

Blessed!

A Study on the *Beatitudes* of Jesus

As of 5/17/20

Part 7 The Exposition of Matthew 5:4- continued

Matthew 5:1-12

1 When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him.

2 He opened His mouth and *began* to teach them, saying,

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

5 "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

10 "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.

12 "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Blessedness of a Pure Heart

Matthew 5:8

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

Now this is one of those passages of Scripture, whose depths are immeasurable; and whose breadth is impossible to encompass. This incredible Statement of Jesus is among the greatest utterances in all of the Bible.

The Subject of Purity of Heart- or Holiness- can be found all through the Bible- from **Genesis** to **The Revelation**. The theme is infinitely vast; and touches on virtually every other biblical Truth. It is simply impossible to exhaust its meaning or significance, and the discussion in this Section of our Study in the Beatitudes- can only be seen as an Introduction.

Now there are actually two different contexts concerning Purity of Heart:

- The Historical Context
- The Literary Context

1. The Historical Context

When Jesus began His earthly Ministry, Israel was in a desperate condition in three ways:

- Politically
- Economically
- Spiritually

For hundreds of years, with only brief times of reprieve- Israel had been under the oppression of foreign conquerors. The country had limited freedom to develop its economy; and a large part of income and profit was confiscated by Rome in taxes. Those were problems that every single Jew of the 1st Century saw and felt.

The less obvious problem, however, was by far the worst. For longer than they had suffered political and economic Oppression- Israel had suffered “spiritual Weakness and Faithlessness.” Yet that problem was not easily recognized by many Jews. Jewish leaders genuinely thought that, not only was their religion in great shape, but that when the Messiah came- He would praise them for the way they had taught the people and how they had lived their lives.

These religious frauds believed that the Messiah would come and solve the political and economic problems- *militarily*. Yet when Jesus appeared- He spoke almost nothing about either the political and economic situations- but constantly condemned what they were the most proud of- their relationship with God.

Now back when Jesus walked the earth- the most influential religious force in all of Judaism- was the Pharisees. They were the chief managers and promoters of the pervasive legalistic and ritualistic and Man-made System that *dominated* Jewish society. Over the centuries various unsaved rabbis had so twisted the Old Testament Scriptures, that by the time Jesus appeared- they had no resemblance to what God had spoken through Moses and the Prophets.

And the reinterpreted Scriptures- especially those pertaining to the Law- were so wrong; and so far removed from what God intended; that they were called, the “Traditions of the Elders”. Yet they had risen in importance until they became the Authority which completely overshadowed the Scriptures. And at the very Core of the “Traditions of the Elders” was a fabricated system of “dos” and “don'ts” that gradually expanded to dominate every aspect of Jewish life.

To conscientious and honest Jews- it had become obvious that total observance of all the religious Requirements manufactured by the Pharisees was simply impossible to obey. But because they had linked what the Pharisees taught with the genuine Word of God- the average Jew developed terrible feelings of guilt, frustration, and anxiety over his inability to obey.

We need to remember that, to the average Jew of the 1st Century, Religion was

the single most important element in their lives. Yet they could not fulfill what their religion demanded. So, they were constantly bouncing between unending Guilt and eternal Condemnation- with no Hope in sight. The result was that some of the religious leaders made up the false Teaching that, if a person could keep just a few of the Laws- God would understand. But when even that proved impossible, they narrowed the Requirement down to obeying just a single Law- during an entire lifetime.

That false Teaching was in the mind of the lawyer, who tested Jesus with the Question,

Matthew 22:36

"Teacher, which is the great Commandment in the Law?"

This man, no doubt, wanted to see which of the many hundreds of Laws Jesus believed was the most important one to keep- the one that would satisfy God- even if a person failed to keep the others.

This oppressive and confusing religious System probably contributed to the initial popularity of John the Baptist. He was radically different from the Scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees, and Priests, and it was obvious that he did not bother to observe most of the religious Traditions. So, for a while, John was a "breath of fresh air" in a stifling, never-ending System of impossible Demands and equally impossible Prohibitions. So, they hoped that through this Prophet's Teaching they would find some relief. They certainly did not want another rabbi with another Law, but someone who could show them how to be forgiven for the Laws they had already broken. Many of them wanted to know the real Way of Salvation; the real Way to please God; the true Way of Peace and Relief from Sin. They knew that the Scriptures taught of One Who would come not simply to demand but to redeem; not to add to their burdens but to carry them; not to increase their Guilt but to remove it. No doubt it was such expectations as those that caused many people to think John the Baptist just might be the Messiah.

The people knew from the Prophet Ezekiel that, someday, God was going to come and sprinkle their souls with water; cleanse them from their Sin, and replace their hearts of stone with hearts of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:22-28

22 "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord God, 'It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went.

23 "I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord," declares the Lord God, "when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight.

24 "For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land.

