

Morning Sermon February 16, 2020

“The Sixth Step to Happiness: Purity”

<sup>8</sup> **Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Matthew 5:8 (NKJV)**

*Clearly this is one of the higher steps on the stairway to happiness / blessedness... How do I know that?*

*Previous steps assume sin! We are poor in spirit because we are morally bankrupt! We mourn / CRY because of sin! We hunger and thirst for righteousness because we DO NOT have it! Purity of heart is extreme, because –*

I. *Our hearts are by nature the opposite of pure –*

<sup>19</sup> **For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. Matthew 15:19 (NKJV)**

1. *The list of sins Christ gives us that proceed out of the human heart are the heart's OVERFLOW!*
2. *Revelation's description of Babylon, could also be a description of the sinful human heart –*

<sup>2</sup> **And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! Revelation 18:2 (NKJV)**

3. *Even the hearts of true believers, real Christians, are far from PURE –*

*C.H. Spurgeon the Prince of Preachers, said of his own heart – “I have a heart, which God knows, I wish I could hurl an infinite distance; a soul which is a cage of unclean birds, a den of loathsome creatures, where dragons haunt and owls do congregate, where every evil beast of ill-omen dwells; a heart too vile to have parallel – deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; ... Jeremiah 17:9) This is the reason I am forgetful of Christ!” C.H. Spurgeon*

4. *Of course Jeremiah 17:9 applies to all our hearts –*

<sup>9</sup> **“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? Jeremiah 17:9 (NKJV)**

*Deceitful means our own hearts deceive us, we tend to think we are better than we are, few really think themselves to be Hell Bound, and yet Jesus tells us most are, most go the broad, easy way that leads to destruction, even against the instruction of Christ –*

<sup>13</sup> **“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. <sup>14</sup> Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. Matthew 7:13–14 (NKJV)**

*We go these broad easy ways because we listen to deceitful hearts!*

*“As the salt flavors every drop in the Atlantic, so does sin affect every atom of our nature. It is sadly there, so abundantly there, that if you cannot detect it, you are deceived!” C.H. Spurgeon*

*“Keep your heart as you would a prisoner.” Thomas Watson*

*Our hearts are so evil God is driven to destroy us, destroy everything –*

<sup>5</sup> **Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. <sup>6</sup> And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. <sup>7</sup> So the LORD said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.” Genesis 6:5–7 (NKJV)**

II. *Yet just as Noah found grace in the sight of the LORD, so have we –*

<sup>8</sup> **But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. Genesis 6:8 (NKJV)**

*Noah built an ark, but cleansing a heart is a bigger task!*

1. *It requires God's strength, Jesus' Arm, might –*  
**53 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? Isaiah 53:1 (NKJV)**

2. *Jesus' agony, even His death was required –*

<sup>44</sup> **And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. Luke 22:44 (NKJV)**

3. *Jesus prayed fervently, was obedient unto death –*  
<sup>7</sup> who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear,  
<sup>8</sup> though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. <sup>9</sup> And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, Hebrews 5:7–9 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross. Philippians 2:8 (NKJV)

*What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!*

4. *Jesus had to be made sin for us, dirty work indeed -*  
<sup>21</sup> For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

5. *What a wonderful, great grace that all this work is done for us*  
–  
<sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8–9 (NKJV)

III. *Jesus saves us, cleanses us, but we also have a role to in our purification –*

<sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. 1 John 3:1–3 (NKJV)

1. *Note the great motive of purification, seeing God –*  
<sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Matthew 5:8 (NKJV)

A. *Note the similarity between Matthew 5:8 and 1 John 3, both connect purity / purity in heart to Seeing God!*

B. *1 John 3 communicates this as a hope, something we work for!*  
C. *Holiness, spiritual purification is an absolute requirement for “seeing God” –*

<sup>14</sup> Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: Hebrews 12:14 (NKJV)

2. *Jesus on the cross, saved us from the penalty of sin!*  
3. *His Holy Spirit, using God’s Word, sanctifies us, even now, more and more saving us from the power of sin –*

<sup>17</sup> Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. John 17:17 (NKJV)

4. *One day, in Heaven, we will be saved from the very presence of sin where we will see God clearly –*

<sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. 1 Corinthians 13:12 (NKJV)

A. *Knowing God is eternal life –*

<sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. John 17:3 (NKJV)

B. *Knowing God should be our great goal in life, along with making Him known –*

<sup>23</sup> Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty *man* glory in his might, Nor let the rich *man* glory in his riches; <sup>24</sup> But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I *am* the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,” says the LORD. Jeremiah 9:23–24 (NKJV)

C. *Sin blocks our view of God, distorts His image –*

<sup>14</sup> Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men; Isaiah 52:14 (NKJV)

to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? Isaiah 53:1 (NKJV)  
*They missed Him in the manger, they counted Him a stranger, yet for us -* <sup>4</sup> ...the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14 (NKJV)

*Arnold Brevick*