

Pure in Heart

by Wayne Goff

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

*"Pure (katharos) in heart" suggests the single-minded desire to be with God. But elsewhere the word suggests *cleansing*. For example, Jesus rebuked the blind Pharisee who spent all of his time *cleansing* cups and dishes instead of himself (Matt. 23:26)! He told them that their inward man was *"full of greed and wickedness"* (Lk. 11:39). Their hearts needed cleansing, purifying. The Greek word used in these verses gives us our English words **catharsis**, and **cathartic**. Both words suggest the idea of freeing oneself from something, thus being pure again.*

Jesus told the Twelve at the last supper that they were *"clean, but not all of you. For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, 'You are not all **clean**'"* (Jn. 13:10-11). Judas had a heart full of **betrayal**, **covetousness** and **greed**. He was unclean and it cost him his life and soul.

You and I, as Christians, are admonished to have a *"pure heart"* (1 Tim. 1:5), *"a pure conscience"* (1 Tim. 3:9). Paul had served God with a *pure conscience* (2 Tim. 1:3). We must strive to **know** God's will, to **do** it, and to **teach** it to others (Ezra 7:10) in order to have a pure conscience. We are to find others who desire to do the same and thus pursue *"righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord with a **pure heart**"* (2 Tim. 2:22). If evil associations corrupt good morals (1 Cor. 15:33), then good associations keep clean pure hearts. Our friends help us more than we realize! Seek after good ones. After all, Paul reminded Titus: *"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 defiled conscience sees filth and suggestiveness in everything. The pure conscience is naive about such things. It's good to be naive about some things.

"Pure and undefiled religion" (James 1:27) is to be practiced. We have *"purified"* our souls in obeying the truth (1 Pet. 1:22). So we are to maintain them. Christ's redeemed Bride is dressed in a beautiful linen garment, *"clean {**pure**} and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints"* (Rev. 19:8).

Dear reader, are you **pure** in heart? Do you seek that which *cleanses* your heart and conscience? Do you *make friends* of God's children? Do you *help* those who are weak? Do you *cleanse* your heart of impure thoughts and motives? If so, then you are **blessed**.

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