25 "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

26 “Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

27 “I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

They also knew the Testimony of David, who cried out,

Psalm 32:1&2

1 How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered!

2 How blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit!

... they knew of those Truths, and they longed to experience the Reality of them.

Nicodemus was one such person. He was a Pharisee and "a ruler of the Jews," that is, a member of the Sanhedrin, the Jewish High Court. We are not told specifically what his intentions were in coming to Jesus, because his first words were not a Question but a Testimony. But the fact that he came at night suggests he was ashamed of being seen with Jesus. But there is no reason to doubt the sincerity of his words, which showed unusual spiritual insight:

John 3:2

"Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him

... Nicodemus knew that, whatever else Jesus might be, He was a Teacher truly sent from God.

Though he does not state it, the Question that was on his mind is implied both from his own Testimony and from Jesus' reply. The Lord knew Nicodemus's mind, and He said to him,

John 3:3

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Nicodemus wanted to know how to please God- how to be forgiven. "How can I be made righteous?" he wondered. "How can I be redeemed and become a child of God? How can I become part of God's Kingdom?" Had he not had a deep, compelling desire to know God's Will, he never would have risked coming to Jesus- even at night. Nicodemus was honest enough to admit his own sinfulness. He was a Pharisee, a Teacher of the Law, and a Ruler in the Sanhedrin; but he knew in his heart that all of that did not make him right with God.

After Jesus had fed the great multitude near the Sea of Galilee, some of the people who had seen the miracle asked Jesus,

John 6:28

"What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?"

... the same question troubled them that had troubled Nicodemus: *"How can a person get right with God? What must we do to truly please Him?"* Like Nicodemus, they had been through all the ceremonies and rituals. They had attended the feasts and offered the required sacrifices. They had tried to keep the Law and the Traditions. But they knew that something was missing- something *crucial* that they did not know of, much less had experienced.

Luke tells of another lawyer who asked Jesus,

Luke 10:25

Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

But he wasn't really sincere. Luke tells us,

Luke 10:25a

... a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test ...

... and after Jesus gave an answer the man tried "to justify himself" (v. 29). But despite his insincerity, he had asked the right Question, the Question that was on the minds of many Jews who were sincere.

A rich, young ruler asked Jesus the same question:

Luke 18:18

"Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

Now, apparently, this man asked sincerely, yet he was unwilling to pay the cost. He wanted to keep the wealth of this life more than he wanted to gain the Wealth of Eternal Life, and he went away "very sad" (v. 23). He knew he needed something more than outward Obedience to the Law, at which he had been diligent since childhood (v. 21). He knew that, with all his devotion and effort to please God, he had no assurance of possessing Eternal Life. So, he was seeking the Kingdom, but he was not seeking it *first*.

Matthew 6:33

But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Others were asking, *"What must I be to belong to the Kingdom of God? What is the Standard for Eternal Life?"* All of those people, at various levels of understanding and sincerity, knew that they had not found what they sought. Many knew that they had not kept even a single Law perfectly. If honest, they became more and more convinced that they *could not* keep even a single Law perfectly, and that they were powerless to please God.

It was to answer that Need that Jesus came to earth. It was to answer that Need

that He gave the Beatitudes. He shows simply and directly how sinful Man can be made Right with a holy God.

The Literary Context

At first glance, this Beatitude seems out of place, inserted indiscriminately into an otherwise orderly development of Truths. Because of its supreme Importance, a more strategic place- either at the *beginning* as the Foundation, or at the end as the Culmination- might seem more appropriate.

But the sixth Beatitude, like every part of God's Word, is in the right place. It is part of the beautiful and marvelous sequence of Truths that are here laid out according to the Mind of God. It is the climax of the Beatitudes, the central Truth to which the previous five lead- and from which the following two flow.

The Meaning

Matthew 5:8

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

The word, “**blessed**” implies the condition of well-being that results from Salvation- the status of one who has a right Relation to God. So, being accepted by God is a matter of internal Transformation.

Now the word, “**heart**” translates in the Greek from “*kardia*”, from which we get “*cardiac*” and other similar terms. Throughout Scripture, as well as in many languages and cultures throughout the world, the heart is used *metaphorically* to represent the “inner person”; the “seat of motives and attitudes”; and the “center of personality”. But in Scripture it represents much more than emotion or feelings. The word, “heart” also includes the “thinking process” and particularly the “will”. In Proverbs we are told,

Proverbs 23:7

For as he thinks within himself, so he is. He says to you, “Eat and drink!” But his heart is not with you.

Jesus asked a group of scribes,

“Why are you thinking evil in your hearts?” (Matt 9:4; cf. Mark 2:8; 7:21).

... so, the heart is the “control center of mind and will” as well as the emotions.

In total contrast to the outward, superficial, and hypocritical religion of the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus said that it is in the “inner man”, in the “core” of his very being, that God requires purity. That was not a new Truth, but an old one long forgotten amidst all the Man-made ceremonies and traditions.

Proverbs 4:23

Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life.

