

Happy Pure Ones

#0130

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—September 12, 1975

We have been listening as Jesus there on the mountainside by Galilee poured out His blessings on class after class, the poor in spirit, those that mourn, the meek, those that hunger and thirst after righteousness, the merciful.

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

That word “blessed” means happy. It means more than happy, but it includes that especially. In fact, that is one of the translations of this word, happy. The way to be happy then is to be pure in heart.

Why? Why does being pure in heart make people happy? What does Jesus say? “For they shall see God.” Does it make people happy to see God? Oh yes. It makes people happy to see God if they really understand Him, if they are in fellowship with Him, if they love what He loves, and appreciate what He appreciates.

The opposite is true of those who are not like Him. In Revelation the sixth chapter the closing scene is Jesus coming in the clouds of heaven, and the rich men and the poor men, the mighty men, the bond men, the free men, all pray to the rocks and mountains to fall on them and hide them from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb.

Think of it! That dear face of Jesus, men praying to be hidden from it. Why? Because their hearts are so full of sin that they cannot appreciate the character of God.

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To see God as the pure in heart see Him makes people happy. The ultimate reward of fellowship with God here is fellowship with Him all through eternity. Many songs have been written concerning the joy of meeting the Savior. A generation ago, one of the most famous songs was Charles Gabriel’s The Glory Song.

Oh, that will be glory for me,
When by His grace I shall look in His face,
That will be glory, be glory for me.

Another one:

All the trials of earth will seem nothing,

When I look in my dear Savior's face,
And then that one that so many have loved for decades:

Face to face with Christ my Savior,
Face to face, what will it be,
When with rapture I behold Him,
Jesus Christ who died for me.

Yes, it will be Heaven to look into His face, to see His smile of love, to catch the welcome of His words, to feel His arms about us. Blessed indeed will be the pure in heart at that time for they shall see God.

But we need not wait for that glorious day of reunion to enter into this experience. Even now, by the eye of faith, the pure in heart see God. But you know, friends, it takes more than a great sight to make a great impression. It takes an eye that looks, and a heart that appreciates. Isn't that true?

Have you ever looked at a beautiful sunrise, or sunset, and wondered what other creatures were getting from that display of glory? Years ago, I used to plow with a mule here on this campus, and in the evening as the sunset hour was coming on, as far as I know, all the mule got out of it was simply that it was time to go to the barn and get some corn. As far as I have any way of knowing, that display of beautiful color didn't mean a thing to that mule.

Some people are like that. All they think of in the evening is something to eat. They are not able to appreciate the beauty, I say not able to, they haven't cultivated that. And so it is with God, you know when Jesus was hanging there on that cross giving that great demonstration of His love, there were many that did not get the message at all. The soldiers simply saw a chance to have a game, so they got out there dice and started throwing the dice to see who would get some of His clothes.

They didn't see God. All they saw was a man they thought was a criminal being crucified. But oh, the universe looking on saw God as they had never seen Him before. If you and I want to see God even now, by the eye of faith with our imagination working as we read the story in Matthew and Mark, and Luke and John, we can see in the life and suffering and death of Jesus, we can see God.

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But we can appreciate Him and see Him truly only as we enjoy what He enjoys. So many in the world today find there fun, not in purity, but in impurity. They find their pleasure, not in law-keeping, but in lawbreaking. Then they wonder why they are never fully satisfied. Our text gives the recipe for happiness.

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God" Matthew 5:8.

Unfortunately, the Devil has succeeded in selling most of the human family on the idea that the way to have a “good time” is to have evaded the law, break the law, get around it.

Many years ago, there were some people who came to this country by the name of Puritans. They had rigorous regulations, strict laws. Some of them were from the Bible; some of them were from their own invention. But their influence has come down through American history, and there are millions that have the idea that to be pure, to be a puritan, to be strict, means to be unhappy.

They think that the way to really enjoy life is to cast away all that and obey that impulse, be uninhibited, do what you feel like doing, in eating, in drinking, dressing or lack of dressing, in association between men and women. In all these things, the idea is that the more freedom there is, the more fun there is, the more satisfaction, the more pleasure.

May I tell you, friends? That is a lie. That is a lie. Even if it weren't bad, it is crazy. Even if it weren't wicked, it is foolish because it isn't so.

I was talking to my grandchildren the other night, and we were looking at the moon. I asked little Willie, “Do you know what happened here a few years ago up there on that moon?” Oh yes, he knew. There were men up there walking around on the moon. “How did they get there?” Not by breaking laws, but by learning them and keeping them. Right? Yes.

