

THE HOPE THAT PURIFIES

What keeps our hearts pure? Part One

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

An unbeliever is blind to the things of God, for these are spiritually discerned or seen. Sadly, there are also many layers of veils covering the believer's eyes. These veils are the result of Adam's sin and have the effect of blinding us to the goodness and glory of God. But we have the Lord's promise that, even in this life, by keeping our hearts pure we will see God...and know Him intimately as our Friend. This rare privilege was given to Moses, and it could be ours if we take the trouble to guard our hearts. Let's see what the Bible says about keeping our hearts pure.

John mentions **our hope as Christians that one day we shall be like Jesus for we shall see Him face to face.** "Everyone who has this hope purifies himself." If we truly love Jesus today, we will eagerly await His coming and prepare ourselves for that encounter.

What will it be like to see Jesus? Concerning that day, we have been warned that it will be a day of wrath, when all unrighteousness will be judged and eradicated. But as believers we are not to fear the second coming of Jesus. Do not get me wrong: it is right to fear God and abstain from sin. But it is important to also understand that that day holds no terror for us, only joy.

When we think of the end, it should be with such thoughts: "The One who has always loved me is coming soon. He will take me home and I will forget all my sorrows. He has promised to wipe away my tears. Just looking at Him will fill me with unspeakable joy!"

*"Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion!
Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem!
See, your King is coming to you,
Righteous and having salvation
Gentle and riding on a donkey..." (Zech. 9:9, NIV)*

Be sure of this: He will be gentle, kind and loving to us who are waiting.

A pure heart always thinks of Jesus. When sin tries to get in, we remember Jesus. Our Lord will be grieved if we give in to sin, so we quickly turn away from sin and "look full in His wonderful face" as the song goes.

If we reflect on the coming of Jesus daily, our hearts and lives will be transformed, renewed and purified. We will draw closer to God and He will draw close to us. The shroud before our eyes will disappear- veil after veil will be stripped away, till only a thin film remains; and one day even this veil will be stripped away.