The problem that caused God to destroy the earth in the Flood was a “heart problem”.

Genesis 6:5

Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually

David acknowledged before the Lord,

Psalm 51:6&10

6 Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

... Asaph wrote,

Psalm 73:1

Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart!

... and Jeremiah declared,

Jeremiah 17:9&10

9 “The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?

10 “I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give to each man according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds.

Evil ways and deeds begin in the heart and mind, which are here used synonymously. Jesus said,

Matthew 15:18b-20

18 ... the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man.

19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.

20 These are the things which defile the man; but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile the man."

God has always been concerned above all else with the *inside* of Man, with the condition of his heart. When the Lord called Saul to be Israel's first king,

1Samuel 10:9b

... God changed his heart...

Until then, Saul had been handsome, athletic, and not much more. But the new king soon began to revert to his old heart patterns. He chose to disobey God and to trust in himself. Among other things, he presumed to take for himself the priestly role of offering sacrifice (13:9) and refused to destroy all of the Amalekites and their possessions as God had commanded (15:3-19). Consequently, the Lord took the Kingdom from Saul and gave it to David (15:23,28). Saul's actions were wrong because his heart rebelled, and it is by our hearts that the Lord judges us

1Samuel 16:7

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

It was said of David's leadership over Israel,

Psalm 78:72

So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, And guided them with his skillful hands.

God took the kingdom from Saul because he refused to live by the new heart God had given him. He gave the Kingdom to David because David was

1Samuel 13:14b

... a man after His [God's] own heart ...

David pleased God's Heart because God pleased David's heart.

Psalm 9:1

I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart; I will tell of all Your wonders.

David's deepest desire was,

Psalm 19:14

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer.

... and he prayed,

Psalm 26:2

Examine me, O Lord, and try me; Test my mind and my heart.

When God told David, "Seek My Face" David's heart replied,

Psalm 27:8

... Your face, O Lord, I shall seek.

Once when David was fleeing from Saul he went to Gath, a Philistine city, for help. When he realized that his life was also in danger there, he

... acted insanely in their hands, and scribbled on the doors of the gate, and let his saliva run down into his beard (1Samuel 21:13).

Thinking him to be mad, the Philistines let him go, and he went to hide in the cave of Adullam. But hidden in that cave- David came to his senses and realized how foolish and unfaithful he had been to trust the Philistines for help instead of the Lord. It was there that he wrote **Psalm 57**, in which he declared,

Psalm 57:7

My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast

David rededicated his heart, his innermost being, single-mindedly to God. So, even though David often failed, his heart was fixed on God. The evidence of his true-hearted commitment to God is found in all the first 175 verses of **Psalm 119**.

- 1 How blessed are those whose way is blameless, Who walk in the law of the Lord.**
- 2 How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, Who seek Him with all their heart.**
- 3 They also do no unrighteousness; They walk in His ways.**
- 4 You have ordained Your precepts, That we should keep them diligently.**
- 5 Oh that my ways may be established To keep Your statutes!**
- 6 Then I shall not be ashamed When I look upon all Your commandments.**
- 7 I shall give thanks to You with uprightness of heart, When I learn Your righteous judgments.**
- 8 I shall keep Your statutes; Do not forsake me utterly!**
- 9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word.**
- 10 With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments.**
- 11 Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.**
- 12 Blessed are You, O Lord; Teach me Your statutes.**
- 13 With my lips I have told of All the ordinances of Your mouth.**
- 14 I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches.**
- 15 I will meditate on Your precepts And regard Your ways.**
- 16 I shall delight in Your statutes; I shall not forget Your word.**
- 17 Deal bountifully with Your servant, That I may live and keep Your word.**
- 18 Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Your law.**
- 19 I am a stranger in the earth; Do not hide Your commandments from me.**
- 20 My soul is crushed with longing After Your ordinances at all times.**
- 21 You rebuke the arrogant, the cursed, Who wander from Your commandments.**
- 22 Take away reproach and contempt from me, For I observe Your testimonies.**
- 23 Even though princes sit and talk against me, Your servant meditates on Your statutes.**
- 24 Your testimonies also are my delight; They are my counselors.**

