

Lighthouse Beacon

New Mexico Lighthouses - July 2003

Are You A Blessing To Your World?

Thus far in our study of Matthew 5:1-16, we have seen Jesus reveal a process of becoming, not a point of arriving. The first blessing describes our relationship with God which begins when we accept salvation through Christ as a gift from God. The second blessing describes the comfort of God given to Christians who mourn and cry out to Him. The third blessing describes the abundant life given to Christians who are meek and gentle through submission to Christ living in us. The fourth blessing reveals how Christ not only draws us to Him, but He also satisfies our hunger for Him. The fifth blessing describes how Christians become merciful as we receive His mercy, both in our salvation and in our daily walk. Each blessing reveals a deeper relationship with God, as He is being formed in us.

This month we examine the sixth blessing – seeing God. Let’s ask ourselves “Can I see God?” Or, especially for a Lighthouse, “Can others see God in me?” **Let Him Shine!**—KC

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” Matthew 5:8

What is our condition?

What does it mean to be “pure in heart?” *Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary* says that “In the Bible the word ‘heart’ has a much broader meaning than it does to the modern mind.” Biblically, it represents “the inner self that thinks, feels, and decides.” And the heart “often means someone’s true character or personality.”

And what does “pure” mean?” *Nelson’s* describes purity as “the quality or state of being free from mixture, pollution, or other foreign elements.” It sounds simple, but can we truly make our heart be pure before God? *Not according to the Bible!* Proverbs 20:9 says “Who can say, ‘I have cleansed my heart; I am pure and free from sin?’”^{NLT} And Jeremiah 17:9-10 tells us that “The human heart is most deceitful and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is? But I know! I, the

LORD, search all hearts and examine secret motives.”^{NLT}

If a pure heart is beyond our ability, then what can we do? Oswald Chambers said “Those who are truly saved ... are the pure in heart.” Those who are truly saved understand their inability to achieve purity, and they have cried out to the only One who can purify them.

Psalms 51:10 says it perfectly: “Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a right spirit within me.”^{NLT}

And Acts 15:8-9 says “So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us, and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.”^{NKJV} Therefore, those who are “pure in heart” are born-again children of God, purified by the faith given to us by Him, through His Holy Spirit. **The pure heart is not achieved, but received.**

But once we have received this gift, is that the end of it? Not exactly. We have a

...you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light —Eph. 5:8

pure heart which is part of our gift of eternal life, but we also have a fleshly nature that pollutes our heart every chance it gets. So how do we grow in purity? Well, Ezekiel 36:26 says “And I will give you a new heart with new and right desires, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony heart of sin and give you a new, obedient heart.”^{NLT} Thus, the “pure in heart” have had their deceitful, sinful heart replaced with a new heart that desires obedience to God. Being convicted about how our thoughts, words and deeds are viewed by Him is a primary indication of our saving relationship with Him. “Pure in heart” simply means *His heart in us.*

What is our blessing?

The blessing here is that “they shall see God.” This is a profound because it is two blessings in one. The first is that all Christians will one day see him “face to face.”

We will have the eternal privilege of seeing first hand all of the wonderfulness that is God. We cannot even begin to imagine the breadth and depth of what that means.

But there is also a second blessing: *the pure in heart get to see God here and now.* Not in the literal sense of the glory that will be revealed to us in eternity, but in a very practical, faith-building way in our daily lives. It is a joy to be around those who are pure in heart because they can recognize the fingerprints of God

scattered all over the finest details of life. They commune with God in a nearly continuous fellowship—not something hyper spiritual and spooky, but rather an acute awareness of His presence and closeness, and a burning desire to be upright before Him, ready to respond to His every lead. This person is receiving the heart and mind of God. They see God as He reveals Himself in totally unpredictable ways, guiding their lives towards purity and spiritual maturity because they have a heart committed to obedience. *The pure in heart see God even as they are being conformed to the image of Christ.*

What is our response?

God wants us to pursue spiritual purity by pursuing Him. We cannot hope to keep ourselves pure but we can make choices concerning our desire for obedience to Him, which in turn has a direct effect on how pure our hearts are before Him. *The obedient heart spoken of in Ezekiel is the key to the pure heart spoken of in Matthew.* Interestingly, Jesus said that obeying two commandments would cover all of the law—love God and love your neighbor. (*Mt. 22:37-40*) As Lighthouses, let us respond to His blessing by seeking to be obedient to these two commandments so that we can see more of God in our lives, and then our neighbors will see more of God in us. —*Let Him Shine!*

Billy Graham Telephone Worker Opportunities

The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association will broadcast nationwide Sept. 8-13 and the Albuquerque Telephone Center needs volunteers. Training for new workers will be held on Monday, Sept 8th from 6-9PM at Del Norte Baptist Church (dinner will be served at 5PM). Please call the ABQ Center at 832-6385 if you wish to attend training, or visit www.LightShine.net and click on **BGEA TVTM**.

Your Lighthouse Church

Want to learn more about how your church can become a Lighthouse Church? Then visit http://www.missionamerica.org/emails/html/update_lighthouse.html for suggestions, resources and information on how to sign up. Or call *LightShine* at 293-0743.