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**“Beatitudes: Blessed are The Pure in Heart”**

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

We now see more of the character of a child of God. This character is seated in the heart or soul of a person. The heart of a person who rejects God is clearly stated:

*Rom 1:21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

Jeremiah also lamented concerning the heart of man:

*Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; Who can understand it?*

Paul also speaks of the result of a lifetime of an unregenerate heart:

*Rom 2:5-6 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,* ***6****who will render to every man according to his deeds:*

Jesus spoke of the heart as the source of all evil in the world:

*Matt 15:18-19 "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.*

So if the heart of natural man is totally unclean, how does one obtain a new, pure heart and receive the blessing of seeing God? David gave the answer:

*Psa 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

Paul also told us that the hope that we have for an eternity with Him will be fulfilled because God has changed our hearts and given us the Holy Spirit to lead us in our sanctification process as we utilize the pure heart in our walk in the world:

*Rom 5:5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

So there is a sense in which there is nothing for us to do to be pure in heart since our justification is totally a work of God, and none of our work will make our heart pure before Him. However we still have to cooperate in the sanctification process.

*Phil 2:12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling;*

Jesus Christ made the sacrifice with His single offering of Himself:

*Heb 10:14 For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.*

The children of God can then know they will be allowed to enter the very presence of God by the work of Jesus and to have hearts that He has made clean.

* *Heb 10:19-22 Since therefore, brethren, we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus,* ***20****by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh,* ***21****and since we have a great priest over the house of God,* ***22****let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*
* Psa 24:3-4 *Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? And who may stand in His holy place? 4He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood And has not sworn deceitfully.*

This purity we have is due only to the life of obedience and the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. So we can come before Him in prayer now and know that one day we will be able to stand before Him with a pure heart. However we are now in a sinful state as the purity of our new heart is being worked out in our obedience to Him before many witnesses in the world. We no longer practice sin but we still are sinful in our daily walk and thought. Paul asked if, once we have been purified spiritually, we should still sin and his answer was bold and quick (I bolded it):

*Rom 6:15-18 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace?* ***May it never be!******16****Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?* ***17****But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,* ***18****and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.*

If we still desire to practice sin then we have not been given a pure heart and are still facing the wrath of God. Although every true Christian still sins, we know that if we confess those sins and have truly repented then they are forgiven and our spiritual heart remains pure:

*1John 1:8-9 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.* ***9****If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Although we who are in Christ have a pure spiritual heart and will live forever in the presence of God because of the works of Jesus Christ for our sins, we also will stand before a judgment seat before God for a judgment of our works:

* *2Cor 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*
* *1Cor 3:15 If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire.*

So let each of us remember to thank God for our pure heart and work to live that way now in submission to the Holy Spirit in our sanctification.