25 My soul cleaves to the dust; Revive me according to Your word.
26 I have told of my ways, and You have answered me; Teach me Your statutes.
27 Make me understand the way of Your precepts, So I will meditate on Your wonders.
28 My soul weeps because of grief; Strengthen me according to Your word.
29 Remove the false way from me, And graciously grant me Your law.
30 I have chosen the faithful way; I have placed Your ordinances before me.
31 I cling to Your testimonies; O Lord, do not put me to shame!
32 I shall run the way of Your commandments, For You will enlarge my heart.
33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of Your statutes, And I shall observe it to the end.
34 Give me understanding, that I may observe Your law And keep it with all my heart.
35 Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, For I delight in it.
36 Incline my heart to Your testimonies And not to dishonest gain.
37 Turn away my eyes from looking at vanity, And revive me in Your ways.
38 Establish Your word to Your servant, As that which produces reverence for You.
39 Turn away my reproach which I dread, For Your ordinances are good.
40 Behold, I long for Your precepts; Revive me through Your righteousness.
41 May Your lovingkindnesses also come to me, O Lord, Your salvation according to Your word;
42 So I will have an answer for him who reproaches me, For I trust in Your word.
43 And do not take the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, For I wait for Your ordinances.
44 So I will keep Your law continually, Forever and ever.
45 And I will walk at liberty, For I seek Your precepts.
46 I will also speak of Your testimonies before kings And shall not be ashamed.
47 I shall delight in Your commandments, Which I love.
48 And I shall lift up my hands to Your commandments, Which I love; And I will meditate on Your statutes.
49 Remember the word to Your servant, In which You have made me hope.
50 This is my comfort in my affliction, That Your word has revived me.
51 The arrogant utterly deride me, Yet I do not turn aside from Your law.
52 I have remembered Your ordinances from of old, O Lord, And comfort myself.
53 Burning indignation has seized me because of the wicked, Who forsake Your law.
54 Your statutes are my songs In the house of my pilgrimage.
55 O Lord, I remember Your name in the night, And keep Your law.
56 This has become mine, That I observe Your precepts.
57 The Lord is my portion; I have promised to keep Your words.
58 I sought Your favor with all my heart; Be gracious to me according to Your word.
59 I considered my ways And turned my feet to Your testimonies.
60 I hastened and did not delay To keep Your commandments.
61 The cords of the wicked have encircled me, But I have not forgotten Your law.
62 At midnight I shall rise to give thanks to You Because of Your righteous ordinances.
63 I am a companion of all those who fear You, And of those who keep Your precepts.
64 The earth is full of Your lovingkindness, O Lord; Teach me Your statutes.
65 You have dealt well with Your servant, O Lord, according to Your word.

66 Teach me good discernment and knowledge, For I believe in Your commandments.
67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word.
68 You are good and do good; Teach me Your statutes.
69 The arrogant have forged a lie against me; With all my heart I will observe Your precepts.
70 Their heart is covered with fat, But I delight in Your law.
71 It is good for me that I was afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.
72 The law of Your mouth is better to me Than thousands of gold and silver pieces.
73 Your hands made me and fashioned me; Give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments.
74 May those who fear You see me and be glad, Because I wait for Your word.
75 I know, O Lord, that Your judgments are righteous, And that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.
76 O may Your lovingkindness comfort me, According to Your word to Your servant.
77 May Your compassion come to me that I may live, For Your law is my delight.
78 May the arrogant be ashamed, for they subvert me with a lie; But I shall meditate on Your precepts.
79 May those who fear You turn to me, Even those who know Your testimonies.
80 May my heart be blameless in Your statutes, So that I will not be ashamed.
81 My soul languishes for Your salvation; I wait for Your word.
82 My eyes fail with longing for Your word, While I say, "When will You comfort me?"
83 Though I have become like a wineskin in the smoke, I do not forget Your statutes.
84 How many are the days of Your servant? When will You execute judgment on those who persecute me?
85 The arrogant have dug pits for me, Men who are not in accord with Your law.
86 All Your commandments are faithful; They have persecuted me with a lie; help me!
87 They almost destroyed me on earth, But as for me, I did not forsake Your precepts.
88 Revive me according to Your lovingkindness, So that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth.
89 Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven.
90 Your faithfulness continues throughout all generations; You established the earth, and it stands.
91 They stand this day according to Your ordinances, For all things are Your servants.
92 If Your law had not been my delight, Then I would have perished in my affliction.
93 I will never forget Your precepts, For by them You have revived me.
94 I am Yours, save me; For I have sought Your precepts.
95 The wicked wait for me to destroy me; I shall diligently consider Your testimonies.
96 I have seen a limit to all perfection; Your commandment is exceedingly broad.
97 O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.
98 Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies, For they are ever mine.
99 I have more insight than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation.
100 I understand more than the aged, Because I have observed Your precepts.
101 I have restrained my feet from every evil way, That I may keep Your word.
102 I have not turned aside from Your ordinances, For You Yourself have taught me.

