

Only Two Kinds

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

This verse is part of the sermon on the mount.

“The primary purpose of the Sermon on the Mount is to set before men the law of the Kingdom. In Matthew we are talking about the King who has come to present Himself. John the Baptist was His forerunner, and the King called disciples to follow Him. Now He enunciates the law of the Kingdom.”- J Vernon McGee

These things are most important to God.

This verse covers the point of being worshipers who are, “pure in heart”. Those whose minds, motives, and principles are pure; who seek not only to have the external actions correct, but who desire to be holy in heart. **Holy** means; dedicated or devoted to the service of God, consecrated, spiritually pure. **Pure** means: Clean or pure. God told Samuel: **1Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.** God is saying that one of the things that is important to God is a person who seeks to be “pure in heart.”

A word that comes to mind is one who is “genuine”. Genuine in faith, walk, talk, and practice. The real deal when it comes to the Christian life.

There are basically only two types of religion in the world. Those who base their faith upon human achievement and those who base their faith upon divine accomplishment. There is always someone in the world who believes or even creates a religious system that is based upon works. God through Christ is the only one who has made a faith based upon the work of God Himself.

1. A Religion of Achievement Always Just Compares to Someone Else

- A.** Works based religion always compares oneself to someone else to determine what the standard should be. There are two problems with this basis 1. It is not a true standard because you can always find someone else who is worse than you are. 2. It is a moving target. As people change their standards then the goal also changes.
- B.** All works based religions and cults are always changing their rules for being right. We must remember that this is just more human standards.
- C.** Christ said: **Mat 5:20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.**
- D.** That statement shocked the listeners, because those were the religious people of their day. They were the people who set the rules. They were the masters of the external religious ceremonies. They wore the right clothes, They said the right prayers and performed the right ceremonies. They were looked up to by the average person. That type of religious person says the right things, has the right look, goes to the right places, follows the right traditions. **Mark 7:7-8 Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. 8 For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men**

2. Jesus Eliminated Human Based Standards

- A.** **Mat 5:48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.**
- B.** Jesus didn't say that other people's works and rules was the standard. He said God was the standard.
- C.** God doesn't compare us to liars, thieves, cheaters and murderers, to establish a standard. He compares us to Himself. **Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;**

We have come short to His glory. That is what sin is based upon. What would Jesus do? Not what would our neighbor do, or what would my preacher do, or what would the pope do, but what would God do. Following His lead will never lead us astray or steer us wrong.

3. Our faith in Christ is what Will Make Us Pure

- A. It is Christ's achievement on the cross not our achievements that will make the difference. He took our sin and paid the penalty for us.
- B. **Rom 4:24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; 25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.**
- C. Matthew Henry put it like this: *"In Christ's death He paid our debt; in His resurrection He took out our acquittance."*
- D. Peter when preaching to the multitude said: **Act 2:39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.** We are the "afar off" generation. The promise was for us just as much as it was for the people of the Bible times.
- E. Faith in Christ and not our personal achievements is what makes the difference.

A total of 36,000 Sadhus (Hindu holy men) were part of the estimated crowd of 40 million attending a two month festival in India. More than 200 American Sadhus of the Hari Krishna groups brought millions of dollars worth of Hindu literature to the festival. One man in South India explained the purpose of the ritual bathing in the river, "They come for forgiveness of sins and salvation. Some thousands come stark naked--some of them rolling on the rough roads for miles, believing the festering sores on their bodies would earn them salvation...Hundreds have kept one arm lifted up for years until the arm gets shriveled with dry gangrene...others have stood on one leg for years, hanging on to a suspended sling while sleeping...all these are done to appease angry gods."

During the festival, which takes place in the heat of summer, our Indian Christian partners set up free medical clinics. About 150 Christian students passed out literature and talked with pilgrims about the love of Christ. "Some received us with friendliness, some merely tolerated us, and others ferociously objected to the spread of Christianity," wrote our partner. A number of pilgrims accepted Christ, though circumstances prevented them from taking an open stand at the Kumbh Mela. But five Hindus, including two Sadhus, were baptized--the ultimate step of courage for a Hindu. - Partners, published by Partners International, August 1992, p. 7.