

Matthew 5:8

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By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Many Bible students enjoy reading scriptures from the section that is generally called the Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5 through 7 in the book of Matthew).

When Christ saw the multitude, He went up on a mountain (Matthew 5:1). When He was seated, His disciples came to Him (same verse). Then, He began to teach them (verse 2). Today, let's look at Matthew 5:8.

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

Pure in heart

The Bible has scriptures that mention a negative perspective about the nature of people. Some of those verses are Genesis 6:5; Genesis 8:21; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 8:7; and 1 John 2:16.

Let's look at the Greek word that is translated "pure" in Matthew 5:8. The Greek word *katharus* (No. 2513 in *Strong's Concordance*) has been translated in the King James Version of the Bible as "pure" (17 times) and as "clean" (10 times).

Some of the examples that describe people as pure and clean are listed below.

- Pure heart—1 Timothy 1:5; 2 Timothy 2:22; and 1 Peter 1:22.
- Pure conscience—1 Timothy 3:9 and 2 Timothy 1:3.
- Clean linen (righteous acts)—Revelation 19:8.

It is a wonderful experience when a person can be cleansed.

Titus 1:15—"To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled."

They shall see God

Seeing God is fulfilled in two ways.

- First, people appreciate the opportunities to see glimpses of God during their physical life on earth.

Many Bible students notice apparent contradictions in the Old Testament about whether people saw the face of God.

I recommend that those students begin with Exodus 33:18-23.

Exodus 33:18-23—“And he said, ‘Please, show me Your glory.’ Then He said, ‘I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.’ But He said, ‘You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.’ And the LORD said, ‘Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen.’ ”

With that as a foundation, I recommend that people can find plausible explanations to discuss scriptures like the following—Genesis 32:30; Exodus 3:1-6; Exodus 19:9; Exodus 33:11; Numbers 12:6-8; Deuteronomy 5:24-26; Deuteronomy 34:10; Judges 6:22; and Judges 13:22-23.

1 Corinthians 13:12—“For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.”

■ Second, many people also look forward to receiving eternal life in God’s Kingdom and to see Him as He is.

1 John 3:2—“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”

Revelation 22:4—“They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.”