103 How sweet are Your words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!
104 From Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way.
105 Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.
106 I have sworn and I will confirm it, That I will keep Your righteous ordinances.
107 I am exceedingly afflicted; Revive me, O Lord, according to Your word.
108 O accept the freewill offerings of my mouth, O Lord, And teach me Your ordinances.
109 My life is continually in my hand, Yet I do not forget Your law.
110 The wicked have laid a snare for me, Yet I have not gone astray from Your precepts.
111 I have inherited Your testimonies forever, For they are the joy of my heart.
112 I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes
113 I hate those who are double-minded, But I love Your law.
114 You are my hiding place and my shield; I wait for Your word.
115 Depart from me, evildoers, That I may observe the commandments of my God.
116 Sustain me according to Your word, that I may live; And do not let me be ashamed of my hope.
117 Uphold me that I may be safe, That I may have regard for Your statutes continually.
118 You have rejected all those who wander from Your statutes, For their deceitfulness is useless.
119 You have removed all the wicked of the earth like dross; Therefore I love Your testimonies.
120 My flesh trembles for fear of You, And I am afraid of Your judgments.
121 I have done justice and righteousness; Do not leave me to my oppressors.
122 Be surety for Your servant for good; Do not let the arrogant oppress me.
123 My eyes fail with longing for Your salvation And for Your righteous word.
124 Deal with Your servant according to Your lovingkindness And teach me Your statutes.
125 I am Your servant; give me understanding, That I may know Your testimonies.
126 It is time for the Lord to act, For they have broken Your law.
127 Therefore I love Your commandments Above gold, yes, above fine gold.
128 Therefore I esteem right all Your precepts concerning everything, I hate every false way.
129 Your testimonies are wonderful; Therefore my soul observes them.
130 The unfolding of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.
131 I opened my mouth wide and panted, For I longed for Your commandments.
132 Turn to me and be gracious to me, After Your manner with those who love Your name.
133 Establish my footsteps in Your word, And do not let any iniquity have dominion over me.
134 Redeem me from the oppression of man, That I may keep Your precepts.
135 Make Your face shine upon Your servant, And teach me Your statutes.
136 My eyes shed streams of water, Because they do not keep Your law.
137 Righteous are You, O Lord, And upright are Your judgments.
138 You have commanded Your testimonies in righteousness And exceeding faithfulness.
139 My zeal has consumed me, Because my adversaries have forgotten Your words.
140 Your word is very pure, Therefore Your servant loves it.
141 I am small and despised, Yet I do not forget Your precepts.

142 Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, And Your law is truth.
143 Trouble and anguish have come upon me, Yet Your commandments are my delight.
144 Your testimonies are righteous forever; Give me understanding that I may live.
145 I cried with all my heart; answer me, O Lord! I will observe Your statutes.
146 I cried to You; save me And I shall keep Your testimonies.
147 I rise before dawn and cry for help; I wait for Your words.
148 My eyes anticipate the night watches, That I may meditate on Your word.
149 Hear my voice according to Your lovingkindness; Revive me, O Lord, according to Your ordinances.
150 Those who follow after wickedness draw near; They are far from Your law.
151 You are near, O Lord, And all Your commandments are truth.
152 Of old I have known from Your testimonies That You have founded them forever.
153 Look upon my affliction and rescue me, For I do not forget Your law.
154 Plead my cause and redeem me; Revive me according to Your word.
155 Salvation is far from the wicked, For they do not seek Your statutes.
156 Great are Your mercies, O Lord; Revive me according to Your ordinances.
157 Many are my persecutors and my adversaries, Yet I do not turn aside from Your testimonies.
158 I behold the treacherous and loathe them, Because they do not keep Your word.
159 Consider how I love Your precepts; Revive me, O Lord, according to Your lovingkindness.
160 The sum of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting.
161 Princes persecute me without cause, But my heart stands in awe of Your words.
162 I rejoice at Your word, As one who finds great spoil.
163 I hate and despise falsehood, But I love Your law.
164 Seven times a day I praise You, Because of Your righteous ordinances.
165 Those who love Your law have great peace, And nothing causes them to stumble.
166 I hope for Your salvation, O Lord, And do Your commandments.
167 My soul keeps Your testimonies, And I love them exceedingly.
168 I keep Your precepts and Your testimonies, For all my ways are before You.
169 Let my cry come before You, O Lord; Give me understanding according to Your word.
170 Let my supplication come before You; Deliver me according to Your word.
171 Let my lips utter praise, For You teach me Your statutes.
172 Let my tongue sing of Your word, For all Your commandments are righteousness.
173 Let Your hand be ready to help me, For I have chosen Your precepts.
174 I long for Your salvation, O Lord, And Your law is my delight.
175 Let my soul live that it may praise You, And let Your ordinances help me.

The fact that his flesh sometimes overruled his heart is the final admission of verse 176:

Psalm 119:176

I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant, For I do not forget Your

commandments.

Now the word, “**Pure**” comes from a Greek word (*katharos*; Strong’s #2513), a form of the word from which we get, “catharsis”. And the basic meaning is: *to make pure by cleansing from dirt, filth, and contamination*. Catharsis is a term used in Psychology and Counseling for a “cleansing of the mind or emotions”. The Greek word is related to the Latin, “castus”, from which we get our English word, “chaste”. And the related word, “chasten” refers to: *discipline given in order to cleanse from wrong behavior*.

The original Greek term was often used of metals that had been refined until all impurities were removed, leaving only the pure metal. So, in that sense, Purity means: *unmixed, unalloyed, unadulterated*. And applied to our human heart, the idea is that of: *pure motive- of single-mindedness, undivided devotion, spiritual integrity, and true righteousness*.