Nobody with even one brain cell working would suggest that the way to get to the moon was to forget all the laws of physics, all the laws of geometry, all the laws of astronomy, and just blast off and go anywhere you wish.

Isn't it strange that men are so clear in their vision of how to get to the moon, and so utterly foggy and confused on how to get to happiness and satisfaction? Jesus tells us here in one little sentence:

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Seeing God makes us happy. Do you know why? We were made to work that way. It takes food to satisfy the stomach; nothing else will satisfy. It takes air to satisfy the lungs; nothing else will satisfy. It takes God to satisfy the soul; nothing else will satisfy. Blessed then are the pure in heart for they shall see God, there is not fog before their eyes. No mist mars their vision. They behold with open face the glory of the Lord and are changed into the same image from glory to glory.

Now I would like to have us think of this expression the “pure in heart.” What does it mean? Well, first of all, we think of the unpolluted. Pure water has no filth in it, no germs in it, no mud in it, and a pure heart has no filth in it.

But dear friends, there is more to this word pure than just the idea of avoiding the filthy, the degenerate, the immoral. The word pure suggests 100 percent. Suppose I have a bottle here, and I read on the label “pure grape juice.” If the

manufacturer has been correct and the label represents truth, what is in that bottle? Grape juice. What else? Nothing else.

If anything else is in it, it is not pure grape juice. If I put some water in it, it isn't pure grape juice. Oh, the water might be clean, but pure grape juice is 100 percent grape juice, nothing else. Pure truth is truth, all the truth, and nothing but the truth as a witness swears to tell when he holds up his hand in court.

You know the wonderful thing about reading the Bible is that we get the pure truth. All wheat and no chaff.

“Every word of God is pure: He is a shield unto them that put their trust in Him. Add thou not unto His words, lest He reprove thee, and thou be found a liar” Proverbs: 5:6.

Now let's take those two expressions—“every word of God is pure,” “add thou not unto His words.” We will let this pure grape juice represent the Word of God. Every word of God is pure, it is a hundred percent truth. It has life and power, and light and love in it. Now, the Scripture says, don't do what? Don't add to His word. This is impurity, not by pollution necessarily, but by dilution.

We don't want either one. We don't want the impurity of pollution, and we don't want the impurity of dilution. We want 100 percent God's way, nothing filthy added, and nothing added, even though it may not seem to be filthy and wicked, that represents human wisdom instead of the wisdom of God.

There is too much preaching today that is simply reflecting human opinion. Paul wrote from his prison cell to Timothy, “Preach the word.” This is the charge that is given at the ordination of a minister in God's true church, “Preach the word!” The pulpit is not the place to ventilate human opinion.

Sometimes people suggest to me that I speak on this subject or that subject, sometimes I just have to tell them frankly that I don't understand the subject they want enough to preach on it. I do not believe in ventilating my human ideas from the pulpit. Man's words, if of any value, echo the words of God. Really friends, if God has not spoken on the subject, what difference does it make what I think about it? And if He has spoken about it, how foolish it would be to give you my opinion, how much better to say what God says. What do you say?

This relates to many cases of personal counsel. In book two of *Selected Messages*, I read this. This is speaking to our ministers and teachers in regard to giving counsel regarding practical matters of life. This particular subject is on moving from Battle Creek to other places and out into the country.

“Therefore, let all be careful what they say; if they know not the mind of God in some matters, let them never speak from a guess or suppose so. If they know nothing definite, let them say so, and let the individual rely wholly upon God” *Selected Messages*, Book 2, page 363.

Now it would embarrass some people if they were asked a question, and they had to say, "I don't know." Well, if that embarrasses you, just get used to getting embarrassed, then maybe you will get over it. There are so many more things that we don't know than the ones we do know. In fact, there are so many God's going to give us an eternity to catch up. In a million years from now, there will be some things that we don't know, but thank God, we will be learning some new facts every day.

So, if somebody asks a question and we know what God says, let's share that with them from the mouth of our Lord. If we don't know, let us be careful how we add our human opinions. I am speaking, of course, about things that involve the will of God.

If somebody wants to know when to plant corn, or when to harvest sweet potatoes, why, if you know that from human experience, that is fine. The Bible doesn't tell us when to plant corn or harvest sweet potatoes. Does it? There are many things like that, that we learn from experience. I am speaking of things relating to the express will of God.

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Oh, what a wonderful thing it is in the church when we listen to what God says instead of merely trying to get a consensus of what other people think. One word of God is worth more than the opinions of all the wise men in the world.

"Blessed are the pure in heart" Matthew 5:8.

The pure in heart. Those who listen to what God says and echo what God says 100 percent without adding the diluting effects of human opinion.

