



**Sunday, November 21, 2010: Blessed are the Pure in Heart**

**Scripture: Psalm 24; Matthew 5:8**

**Speaker: Joe Boot**

**Sermon Notes:**

1. By ourselves none of us will see God; but God is remaking us to be pure in heart.
2. God is concerned for the heart -- the essence of who we are, the centre of our character, the seat of our emotions, mind, and will.
3. Purity of heart means cleansed, washed from a defiled conscience.
4. Cleaning of the inside of a person is only possible through the inward atoning work of Christ (1 John 1:7; Hebrews 10:19-22).
5. According to Hebrews 9:22 all things must be purified by blood; without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin.
6. Purity in any form apart from the blood of Christ is a myth.
7. Atonement is an inescapable concept because men are fallen; we need the blood of Christ to cleanse us of sin and moral pollution.
8. Everyone wants to be justified, exonerated and to feel guilt-free.
9. Fallen men pursue great efforts to cover their sin and to seek approval for their sin.
10. The first attempt is to transform moral guilt into a medical problem.
11. Second, is sadism, i.e., laying the punishment on someone else.
12. Likewise masochism is inflicting pain on myself to pay the price for my own moral failures.
13. Our culture employs any number of scapegoats for its guilt: environment, parents, genes, other races, or other social classes.
14. It has become the norm to blame ourselves, white western middle class people for the problems of the whole world.
15. Where the atonement is denied it will be redefined and others will be made to bear the guilt.
16. We feel guilty about punishing criminals and call them victims.

17. Criminals aren't considered responsible so we lay the blame on society; you now pay \$100k/yr per prisoner then they're released early only to re-offend.
18. However, you can't pay for your sin by hugging a thug.
19. Only if the Son sets you free, then you're free indeed (John 8:36).
20. Christ has born our iniquity and sorrows; He can pay our debt.
21. The justice and righteousness of God are satisfied only in Christ.
22. The pure in heart are blessed with the vision of seeing God.
23. Revelation 22:14 – blessed are those who have washed their robes, who may enter the gates of the heavenly city.
24. The vision of God is in seeing Jesus: “When we see Him we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is” (1 John 3:2).
25. We're to apply ourselves to the work of the kingdom and pray with David, “Create in me a pure heart, O God” (Psalm 51:10).
26. He who has this hope in him purifies himself, even as he is pure.
27. As we draw near to Christ, we'll see God as He is, and the proof is that we'll bear fruit in gratitude for His purification of us.

**Application Questions:**

1. What is the biblical conception of the “heart” of man?
2. Do I have a merely mechanical, intellectual interest in theology?
3. Do we seem to have it right on the outside or are our hearts inclined rightly toward God?
4. How is purity of heart wrought in the human heart according to Isaiah 53 and Hebrews 9:22?
5. What is the proper perspective we should take in a society that blames itself for all the world's problems?
6. What does the passage mean when it says that the pure in heart shall “see God”?