“Double-mindedness” has *always* been one of the great Plagues of the Church. Many within the walls of the Church desire to serve the Lord and follow the world at the same time. But Jesus didn’t say this was hard. No, He said it was *impossible*.

Matthew 6:24a

No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other...

James puts this same Truth in another way:

James 4:4b

... do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

... and then he gave the only Solution to the Problem:

James 4:8

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Because God the Holy Spirit dwells continually in them- genuine Christians have the right heart motive concerning God. So, even though we often fail to be single-minded- it is our deep desire to be so. And so, we confess with Paul,

Romans 7:15, 21, &25

15 For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I *would* like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.

21 I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good.

25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.

... Paul's deepest spiritual desires were pure, although the Sin dwelling in his flesh

sometimes *overrode* those desires.

Those who truly belong to God will be motivated to Purity. **Psalm 119** is the classic illustration of that longing, and **Romans 7:15-25** is the New Testament counterpart. The deepest desire of all the redeemed is for Holiness- even when Sin halts the *fulfillment* of that desire.

But we must understand that "Purity of heart" is more than Sincerity. A motive can be sincere- yet lead to worthless and even sinful things. The pagan priests who opposed Elijah demonstrated great Sincerity when they lacerated their bodies in order to induce Baal to send fire down to consume their sacrifices (**1Kings 18:28**). But their Sincerity did not produce the desired results; and it did not enable them to see the wrongness of their Paganism- because their sincere Trust was in that very Paganism. Sincere devotees walk on nails to prove their spiritual Power. Others crawl on their knees for hundreds of yards, bleeding and grimacing in pain, to show their absolute Devotion to a saint or a shrine. Yet their sincere Devotion is sincerely wrong; and is completely worthless before God. In fact, it is Sin.

The scribes and Pharisees believed they could please God by such superficial practices:

Matthew 23

1 Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to His disciples,

2 saying: "**The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses;**

3 therefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say *things* and do not do *them*.

4 "**They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are unwilling to move them with *so much as a finger*.**

5 "**But they do all their deeds to be noticed by men; for they broaden their phylacteries and lengthen the tassels of their garments.**

6 "**They love the place of honor at banquets and the chief seats in the synagogues,**

7 and respectful greetings in the market places, and being called Rabbi by men.

8 "**But do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers.**

9 "**Do not call *anyone* on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven.**

10 "**Do not be called leaders; for One is your Leader, *that is*, Christ.**

11 "**But the greatest among you shall be your servant.**

12 "**Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.**

13 "**But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut off the kingdom of heaven from people; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.**

14 [**Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense you make long prayers; therefore you will receive greater**

condemnation.]

15 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel around on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.

16 "Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'Whoever swears by the temple, *that* is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple is obligated.'

17 "You fools and blind men! Which is more important, the gold or the temple that sanctified the gold?

18 "And, 'Whoever swears by the altar, *that* is nothing, but whoever swears by the offering on it, he is obligated.'

19 "You blind men, which is more important, the offering, or the altar that sanctifies the offering?

20 "Therefore, whoever swears by the altar, swears *both* by the altar and by everything on it.

21 "And whoever swears by the temple, swears *both* by the temple and by Him who dwells within it.

22 "And whoever swears by heaven, swears *both* by the throne of God and by Him who sits upon it.

23 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.

24 "You blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!

25 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence.

26 "You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also.

27 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.

28 "So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

29 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous,

30 and say, 'If we had been *living* in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partners with them in *shedding* the blood of the prophets.'

31 "So you testify against yourselves, that you are sons of those who murdered the

prophets.

32 "Fill up, then, the measure of the guilt of your fathers.

33 "You serpents, you brood of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell?

34 "Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city,

35 so that upon you may fall the guilt of all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.

36 "Truly I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

37 "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.

38 "Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!

39 "For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!'"

... they were meticulously careful about what they did- *outwardly*; but paid no attention to who they really were- *inwardly*.

So, even genuinely good deeds that do not come from a genuinely good heart are of no spiritual value. The Puritan, Thomas Watson said,

"Morality can drown a man as fast as vice,"

... and ...

"A vessel may sink with gold or with dung."

... in other words, though we may be extremely religious and constantly engaged in doing good things, we cannot please God unless our hearts are right with Him.

So, the *ultimate* Standard for "Purity of Heart" is "Perfection of Heart". In the same Sermon in which He gave the Beatitudes Jesus said,

Matthew 5:48

Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

... one hundred percent Purity is God's Standard for the heart.

But Man's tendency is to set the *opposite* Standard. We are inclined to compare ourselves with the Worst instead of the Best. For example, the Pharisee who prayed in the Temple, thanking God, that he was not like other men, considered himself to be Righteous simply because he was not a swindler, an adulterer, or a tax-gatherer.

Luke 18:9-14

9 And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt:

10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

11 "The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.

12 'I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.'

13 "But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!'

