

THE BLESSEDNESS OF HOLINESS
(Matthew 5:8)

I. The MEANING of the Statement

A. The focus on the “HEART”

1. A metaphor for the INNER PERSON
2. Usually includes the seat of THOUGHT and WILL
3. By nature CORRUPT and EVIL (Gen. 6:5; Matt. 15:19)
4. Must be CLEANSED by the power of God (Pss. 51:10; 119:176)

B. The character of being “PURE in heart”

1. Emphasizes being CLEANSED of IMPURITIES
2. Includes the idea of SINGLE-mindedness, LOYALTY, or INTEGRITY (Matt. 6:24; James 4:4, 8)
3. Includes devotion to HOLINESS in thought and deed

II. Various KINDS of Purity/Holiness

- A. PRIMAL purity, characterizes God ALONE
- B. CREATED purity, characteristic of all creation before the FALL
- C. POSITIONAL purity, a GIFT from God through FAITH in Christ
- D. ACTUAL purity, God’s creating in you a NEW NATURE

- E. PRACTICAL purity, the believer's GROWTH into the image of CHRIST
- F. ULTIMATE purity, the perfect purity of the redeemed when GLORIFIED in His presence

III. The WAY to Holiness

- A. UNBIBLICAL attempts to ACHIEVE holiness
 - 1. Monasticism: ISOLATION from the WORLD for meditation and prayer
 - 2. Expecting a "SECOND work of GRACE"
- B. The BIBLICAL means to holiness
 - 1. DEPEND upon GOD'S power (Phil. 2:12b-13)
 - 2. SUBMIT to the will and way of the HOLY SPIRIT (Gal. 5:16)
 - 3. STAY in GOD'S WORD (Ps. 119:9; John 13:3)
 - 4. Spend much time in PRAYER (Eph. 6:18)

IV. The RESULT of Holiness

- A. When we receive POSITIONAL holiness, we BEGIN to see Him
- B. As we GROW in PRACTICAL holiness, we see Him more CLEARLY
- C. When we come to ULTIMATE holiness, we will see Him FULLY (1 Cor. 13:12)