

To Have Paradise on Earth: Be Transparent

The religion of God goes right to the heart of the matter
Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • August 23, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2020
Scripture Reader and Reading: Dominic Meyer – Matthew 5.1–7
Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Phil Joseph – No Suggestions

Introduction:

I. People *mock* you for the way you live, but

A. Jesus says:

8 “Blessed are the pure in heart,
For they shall see God.”

– Matthew 5.8

B. Purity of heart comes after seeking the other Beatitudes:

1. When you are *poor* in spirit
 - a) you see the *wealth* of a pure heart.
2. When you *mourn*
 - a) you see the *sacredness* of a pure heart.
3. When you are *meek*
 - a) you see the *value* of a pure heart.
4. When you are *hungering and thirsting* for righteousness
 - a) you see the *necessity* of a pure heart.
5. When you are *merciful*
 - a) you see *how* you became pure in heart.

II. The heart is the root of our lives.

A. As Jesus explained in Matthew 15,

1. every sin we commit,
2. begins in the heart.

18 “But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the

heart, and they defile a man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.”

– Matthew 15.18–19

3. Cannot the same be said for the good we do?
4. Truly, earlier in Matthew, Jesus said revealed:

34 “Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. 35 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.”

– Matthew 12.34–35

B. Since this is true,

1. in Proverbs 4, Solomon exhorts us to be alert
2. to what is in the heart:

**23 Keep your heart with all diligence,
For out of it spring the issues of life.**

– Proverbs 4.23

- a) You only need to think of yourself as an example
- b) to see how easily things enter the heart and
 - (1) then come out as sin.
 - (2) For example, have you been in the worship service,
 - (a) having a deep spiritual experience,
 - (b) only to leave and
 - i) encounter a bad driver and
 - ii) instantly your anger was to the boiling point?

Persuasion:

I. Blessed Are the Pure in Heart?

A. Can someone hug you, but

1. it is obvious that love is not in his or her heart?
2. So it was said in Second Chronicles 25 of Amaziah, King of Judah.
 - a) His actions were right, but
 - b) something was missing.

2 And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, but not with a loyal heart.

– 2 Chronicles 25.2

B. Therefore, listen to the advice that Cicero gave 2000 years ago.

1. What he says about sensuality
2. is not restricted to fornication, but
 - a) to any work of the flesh.

“Hold off from sensuality, for if you have given yourself up to it, you will find yourself unable to think of anything else.”

– Cicero

b) That is why we should pursue after a pure heart.

C. Purity of heart does not merely mean the absence of evil.

1. It includes the presence of the right thing.

“A thing is pure when there is nothing in it out of harmony with its nature. Water is pure, air is pure, when they contain only their constituent elements, and in the right proportion. Gold is pure when it has been separated by fire from all foreign matter. The diamond is pure, the crystal is pure, when there is nothing in them which hinders the refraction and reflection of light. It is thus with the heart, which is the emotional part of the soul. It is pure, when it loves only that which it ought to

love.”

– *The Biblical Illustrator*

2. Jesus taught this in Matthew 12:

43 “When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. 44 Then he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. 45 Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation.”

– **Matthew 12.43–45**

D. He whose heart is void of evil, but

1. is not filled with goodness
2. will fall prey to the devil.

II. Those with Pure Hearts...Shall They See God?

A. Paraphrase:

[“It may be easily understood that impurity of heart hinders the soul from seeing God. Under the power of perverse affections the mind sees nothing aright—nothing in its just relations and proportions. Least of all can the mind thus blinded in its highest faculties see God aright; it gets no inspiring and attractive perception of His glory. As earthly vapours, condensed into clouds and darkening the world with storms, hide from the outward sense the beauty and glory of the visible heaven, so sensual passions, groveling affections, and the dominion of sin in the soul, all the habits of an impure and unbelieving mind, intervene as with impenetrable clouds, to shut off from the view and reach of the spiritual faculties the grand realities of that upper sphere where the eternal relations of duty are and where God is. This is further illustrated by remembering distinctly that the normal or right state of the mind—the state in which its faculties and susceptibilities are properly adjusted in relation to each other and in relation to their objects—is just what our Saviour means by purity in heart. As the normal condition of the eye is not when the optic nerve is paralysed or otherwise diseased, nor when the surface is covered by a film, nor when inflammation or a mote under the eyelids makes

the light painful, but only when all obstruction or disease is absent, so the normal condition of the mind, as made for the knowledge things invisible and eternal, is not when its sensibilities are perverted by selfishness, not when sin reigns within but only when the heart is pure.”

– *The Biblical Illustrator*

1. Impure hearts cannot and do not want to see God.

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

– **Romans 8.7–8**

2. Perverse minds see nothing right.

15 To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.

– **Titus 1.15**

a) Such a heart cannot see God rightly.

b) As storms keep us from seeing clearly,

(1) so impure hearts

(2) keep us from seeing our way to God.

(a) An impure heart is like glasses covered with dirt.

(b) Glasses covered with just finger prints distort vision.

B. What it means to see God:

“The phrase ‘see God’ does not refer to any manifestation of His glory visible to the eye of sense [in this life, DR]. It is to the far deeper sight of the soul that Christ refers. Your best friend is not seen by the eye of the body; you see him spiritually, his qualities of mind and heart...It is useless to tell the selfish about the beauty of unselfishness; you might as well tell the blind about the glory of colour.”

– *The Biblical Illustrator*

C. Yet, the pure in heart also have the prospect of seeing God in heaven.

1. All people will see God at the end (Rev 1.7; 20.12), but
 - a) the pure in heart
 - b) will see him as a *friend*.
2. Listen to the Scripture give us a hint of the glorious moment awaiting us.

**26 “And after my skin is destroyed, this I know,
That in my flesh I shall see God,
27 Whom I shall see for myself,
And my eyes shall behold, and not another.
How my heart yearns within me!”**

– Job 19.26–27

**15 As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness;
I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.**

– Psalm 17.15

**17 Your eyes will see the King in His beauty;
They will see the land that is very far off.**

– Isaiah 33.17

**2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed
what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be
like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.**

– 1 John 3.2

4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.

– **Revelation 22.4**

3. How about some of our songs?

**“If I walk in the path way of duty,
If I work till the close of the day,
I shall see the great King in His beauty,
When I’ve gone the last mile of the way.”**

**“Just one glimpse of Him in glory
Will the toils of life repay.”**

4. Beauties of this earth dazzle our eyes.

- a) Think of a glorious sight in nature.
- b) See a tropical beach scene.
- c) See an ocean of mountains.

5. Remember those images are only of the footstool of God! (Isa 66.1).

- a) When you visit someone,
- b) do you only look at his footstool?

6. Remember:

- a) Isaiah 6
- b) Revelation 1
- c) Daniel 10

D. Does the thought of seeing God thrill your soul?

- 1. With great sadness we say
- 2. that the impure in heart will see Him as a judge.

Exhortation:

I. If you want to see the Artist

A. who is greater than His art,

B. then you must be pure in heart.

II. Here is what you must do...

III. Here is what the Christian must do...

IV. Only God can purify...