14 "I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

We are all tempted to feel better about ourselves when we see someone doing a terrible thing that we have never done. The "good" person looks down on the one who seems to be less good than himself, and that person looks down on those worse than he is. Carried to its extreme, that "Spiral of Comparison" will continue to go down and down until it reached the most- rotten person on earth. And that last person, the worst on earth, would then be the Standard by which the rest of the world compared themselves!

This "Spiral of Comparison" was designed by satan to keep lost people- lost. Because God's Standard- the only "Standard of Comparison" that will bring Conviction to the heart; and Salvation to the soul- is God Himself! *Nobody* should think he is Righteous until they are as Pure as God Himself is; and until they are as Holy as God Himself is; and as Perfect as God Himself is. Because only those who are "Pure in Heart" may enter God's Kingdom.

Psalm 24:3&4

3 Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? And who may stand in His holy place?

4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood And has not sworn deceitfully.

5 He shall receive a blessing from the Lord And righteousness from the God of his salvation.

It is impurity of heart that separates Man from God.

Isaiah 59:1-16a

1 Behold, the Lord's hand is not so short That it cannot save; Nor is His ear so dull That it cannot hear.

2 But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden *His* face from you so that He does not hear.

3 For your hands are defiled with blood And your fingers with iniquity; Your lips have

spoken falsehood, Your tongue mutters wickedness.

4 No one sues righteously and no one pleads honestly. They trust in confusion and speak lies; They conceive mischief and bring forth iniquity.

5 They hatch adders' eggs and weave the spider's web; He who eats of their eggs dies, And *from* that which is crushed a snake breaks forth.

6 Their webs will not become clothing, Nor will they cover themselves with their works; Their works are works of iniquity, And an act of violence is in their hands.

7 Their feet run to evil, And they hasten to shed innocent blood; Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity, Devastation and destruction are in their highways.

8 They do not know the way of peace, And there is no justice in their tracks; They have made their paths crooked, Whoever treads on them does not know peace.

9 Therefore justice is far from us, And righteousness does not overtake us; We hope for light, but behold, darkness, For brightness, but we walk in gloom.

10 We grope along the wall like blind men, We grope like those who have no eyes; We stumble at midday as in the twilight, Among those who are vigorous *we are* like dead men.

11 All of us growl like bears, And moan sadly like doves; We hope for justice, but there is none, For salvation, *but* it is far from us.

12 For our transgressions are multiplied before You, And our sins testify against us; For our transgressions are with us, And we know our iniquities:

13 Transgressing and denying the Lord, And turning away from our God, Speaking oppression and revolt, Conceiving *in* and uttering from the heart lying words.

14 Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands far away; For truth has stumbled in the street, And uprightness cannot enter.

15 Yes, truth is lacking; And he who turns aside from evil makes himself a prey. Now the Lord saw, And it was displeasing in His sight that there was no justice.

16 And He saw that there was no man, And was astonished that there was no one to intercede...

God saw our dilemma. We are great sinners- but we can't correct the problem ourselves. So, what did God do?

Isaiah 59:16b-21

16 ...Then His own arm brought salvation to Him, And His righteousness upheld Him.

17 He put on righteousness like a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; And He put on garments of vengeance for clothing And wrapped Himself with zeal as a mantle.

18 According to *their* deeds, so He will repay, Wrath to His adversaries, recompense to His enemies; To the coastlands He will make recompense.

19 So they will fear the name of the Lord from the west And His glory from the rising of the sun, For He will come like a rushing stream Which the wind of the Lord drives.

20 "A Redeemer will come to Zion, And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob," declares the Lord.

21 "As for Me, this is My covenant with them," says the Lord: "My Spirit which is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your offspring, nor from the mouth of your offspring's offspring," says the Lord, "from now and forever."

So, we can take the almost 8,000 religions and human philosophies that exist on the earth today; and we can boil them down into only two:

- The religions of Human Achievement
- The religion of Divine Accomplishment

... and there are many variations of the *first* kind- which includes every religion on earth- except Biblical Christianity. But within the Religions of Human Achievement are two basic approaches:

- Head Religion: which trusts in Creeds and religious Knowledge
- Hand Religion: which trusts in Good Deeds

The only true Religion, however, is "Heart Religion", which is based on God's implanted Purity. So, through Faith in what God has already done through His Son, Jesus Christ,

Ephesians 1:7b&8a

7 ... we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

8 which He lavished on us.

