

Meet My Savior: Jesus (Slide 1)

*The Beatitudes:
Blessed are the pure in heart*

Reading: Psalm 12

Matthew 5:8 (Slide 2)

***Blessed are the pure in heart,
For they shall see God.***

Everyone here, if you have truly come to worship the God of Heaven, wants to see God. Not only see Him but to dwell with Him, His Son, His mighty angels, and those of like precious faith who have gone on to their reward.

The main purpose of worshipping together is to give God praise and to learn more about Him so that our fellowship with Him becomes a bond that is inseparable now and forever and ever.

But this verse indicates that only the *pure in heart* will see God. To me, to be pure in heart is a daunting spiritual task. One in which on my own I cannot complete.

We sing the song:

Purer in Heart, Oh God (Slide 3)

*Purer in heart, O God, help me to be;
May I devote my life wholly to Thee:
Watch Thou my wayward feet,
Guide me with counsel sweet;
Purer in heart, help me to be.*

(Slide 4) *Purer in heart, O God, help me to be;
Teach me to do Thy will most lovingly;*

*Be Thou my Friend and Guide,
Let me with Thee abide;
Purer in heart, help me to be.*

(Slide 5) *Purer in heart, O God, help me to be;
Until Thy holy face one day I see:
Keep me from secret sin,
Reign Thou my soul within;
Purer in heart, help me to be.*

The writer of this song is Fannie E. Davinson who was born in 1851 and died in 1887. She is expressing her desire to be pure in heart.

We may not realize it but this song captures the difficulty of being pure in heart and emphasizes the fact that we cannot do it on our own.

Watch thou my wayward feet: If you have lived for any length of time at all you realize how easy it is to get off the right path. In fact, Jesus says that the right way is narrow but the wrong path is broad and those who travel that broad path follow it without boundaries.

Keep me from secret sin: The writer is expressing that there could exist something in our lives that only God and I know about. They are held within, secrets we don't want others to know about.

Jesus says it isn't what goes into a man that defiles Him, it is how it is digested and expelled. There are any number of things that we hear or see that we cannot help but to hear and to see them.

Do we expel them completely or do some exist internally inside of us and grow like yeast for bread and become secret sins.

The writer of this song fully admits that to be *pure in heart* is difficult and that we need help. She uses these words and phrases:

Help me to be, Watch (out where I go), Guide me, Teach me, Keep me from, Reign (over me). She writes this plea so that it will sustain us spiritually until this life on earth is ended:

*Purer in heart, O God, help me to be;
Until Thy holy face one day I see*

To be *pure in heart* would be impossible without God's help.

That being the case, how can anyone be saved?

Luke 1:37 (Slide 6)

For with God nothing will be impossible.

With God in our heart (He is pure) and God as the center of our world, even though we are not perfect, God through His Son makes us pure.

What does the word pure mean?

(Slide 7) In the Greek the word *pure* means *clean, unstained, unmixed, or sincere*.

*We think of a Bride dressed in an all white wedding gown as being pure.
Such is the picture for the church, the Bride of Christ!*

David asked God to: ***Create in me a clean heart, Psalm 51.***

He knew there were things in his heart that he could not wash clean or purify on his own because they had left a stain. Only God can wash the heart of man clean.

I don't believe if one is without God, that man's heart can really be classified as a mixture. Even a half truth makes the entirety of his heart a lie. When a detective interviews a witness or suspect, they generally know when that person is telling some truth mixed with lies. That makes everything they say suspect.

All lies come from the father of lies, the Devil himself. He is the father of lies. One has to distinguish the truth from the lies because mixed together they may sound true but are full of deceit. Half truths are sometimes more deceitful than all out lying.

Even the best person we know who does not obey God can be pure without Him.

2 Corinthians 11:12-15 (Slide 8)

12 But what I do, I will also continue to do, that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the things of which they boast. 13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, (Slide 9) transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

We are to be good stewards of the truth so that we can rightly discard what is falsehood.

Purity is why God demanded that the Israelites abstain themselves from foreign wives. Though they were purely female, they were wrong for the pure race in which God intended His Son to come from.

A lesson in purity we need to consider. Not all that is pure is good for us.

***Pure Caffeine (Slide 10)**

I am, like so many people, a coffee drinker. In fact, coffee is the first thing I start my day with. While many start with breakfast, I start my day with a cup of coffee.

Of course, one of the main ingredients in coffee is caffeine. Caffeine that is in coffee, in moderation, is thought to have a number of positive effects for the central nervous system.

It stimulates the nervous system and produces improved alertness and sharper cognitive function. It provides a number of antioxidants that are thought to reduce inflammation and prevent chronic diseases.

