

Since Oct. 10, 2004

해외 한인 장로회

Church of the Lord

Aug. 30, 2026

하나님의 사랑교회
(통권 1121호)



오늘의 말씀

“The Pure in Heart”

[Matthew 5:8]

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

담임목사 정 석 진

David Seokjin Chung / Senior Pastor

Cell 551.999.5358

pastor.ds.chung@gmail.com

5 Old Dock Rd.

Alpine, NJ 07620

Tel. 201.767.1004

www.churchofthelord.org

Intro. ~ The Blessing of a Heart That Longed for God and Is Finally Filled with God Alone

Beloved, through the Beatitudes, we have been learning the Heart of Jesus one by one. Today we come to the sixth Beatitude. Here we find an amazing promise: the pure in heart will see God. But if we misunderstand this verse, we can fall back into legalism. “If I make my heart clean enough, then God will reveal Himself to me.” Is that really what Jesus means? Then we must first ask: How clean is clean enough? Must there be no sinful thought in us? No greed, hatred, jealousy, or pride at all? If that is the standard, who among us could ever see God? Today, let us enter the text and discover what Jesus means by a pure heart, what it means to see God, and how this blessing becomes a reality in our lives.

Let Us Turn to the Text ~ The Sixth Heart of Jesus Is a Pure Heart

What does Jesus mean by a “pure heart”?

[Matthew 5:8] Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.

The Greek word translated “pure” is καθαρός (katharos). Its basic meaning is clean, pure, free from impurity. Jesus is not speaking merely about outwardly clean behavior. He says, “pure in heart.” In Scripture, the heart is not merely the seat of emotion. It represents the whole inner person—our thoughts, will, desires, and loves. Therefore, the purity God desires reaches much deeper than outward religious behavior. David asks an important question in Psalm 24:3–4.

Psalm 24:3–4 Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or 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 an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully.

Two things appear together there: Clean Hands and Pure Heart. God does not look only at our hands. He looks at our hearts. He does not merely want behavior that looks right on the outside. He desires the heart from which those actions flow.

But as we follow Scripture as a whole, we discover another important characteristic of a pure heart: It is a heart that is not divided toward God. David prays this.

Psalm 86:11 Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name. ~ In other words: "Lord, gather my divided heart and make it one toward You."

Very often, we love God and the world at the same time. We want to please God, yet we also want the approval of people. We want to follow God's will, yet we do not want to surrender our own will. So our hearts are constantly pulled in different directions.

James uses the Greek word δίψυχος (dipsychos) for such a person. It means "double-minded," literally, having two minds. James speaks of cleansing the hands and purify-ing the heart in James 4:8. Again, we see hands and heart together.

Therefore, we should not understand a pure heart simply as "the heart of someone who never commits any sin." As grace works within us, a heart that has been scattered in many directions begins to gather around God alone. So Pure Heart ultimately leads us toward an Undivided Heart. A pure heart is a heart moving toward God alone.

But Who Can Make His Own Heart Pure by His Own Strength? Here we encounter a serious problem. David asks in Psalm 24: Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in His holy place? What is the answer? The one with clean hands and a pure heart. Look honestly into your heart. Is my heart truly clean? Are even unseen thoughts pure? Are my motives pure?

Are the reasons behind my good deeds truly pure? Is there no hidden desire, jealousy, pride, or hatred that I could never tell anyone about? Who among us could confidently answer, "Yes"?

In Romans 2, which we have been studying in our early morning services, Paul shows us the desperate condition of humanity.

[Romans 2:12] For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law

The Gentile without the Law cannot escape sin, and the Jew with the Law cannot make his heart clean simply by possessing it. More sobering is that God judges not only our outward actions. Paul speaks of the day when God will judge people's secrets through Jesus Christ [Romans 2:16]. We may hide things from people, but not from God. God knows even the hidden places of the heart.

So let us return again to the words of Jesus: The pure in heart will see God. Then who can see God? It is here that we need the gospel. What we need is not simply stronger willpower. We do not simply need more religious activity. We need a Redeemer who can make us clean.

Scripture declares that Jesus' blood cleanses us from all sin [1 John 1:7]. We do not wash ourselves before approaching God. Jesus cleanses us and brings us to God. Return to the question of Psalm 24: Who can ascend the mountain of the LORD? Only One can stand there with perfectly clean hands and a pure heart: Jesus Christ. And Jesus brings us to the Father. Therefore, the Beatitudes are not eight steps to earn God's love. They are the picture of the Heart of Jesus being formed in those who have received grace.

Then Why Do the Pure in Heart See God?

We must not see this simply as a reward for those who purify

their hearts. It is not: "You cleaned your heart, so I will show Myself to you." This is not a transaction. Rather, as our hearts gather around God alone, He becomes clearer and clearer to us. When our hearts are crowded, God becomes blurred. When money looks large, God appears small. When people's approval grows loud, God's voice becomes harder to hear. When my desires become clear, God's will becomes blurred. But as grace cleanses and gathers our hearts toward God, the world does not disappear, but God becomes clearer than the world.

