded, focus on praising, thanking, revering, our Creator as we approach him in worship.
- One thing to “go to worship”; another to worship.
- Heart problems in worship:
 - Merely going through the motions; distractions; punch-clock mentality; focus on the other person; giving God less than our best.
 - Matt. 15:8 → honor with lips, heart is far removed.
 - Mal. 1:13 → what a weariness it is.
 - Amos 8:5 → when will this be over...
- God wants our hearts as we worship him in truth. (Jn. 4:24)

• Our handling of the word of God.

- Some motives are impure: II Cor. 2:17; Phil. 1:15-16; Matt. 4:6; cf. I Thess. 2:3,6,10)
- Determination to maintain purity of teaching: (I Tim. 1:3; I Tim. 4:1-6; II Tim. 1:13)
- Desire to defend sound doctrine: (Jude 3, Gal. 1:6-8; II Jn. 9-11)
- Efforts to determine truth from error. (Acts 17:11; I Thess. 5:21)
- To hold to the truth. (Prov. 23:23)

• Our words and deeds as we live in this world.

- Matt. 15:10-11; 17-20 → **10** After Jesus called the crowd to Him, He said to them, "Hear and understand. **11** "It is not what enters into the mouth that defiles the man, but what proceeds out of the mouth, this defiles the man."**17**"Do you not understand that everything that goes into the mouth passes into the stomach, and is eliminated **18**"But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. **19** "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders. **20**

"These are the things which defile the man; but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile the man." (Rev. 21:8,27)

III. What Can We Do To Guard Our Hearts?

•Prov. 4:23 → "Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life."

•We guard our hearts by...

–Being careful of what we willingly expose our eyes and ears to. (Job. 31:1)

–Filling our minds with good things. (Phil. 4:8)

–Meditating on the word of God. (Ps. 119:9-16; Ps. 1:1-2)

–Avoiding those who would lead us down the wrong path and associating with those who would strengthen us spiritually. (Prov. 13:20; I Cor. 15:33)

–Valuing the right things. (Matt. 6:19-21)

–Avoid places and situations where temptation occurs. (Prov. 4:14)

–Pray for strength. (Matt. 26:41)

–Resist. (Js. 4:7)

–Examine yourself, and seek God's forgiveness. (II Cor. 13:5; Ps. 51:2, 7-10)