... so, when God imputes His Righteousness to us- He imputes His Purity to us as well. But as we look at Scripture- we discover at least five different kinds of Purity:

- **Primary Purity:** The Purity that exists only in God.
- **Created Purity:** The Purity that existed throughout the Universe BEFORE the Fall
- **Imputed Purity:** The Purity which God credits to us in Salvation
- **Personal Purity:** Our own intrinsic Purity that is developed after Salvation through Sanctification
- **Ultimate Purity:** The Purity which we will have with God in Heaven

The Way to Holiness

Throughout the History of the Church, people have suggested various ways to achieve spiritual Purity and Holiness. Some have suggested "Monasticism"- getting away from the normal cares and distractions of the world and devoting oneself entirely to Meditation and Prayer. Others claim that Holiness is a "second Work of Grace", by which God miraculously eradicates not only Sins but the Sin Nature, allowing a sinless earthly life from that point onward. But neither Scripture nor experience supports either of those views. The problem of Sin is not primarily the world *around us* but the Worldliness *within us*- which we cannot escape by living in isolation from other people.

But God always provides for what He demands- and He has provided ways for us to live Purely. First, we must realize that we are unable to live a single Holy moment without the Lord's Guidance and Power.

Proverbs 20:9

Who can say, "I have cleansed my heart, I am pure from my sin"?

... the obvious Answer is "No one."

Jeremiah 13:23

Can the Ethiopian change his skin Or the leopard his spots? *Then* you also can do good Who are accustomed to doing evil.

Second, we must stay in God's Word. It is *impossible* to stay in God's Will apart from His Word. Jesus said,

John 15:3

You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

Third, it is essential to be controlled by and walking in the Will and Way of the Holy Spirit. **Galatians 5:16-26** says it clearly:

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.

19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,

20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,

21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of

God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

26 Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

Fourth, we must pray. We cannot stay in God's Will or understand and obey His Word unless we stay near Him.

Ephesians 6:10-18

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

14 Stand firm therefore, *HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH*, and *HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS*,

15 and having shod *YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE*;

16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*.

17 And take *THE HELMET OF SALVATION*, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

Luke 18:1-8

18 Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart,

2 saying, "In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man.

3 "There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me legal protection from my opponent.'

4 "For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect man,

5 yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.'"

6 And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge said;

7 now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them?

8 "I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

1Thessalonians 5:16-23

16 Rejoice always;

17 pray without ceasing;

18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

19 Do not quench the Spirit;

20 do not despise prophetic utterances.

21 But examine everything *carefully*; hold fast to that which is good;

22 abstain from every form of evil.

23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Psalms 51:10-12

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

11 Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And sustain me with a willing spirit.

The Result of Holiness

The great blessing of those who are "pure in heart" is that they shall see God. The Greek is in the future indicative tense and the middle voice, and a more literal translation is,

"They shall be continuously seeing God for themselves."

... and it is only they (the emphatic autos), the "pure in heart", who shall see God. Intimate Knowledge of and Fellowship with- God is reserved for the Pure.

When our hearts are purified at Salvation we begin to live in the Presence of God. We begin to see and to comprehend Him with our new spiritual eyes. Like Moses, who saw God's Glory and asked to see more (Exodus 33:18), the one who is purified by Jesus Christ sees the Glory of God- again and again.

Exodus 33:18-23

18 Then Moses said, "I pray You, show me Your glory!"

19 And He said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the Lord before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion."

20 But He said, "You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!"

21 Then the Lord said, "Behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand *there* on the rock;

22 and it will come about, while My glory is passing by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by.

23 "Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen."

To see God was the greatest Hope of Old Testament saints. Like Moses, David wanted to see more of God.

Psalm 42:1&2

1 As the deer pants for the water brooks, So my soul pants for You, O God.

2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; When shall I come and appear before God?

Job rejoiced when he was able to say,

Job 42:5&6

5 "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees You;

6 Therefore I retract, And I repent in dust and ashes."

Purity of heart cleanses the eyes of the soul so that God becomes visible. One sign of an impure heart is Ignorance, because Sin obscures the Truth.

John 3:19-21

19 "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.

20 "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

21 "But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

Evil and Ignorance come in a package. Other Signs of an impure heart are Self-centeredness:

The Revelation 3:17

Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,

... Pleasure in Sin:

2Timothy 3:1-5

1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.

2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,

4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

... Unbelief:

Hebrews 3:12-19

12 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.

13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

14 For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end,

15 while it is said, "*TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS, AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME.*"

16 For who provoked *Him* when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt *led* by Moses?

17 And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness?

18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient?

19 So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.

... a Hated of Purity:

Micah 3:1-4

1 And I said, "Hear now, heads of Jacob And rulers of the house of Israel. Is it not for you to know justice?"

2 "You who hate good and love evil, Who tear off their skin from them And their flesh from their bones,

3 Who eat the flesh of my people, Strip off their skin from them, Break their bones And chop *them* up as for the pot And as meat in a kettle."

4 Then they will cry out to the Lord, But He will not answer them. Instead, He will hide His face from them at that time Because they have practiced evil deeds.

... yet those who belong to God exchange all of those things for Integrity and Purity. The 19th Century Hymn writer, F.F. Bullard wrote,

When I in Righteousness at last
Thy glorious Face shall see,
When all the weary night has passed,
And I awake with Thee,
To view the Glories that abide,
Then and only then will I be satisfied.

