

Purity Leads to Presence

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

Jesus' beatitude here has one primary meaning: That if one is pure (holy) they will indeed see God in heaven one day. Now of course, if we truly know ourselves, none of us are pure... We have all fallen short of God's perfect standard (Romans 3:23). And so we need the purity and righteousness of Jesus the only pure person to ever live deposited into our account. And this is exactly what takes place when we put our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ! We are counted righteous, holy, and pure by our position in Christ the perfect Son. Somebody say: "Amen!"

Now a secondary meaning that I want to press into for a moment is: Now that we are in Christ Jesus we should strive to live our everyday life with a pure heart. And I am convinced that when we do this, we will experience more of God's presence at work within our life... For it is our purity in gospel living that leads to living closely to the God of the gospel. For the more that we are like Him the more that we will know Him and "see" Him in a spiritual sense in our life!

And so that raises the question then for all of you who are reading this... Do you see God? Do you feel His presence? Are you aware of His sufficient grace holding you and keeping you each day? Do you see Him moving mountains? Do you see Him parting the raging seas before you? If the answer is no... Then possibly you have something blurring your vision of God. And you are unable to see the Almighty One actively moving to and fro for His Glory because of the dirty windshield in front of you...

And so, what should you do to clear up that vision? Well, think deeply for a moment... Search your heart... What is it that is keeping you from walking in purity? Is it lust? Greed? Envy? Laziness? Idolatry? Or all the above? Whatever it is, by the mercies of God and the power of the Holy Spirit strive to purify yourself so that you can see more of God's hand of blessing in your life (1 John 3:3).

I've heard it said many times that: "holiness leads to happiness." And the chief cause for this is that the more holy you are, the more you are like God. And the more you are like God the closer you will be to God's gracious presence. And when in the Lord's presence as David tells us, "There is fullness of joy; and at His right hand are pleasures forevermore" (Psalm 16:11).

And so strive for holiness (Hebrews 12:14). Strive for a pure heart! Ask God to remove those selfish and ungodly desires and have Him fill you with the divine desires of grace. Look to Jesus in faith and say, "O Lord, I want to see you! Here I am, purify my heart and make me holy!" For godly purity will always lead to a deeper sense of God's presence!

Respect the Blood,
Dalton Mathis