

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

Notes to a lecture by Steve gregg

I. The importance of the “heart” (Psalms 24:3)

- A. *The seat of all secret thoughts, emotions, and motives (Prov.23:6-7)*
- B. *All of life’s issues spring from the heart (Prov.4:23/Matt.15:18-19)*
- C. *God’s primary interest is in the state of the heart (1 Sam.16:7)*
- D. *The heart is the receptor of God’s self-revelation, and its condition affects the clarity of that revelation (Psalm 18:26/ Titus 1:15)*
- E. *Love out of a pure heart is the goal of Christianity (1 Tim.1:5/1 Pet.1:22/2 Tim.2:22)*

II. The doctrine of “seeing God” (Hebrews 12:14)

- A. *God is invisible (1 Tim. 1:17)*
 - 1. No one can see Him and live (Exod.33:20-23)
 - 2. No one has seen God (John 1:18/1 Tim.6:16)
 - 3. We love Him without having seen Him (1 Pet.1:8/1 John 4:20)
- B. *In a certain sense, God can be “seen” (Job 42:5)*
 - 1. In theophanies (Gen.18:1/32:30/Judges 13:22)
 - 2. In visions (Exod.24:10/Num.12:6/Isa.6:1)
 - 3. In creation (Rom.1:20)
 - 4. In Jesus (John 14:9/Col.1:15/Heb.1:3)
 - 5. By inward revelation (John 14:21-23)
 - 6. Faith is as a form of sight (Heb.11:1, 13, 27/2 Cor.4:18)
 - 7. At His coming (Job.19:25-27/1 John 3:2-3/1 Cor.13:12)

III. What constitutes purity of heart?

- A. *Purged of guilt (Heb.9:14/10:22)*
- B. *Without guile (John 1:47/Rev.14:5/Matt.6:1-18/Eph.6:6)*
- C. *Unpolluted*
 - 1. Wholly for God (Matt.22:37/James 4:8)
 - 2. Simplicity (Acts 2:46/Luke 10:41-42)
 - 3. Morally pure (Matt.5:28/Job 31:1)
 - 4. Not loving money (Matt.6:21-24/13:22/1 Tim.6:6-10)
 - 5. Trusting, not doubting (James 1:8/Mark 11:23)

IV. Signs of heart pollution

- A. *Casual thought and speech (Matt.12:34/Jas.3:10-17/Ps.19:14)*
- B. *Lukewarmness (1 Pet.1:22/Rev.3:15/Matt.24:12)*
- C. *No confidence before man or God (Prov.28:1/1 John 3:20-21)*

V. Keeping the heart pure

- A. *Pray for it (Ps.51:10/Phil.4:6-7)*
- B. *Walk in the light (1 John 1:7-10/Eph.5:13)*
- C. *Cast out idols (Ezek.14:3/Matt.5:29-30/19:21/1 John 5:21)*
- D. *Fill the heart and mind: pro-active purity (Eph.5:19/Phil.4:8)*