

MATTHEW 5:8

Matthew 5:8 says, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Those who desire a Positive Spiritual Attitude (PSA) will strive in their lives to have a pure heart.

But having a pure heart is more than just desiring those things which are right. One interesting but important fact of the scriptures is that many times the word heart is used to mean, or stand for, the mind. To be able to see God, as the verse teaches, we need a pure heart and a pure mind.

Mark 7:21 says that out of the heart of a man proceeds evil thoughts. Jesus uses the word "heart" to actually mean "mind." As the heart is the seat of the emotions, so the mind is the home of intellectual thought and our attitudes toward all things. Therefore, to refer to the heart of man is to refer to the mind and intelligence of the individual. As we can change our mind on certain things, so can we change our heart. Jesus says that we must have a pure heart (mind) to be able to see God.

Outward service, in the form of commandment—keeping, is important but our mind must always be on good things, desiring godliness, and shunning sin. Those who enjoy sinful things but never publicly practice them are not right before God. Mark 7:21-23 says that many sins originate from within and it is these (from the heart or mind) that defile a man. It is very important that we keep our hearts and minds pure. James Burton Coffman speaks of "the heart" in this way, it "imagines (Gen. 6 :5), understands (Mt. 15:13), reasons (Mk. 2:8), thinks (Lk. 9:27), believes (Rom. 10:9) and loves (1Pet. 1:22)." Each one of these areas must be kept pure if we are to have the blessing promised in Mt. 5:8.

The Imagination is a wonderful tool for good, but it can also be a stumbling block to destruction. Even though it was created for good, it can be used for the propagation of sinful things and this is wrong.

When sin is in our life, understanding of good is clouded (see Rom. 3:11). When we cannot distinguish right from wrong it becomes almost impossible to serve God as we should.

Reasoning and thinking through problems to find solutions is a proven means to answers. But if we allow our minds to reason into rationalization and thinking into toleration of sinful things, we are forfeiting God's way. And finally what we believe in is closely tied to what we love. We must then be careful that we do not let ourselves love the wrong things. We will become like those things we love. If we love sin, we shall become unrighteous; and if we love the holy things of God we shall remain pure in His sight.

To see God means to know His comfort, love and fellowship. It also means that when this life is over, we can actually see Him face to face in all of eternity. To obtain the blessing of this beatitude, let us keep our hearts (and minds) on the things of God, and remain pure in His sight.

More next week...