This connects beautifully with the Beatitude about those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. The psalmist longs to see God's face [Psalm 42:1]. He no longer merely wants something from God. He begins to want God Himself. So there is a beautiful connection between the fourth and sixth Beatitudes: "The heart that longed for God eventually becomes a heart that sees God alone."

In fact, the Bible is the story of humanity losing God's face and being brought back to see Him. The story begins in Genesis. Before sin, Adam and Eve lived in God's presence. But after sin, one of humanity's first changes was this: They hid from the face of God [Genesis 3:8]. Humanity, once joyful in God's presence, became humanity hiding from Him. Why? Because of sin.

Yet as biblical history unfolds, something remarkable happens. God's people begin to long for His face again. Moses prays, "Please, show me Your glory" [Exodus 33:18]. He had already seen God's power. He had seen the ten plagues. He had seen the Red Sea divide. He had seen manna from heaven. But all of that was not enough. His heart was saying: "God, I want to know You more. Show me Your glory."

David expresses the same longing in Psalm 27:8. He is not merely asking God for something. He is seeking God Himself.

The sons of Korah sing with the same desire in Psalm 42:2. Throughout Scripture, the human soul begins to long once again for the face of God. But in the Old Testament, that longing could not yet be fully fulfilled. God speaks to Moses about this limitation.

Exodus 33:20 But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live."

A sinner cannot stand directly before the face of the holy God. That is why we need a Mediator.

And Finally, the One Who Shows Us the Face of God Came to Us

Philip speaks to Jesus to show him the Father in John 14:8. What a deeply human long-ing: "Show us the Father." And Jesus responds in John 14:9. "He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" Here, the long longing of Scripture reaches an amazing turning point. The God Moses wanted to see. The God whose face David sought. The God for whom the sons of Korah thirsted. That God came near to us in Jesus Christ. Paul speaks of this.

[2 Corinthians 4:6.] For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Je-sus Christ.

What a beautiful truth? We see the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. So growing deeper in faith does not mean becoming indifferent to everything in this world. It means Jesus becomes clearer and clearer to us.

And in the final chapter of Scripture, this promise is completely fulfilled.

[Revelation 22:3–4] And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants

shall serve Him. (4) They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.

The Bible has brought us all the way from Genesis to this moment.

- 1) Genesis 3 ~ Humanity hid from the face of God.
- 2) The Old Testament ~ God's people began longing to see His face again.
- 3) The Gospels ~ The face of God was revealed to us in Jesus Christ.
- 4) Revelation 22 ~ All the redeemed will finally see His face.

This is the gospel. But what stands between Genesis 3 and Revelation 22? The cross. Jesus bore on the cross the sin that caused us to hide from God. He cleansed us with His blood. And He brings those who once hid from God back into the presence of the Father. Therefore, the words, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God," are not a command to earn the right to see God through our own efforts. They are the gospel promise that Christ cleanses us, gathers our scattered hearts back to God, and finally brings us into the presence of the Father.

Conclusion ~ "Only My Redeeming Lord Remains in View"

Beloved, our hearts are filled with many things. The worries of this world. The opinions of others. The desire to succeed. Our wounds and resentment. Even our focus on ourselves. That is why our hearts scatter so easily. But as Jesus' grace works within us, we begin to let them go. The world does not disappear. Our problems do not disappear. But what once looked so large grows smaller, and Jesus, once blurred, becomes clearer and clearer. Jesus becomes clearer than success. Clearer than others' opinions. Clearer than our wounds. And eventually, clearer even than

ourselves. A familiar Korean line from a hymn by Fanny Jane Crosby, who lived without physical sight, says: "I and the world have faded away; only my re-deeming Lord remains in view." Beloved, perhaps this beautifully pictures what Jesus meant when He said the pure in heart would see God. The final question of faith is not how much I accomplished. It is not how much I possessed. The question is: Who remains clearest in my soul? As grace gathers our hearts into one, Jesus alone becomes clearer and clearer. And one day, when our journey of faith is complete, we will no longer see Him only by faith. We will see His face. Humanity once hid among the trees of Genesis from God's face. But cleansed through Christ's cross, the redeemed will live forever before God's face. This is salvation. This is the sixth Beatitude. And this is The Heart of Jesus.

Let Us Come Before the Lord in Prayer

A. Lord, cleanse my scattered heart by Your grace and unite it toward You alone.

B. Lord, let Jesus become clearer in my soul than all the things of this world.

C. Lord, while I now look toward Your face by faith, help me live in hope of the day when I will finally see You face to face.

Today's One-Line Note: "A pure heart is not a heart that has reached sinless perfection, but a heart cleansed by grace and increasingly united toward God alone."