

Pure in Heart

Matthew 5.8

Overview

Blessed are the PURE in heart, for they shall see God:

- To be pure is to have life:
 - We use “pure” in order to explain the essence of something:
 - Pure water, pure gold, pure satisfaction
 - Purity is the return of life to the sinfully dead soul
 - Impurity connotes deadness
- Jesus doesn’t call us to be “more good than bad” but pure

Blessed are the pure IN HEART, for they shall see God:

- Heart, here, means the center of one’s personality
 - Christ is not saying you have to just be pure of mind, or pure in your emotions, or in just your actions...you have to be pure in all three
 - See Proverbs 4:23
- For God to make you pure He implants His righteousness into the core of your being that it might flow out to the other parts of your life:
 - Matthew 5.18: But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and THIS defiles a person. For out of the HEART come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander
- Beware of external “purity” that does not flow from a quiet and “pure” heart:
 - Matthew 23.25-28: Christ’s Woe to the Pharisee’s who are clean on the outside, but not on the inside
 - Just because someone appears pure on the outside does not mean they are pure on the inside
 - We must learn to see how God sees, not as man sees (1 Samuel 16.7)

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall SEE GOD:

- Christ blesses those whom He purifies with the greatest gift of all...God
 - Every blessing that comes out of the Beatitudes has its home in God
- The basic building block of the Christian Faith is treasuring God above all things (John 16.22, 2 Cor. 4.6, 1 Peter 3.18)
 - If you seek a treasure beyond Him you worship something below Him
 - Piper: “Christ did not die to forgive sinners who go on treasuring anything above seeing and savoring God. And people who would be happy in heaven if Christ were not there, will not be there. The Gospel is not a way to get to get people to heaven; it is a way to get people to God. It’s a way of overcoming every obstacle to everlasting joy in God. If we don’t want God above all things, we have not been converted by the Gospel.”
- The greatest prospect of Heaven is beholding the greatest of all realities: God
 - We see in a mirror dimly now, but then face to face (1 Cor. 13.12)
 - When Christ appears we shall be like Him because we will see Him as He is (1 John 3.2)
 - When Christ appears He will make us FULL of gladness (Acts 2.28)

Questions

Discussion Starter: *Before you were a Christian what would you have thought heaven was about?*

1. Read Matthew 5:1-12. Focusing on verse 8, what does it mean to be 'pure'?
2. Why would Jesus want us to be 'pure in HEART?' How does the heart govern the other actions/abilities? Provide examples.
3. Read Matthew 15:18 & 23:25-28: Explain how outward obedience does not mean inward purity. What might that look like in your own life?
4. How does the Gospel grant us "purity of heart"?
5. Read Psalm 24. How does this connect to Matthew 5:8?
6. What is so good about "seeing God"? What does it mean to "see God" in the here and now?
7. Why would this be something worth longing for? What dulls our longing to see God?
8. How can the longing of seeing God fuel us to be obedient today? (How does "hoping in heaven" – Col. 1:3-5 – inform our lives now)
9. What are some practical ways we can increase our longing to see God?

Accountability Question: *What things are you tempted to treasure above seeing and savoring the Lord?*