

# Make Church a Part of Your Life

## WEEKLY SERMONETTE

*"Blessed are the Pure in Heart"*

By Preacher/Teacher Terry L. Laughlin, CrossRoads Ministries

"The Sermon on the Mount" is the first of five major discourses in the Gospel of Matthew. In this sermon, Jesus gives us another powerful statement on the fruit of those who allow the Holy Spirit to work in their lives.

He gives us one of the most important themes found in Scripture, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God." (Matthew 5: 8)

Purity of heart is the main thrust of true Christianity. "Surely you desire truth in the inner parts..." (Psalms 51: 6) The pure in heart are those whose minds, motives, affections and principles have been cleansed by faith in Christ and through the washing of rebirth. (Titus 3: 5) They seek to not only have their external actions corrected, but they desire to be holy in heart. They know that although man looks on the outward appearance, God looks into a man's heart. (Galatians 2: 6; Samuel 16: 7) The pure in heart care nothing for such sights that lead man into sin.

Anyone who is single-mindedly pursuing the kingdom of God and His righteousness in God's way will be inwardly pure. Inward sham, deceit, and moral sin cannot coexist with heartfelt devotion to Christ. This Beatitude destroys hypocrisy.

Pastor Henry Booth writes:

According to the nature and character of the foun-

tain will be the character of the stream. The heart may be compared to a reservoir which supplies a large town with its hundreds of streets and thousands of pipes. If the water be pure in the reservoir it will be conveyed in its purity through the pipes to the inhabitants; but if turbid there, it will be impure at its destination. The heart

is the reservoir from which life flows. The mouth, hands, feet, looks, actions, etc. are the pipes. If the heart is pure, purity will be manifested in life.

The pure in heart will see God. The greatest happiness to a Christian is the fact that someday he will see Christ face to face in the beauty of His holiness. None but the pure

in heart will be able to look upon the face of God. What pleasure could an unrepentant soul have in the vision of a holy God? God cannot behold iniquity, nor can the impure stand to look upon God's purity. The unclean will never enter into God's dwelling place.

The Bible says, "I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to what his deeds deserve." (Proverbs 17: 10)

Only the blood of Christ can cleanse you from sin. Receiving Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord will put you under His blood and your sins will be covered, forgotten and cleansed, causing you to become a new creature in Christ. This will turn you from sin-centeredness and self-centeredness to God and Christ-centeredness. This is the blessedness of becoming pure in heart.

Those who cry out to God as king David did in Psalm 51: 10, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me," they will see God.

Call upon Christ today and He will forgive you and give you a fresh clean start before God. He will purify your heart so that the sins that desire to consume and destroy you will no longer have dominion in your life. Purity of heart and victory over sin will be found only in Jesus Christ!



### TWICE BLESSED

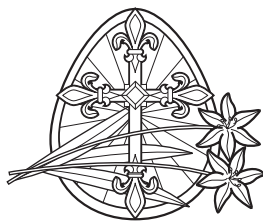
We live in a country of great wealth; still there are those among us who need help. Helping others, even in the smallest manner, is a way of showing appreciation for our many blessings.

In Matthew 19:21, our Lord commanded, "... go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven." Even if we don't sell our possessions, when we give, we instantly receive the gift of warmth and establish the kind of spiritual equilibrium that comes from putting others first. How do we begin?

Any gift is important to someone who has nothing. Our churches and synagogues provide the opportunity for giving - both in time and treasure. Visit your house of worship this week, you can find opportunities to help those less fortunate and enrich your soul as well. You will be twice blessed.

Sunday Job 33.1-33	Monday Job 34.1-37	Tuesday Job 35.1-16	Wednesday Job 36.1-33	Thursday Jeremiah 22.1-23	Friday Jeremiah 22.24 - 23.8	Saturday Jeremiah 23.9.40
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