Too much caffeine can cause insomnia, jitters, anxiety, rapid heart rate and dependence.

The caffeine in coffee primarily comes from coffee beans. However coffee is a complex mixture of vitamins and minerals that are stimulants. In fact, there are over 60 natural sources that make up coffee. Coffee also has plant abstracts that are natural insect repellants.

Something to think about when you next enjoy that smooth, hot cup of coffee. Perhaps that's why people seem to get away when someone has *"bad coffee breath."*

Though coffee contains caffeine and produces many positive effects, pure caffeine is toxic. Pure caffeine, typically in powder form, can cause severe safety risks. One teaspoon of pure caffeine makes up the amount found in 28 cups of coffee.

Pure caffeine can cause heart failure, seizures or even death. The knowledge that we have about purity in any form is important to keep us safe. For the body as well as the soul.

The world we live in is a beautiful place. When God created the earth and all that is in it He declared that it is *"Good."* We might mistakenly think that in regards to man that He meant morally good. What He meant was that His creation met with His intended purpose.

Man He gave *"free will."* Therefore, it was up to man to keep himself moral/pure. Yet, men tried to mix what they believed to be inherently pure with their own wisdom. Yes, the world is good from the standpoint of creation, nevertheless, man, through his own wisdom corrupted what God made perfect.

Like caffeine, there is a lot that is good in the world if viewed and used correctly. Notwithstanding, underneath there lies a darkness that is pure evil.

Jesus, when praying for His disciples made this statement:

John 17:9-19 (Slide 11)

9 "I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. 10 And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. 11 Now I am no longer in the world, but these are

in the world, and I come to You. (Slide 12) Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. 12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. (These are saved. Jesus knew His disciples, other than Judas, would be saved eternally. He made this statement before His crucifixion, before Peter denied Him 3 times, before Thomas doubted. They were saved and He knew they would be. 13 But now I come to You, (Slide 13) and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. 14 I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, (Slide 14) but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

Keep them from the evil one-The evil one is pure evil! Jesus is pure righteousness! Pure Evil kills but Pure Righteousness is life!

I think Jesus is praying for His disciples that they maintain their purity in Him. The pure evil in the world is toxic!! The only counter to it is the pure and unmixed word of God!!

They will be in the world because this is where they will do their work in Christ. He doesn't want the world to rub off on them and He knew they wouldn't let that happen.

We have a mixture of encounters in our lives. When we assemble together we are surrounded by people, though not perfect, but of like precious faith.

When we are in the world we are surrounded by people who have no faith and act and speak differently. Too much of that can have a negative effect on us spiritually if we are not careful or aware.

We can allow their impurity to desensitize our spiritual purity. Afterall, that's what happened to the children of Israel. The nations around them caused desensitized spirituality.

Romans 12:1-2 (Slide 15)

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

The only way we are made pure in heart is by the blood of Christ:

1 Peter 1:17-25 (Slide 16)

17 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by (Slide 17) tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you 21 who through Him believe in God, (Slide 18) who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, 23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, (Slide 19) through the word of God which lives and abides forever, 24 because

***"All flesh is as grass,
And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass.
The grass withers,
And its flower falls away,***

25 But the word of the LORD endures forever."

Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

Unlike the toxicity of pure caffeine, the word of God is purifying. Mixing any of man's wisdom with it makes it toxic.

1 John 3:1-3 (Slide 20)

1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it

did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, (Slide 21) but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

We will see Him as He is; if we are pure in heart!

Invitation

Have you made preparation to see God? Have you been baptized in the blood of the lamb that makes you pure? If not, don't delay, do it today!

Do you do something that is weighing heavy on you? Some burden that you need help in bearing? We can pray for you and lift your name to heaven.

Please let us know how we may assist you in your walk with Christ.....

Reading

Psalm 12

***1 Help, LORD, for the godly man ceases!
For the faithful disappear from among the sons of men.***

***2 They speak idly everyone with his neighbor;
With flattering lips and a double heart they speak.***

***3 May the LORD cut off all flattering lips,
And the tongue that speaks proud things,***

***4 Who have said,
"With our tongue we will prevail;
Our lips are our own;
Who is lord over us?"***

***5 "For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy,
Now I will arise," says the LORD;
"I will set him in the safety for which he yearns."***

***6 The words of the LORD are pure words,
Like silver tried in a furnace of earth,
Purified seven times.***

***7 You shall keep them, O LORD,
You shall preserve them from this generation forever.***

***8 The wicked prowl on every side,
When vileness is exalted among the sons of men.***

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