Speaking of this matter of diluting, and the narrower meaning of the word "pure," you remember that in the Seventh Commandment, God has laid down a precept to guard the purity of the home, the purity of the marriage relation.

"Thou shalt not commit adultery" Exodus 20:14.

Now that word "adultery" is an interesting word. It comes from two words meaning "to other." One man and one woman in marriage are to mean to each other everything. Any third party brought into that sacred circle of the marriage relation, this is adultery. It is adulteration. As I illustrated this matter of the wine, or the grape juice, anything added to the grape juice is dilution. It makes it not pure grape juice. Anything third person brought into the sacred circle of marriage is diluting, and therefore it spoils the purity of that sacred circle.

God has given us a great deal of counsel in the Bible and in the Spirit of Prophecy. The pure in heart love that sacred circle. The man and the woman who have joined in holy matrimony, and forsaking all others keep themselves only for the other as long as they both shall live, they, if they see God in this, are happy.

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But my dear friends, it is possible for the single people, either those who have not yet married, or who have married and lost their companion, it is possible for each of them to know the blessing of this beatitude. To recognize God’s way in marriage is something that is a blessing for everybody single and married. To respect the boundaries of this sacred relationship, and to do nothing or say nothing that breaks down those barriers, this is purity. Everyone is to see that ideal and to live it out in our lives.

The days before the flood were famous, notorious, for impurity. So were Sodom and Gomorrah, notorious for immorality. These times, the days of Noah, the days of Lot, are set forth in the words of Jesus as examples of the conditions in the world just before He returns. We have reached that time, dear friends. We don’t have to look forward. How things could get much worse, I do not know.

But I tell you this, this age will be famous for producing a group of people that are as pure as Jesus is, who walk this world as Enoch did, surrounded by iniquity but unsullied, who live as Joseph did in Egypt refusing to take the first step toward immorality, or impropriety, who live as Daniel did in Babylon uncontaminated by the sin around him, who live as John the Baptist did, a voice crying in the wilderness prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap” Galatians 6:7.

What are the first three words? Be not deceived. A very little paraphrase of that put right down in modern English would “be”—“don’t fool yourself!” We reap what we sow.

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord”
2 Corinthians 3:18.

As we behold, what happens to us? We are changed. This is talking about the beautiful change, the glorious change of becoming more and more like God as we behold Him. But sad to say it is equally true if we look the other direction. We become like that which we look at. And so, while we cannot change that law, we can harness it. We can choose to look in the right direction.

I want to read a few lines from *Adventist Home*.

“Those who would not fall a prey to Satan’s devices must guard well the avenues of the soul; they must avoid reading, seeing, or hearing that which will suggest impure thoughts” *Adventist Home*, page 403.

Is there some reading that suggests impure thoughts? Yes. Some do it directly, boldly, blatantly, some in a subtle way. But if I want to be pure, if I want to get the blessing of this beatitude, I will avoid doing what? Reading anything that suggests impure thoughts.

You know, if I had a TV, thank God I don't, but if I did, I think it would be a good thing for me to put that sentence up as a little motto right by the little place where the buttons are. Guard well the avenues of the soul, avoid reading, seeing, hearing that which will suggest impure thoughts.

"Everything that can be done should be done to place ourselves and our children where we shall not see the iniquity that is practiced in the world. We should carefully guard the sight of our eyes and the hearing of our ears so that these awful things shall not enter our minds" *Ibid.*

Now when the prophet to the remnant wrote this, there were not any TVs; there were not any radios. But there were newspapers. Do you know what she says in the next sentence?

"When the daily newspaper comes into the house, I feel as if I want to hide it" *Ibid.*

But the newspapers of that time would be thought quite tame today.

"Those who would have that wisdom which is from God must become fools in the sinful knowledge of this age, in order to be wise" *Ibid.*

What is a fool in this setting? A person who doesn't know something. So instead of being proud that we know all the wickedness in the world, and all the scandal, and all the filth, oh let us thank God if we can rear some children that are fools in the sinful knowledge of this age. What do you say?

"Those who would have that wisdom which is from God must become fools in the sinful knowledge of this age, in order to be wise. They should shut their eyes, that they may see and learn no evil. They should close their ears, lest they hear that which is evil and obtain that knowledge which would stain their purity of thoughts and acts" *Ibid.*

Oh, it is going to mean something to walk with God as Enoch did. Won't it, dear friends? Do you see how important this makes this matter of communication? What we read, what we look at, what we listen to in private and in public. You and I are preparing for translation.

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And if we will behold His love, His life, His purity, we will be changed into that likeness. But if we turn from Him and behold the wickedness of the world true or fictitious, actual or imaginary, if we look at the filthy, and the foolish, and the frivolous, the immoral, if we look at sin, we will sooner or later become like that which we look at. We can choose which way we look! Oh, I am so glad God has given us muscles to turn our faces and turn our eyes. What do you say?

Thank God.

Now somebody says, "Brother Frazee, the trouble with me is I am already polluted. I have been out in this world. My mind is a cesspool. My thoughts are filthy thoughts. Is there any hope for me?"

Yes, my friend! There is hope for you. Thank God there has been a fountain opened for sin and for uncleanness.

"The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin" 1 John 1:7.

If we will turn from looking at sin, and look to Jesus, He says, "Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth." Isaiah 45:22.

Turn to 1 Corinthians the sixth chapter, verses 9–11. I want to read this to you as translated in the New English Bible, but you follow there with your King James Translation. I want you to see how clearly the Bible points out every species of impurity, but the reason I am reading this text for you is to assure you that there is hope for you no matter what brand of sin, what form of vice you have gotten into, there is hope for you. Listen, while the Word of God speaks.

"Make no mistake, no fornicator or idolater, none who are guilty either of adultery or of homosexual perversion, no thieves or grabbards, or drunkards, or slanderers, or swindlers will possess the kingdom of God" 1 Corinthians 6:9–10 (*New English Bible*).

Now comes the line. What does it say in the King James version?

"Such were some of you" 1 Corinthians 6:11, KJV.

Do you mean these people down there in Corinth that were members of the Christian church had come out of that kind of filth? Yes.

"Such were some of you: but you have been through the purifying waters, you have been dedicated to God, and justified through the name of the Lord Jesus, and the Spirit of our God" 1 Corinthians 6:11.

Isn't that wonderful, friends? Yes. So if you had visited that church at Corinth that Paul raised up, if you had visited in that church Sabbath after Sabbath, you would have been fellowshiping with people who had been guilty of all these things,

but thank God they had been to the fountain and been washed. They had been to the cross, and the precious blood of Jesus had cleansed them.

So our message for every impure person, whether in thought alone or in thought and act, our message is there is cleansing. As the leper came and knelt at the feet of Jesus and said, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean," so every filthy dreamer, every impure actor can come to Christ and say, "Lord I must be washed. I must be cleansed. I must be made pure. I want it. I choose it. I plead for it."

Jesus will hear you, my brother, my sister. I know He will. He says so. He cannot lie.

Now a word for those who are having battles in controlling the mind, the imagination. The Devil's game—don't miss this—the Devil's game is to suggest some wicked thought, some impure imagination, and then make a person think that he has failed because that imaginary thing has been presented.

Some time back, a man of middle life was talking with me. He said, "Brother Frazee, for years I have just had a battle, and I have felt utterly defeated." He told me about his problems. It was some impure thing that was again and again was presented to his mind. He felt utterly defeated because of it.

I said, "My friend, do you want to think that way?"

"Oh no," he said, "I despise it." But he said, "I don't know what to do about it."

And then I read him this statement.

"There are thoughts and feelings suggested and aroused by Satan that annoy even the best of men, but if they are not cherished, if they are repulsed as hateful, the soul is not contaminated with guilt, and no other is defiled by their influence" *That I May Know Him*, page 140.

Isn't that wonderful, friends? It is said that Martin Luther once remarked that you cannot keep birds from flying over your head, but you can keep them from making a nest in your hair. That is putting it in quaint language, but that is the point. So my dear friend, if you are troubled with thoughts that you know are not pure, and you despise that and long to be free from it, remember this. Temptation is not sin. Temptation is not defeat. It is yielding to temptation that is sin.

It is inviting the bird to come down and build the nest in your hair, that is sin friends. But when the bird flies over, let it fly on, and don't feel defeated and count yourself a failure just because that sinful thought came to your mind.

Do you know that every impure thought coming to your mind is an opportunity for you to gain a victory?

"Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" James 4:7.

But I will warn you on this, the way to resist is not by engaging in a wrestling match with that impure thought, and trying to throw it out. You do not forget things by trying to forget them! Jesus says, “Turn to me. ‘Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth.’” Isaiah 45:22.

God’s very purpose in allowing us to meet temptation is that sensing our need, feeling our weakness, we may turn to Him with longing heart and with the full assurance of faith saying, as did Peter there on the water, “Lord save me or I perish.”

Did Jesus let Peter drown? No. No. He didn’t. He put out His and lifted him up, and He will do that with each one of us. So folks, thank God there is victory in Christ Jesus!

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