Have you wondered what happened to people’s ________ to be chaste and pure? Today we’re going to explore what it ________ to be pure in heart. More than anything I want to ________ God and go to heaven. I want to see my Father in heaven who has loved me and sent His Son Jesus to ________ me from sin and give me eternal life. To have eternal life I must __________ to the will of the One who is in heaven, not my own will.

The Lord Jesus said, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall _______ God” (Matthew 5:8). To have a pure heart means it is not _________ or compromised. A pure heart means I haven’t ________ God’s will with worldly pleasures. Proverbs 16:2 says, “All the ways of a man are pure in his own ________, but the LORD weighs the ________.” What you think is pure and what God thinks is pure may be ___________ . Just because you approve of some __________ doesn’t mean that God approves. Habakkuk 1:13 says of God, “Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, and You cannot look on wickedness with ________.” God isn’t like us. We may approve of the sins of others, but God cannot. His holy character will not permit Him to ___________ of sin.

Hebrews 12:14 says, “Strive for peace with everyone, and for the __________ without which no one will see the Lord.” The Lord forgives our sins, but He also expects us to _________ our sins and to live holy lives. God didn’t forgive our sins so that we could ___________ living in sin. Unless we _________ for holiness we won’t see the Lord. A pure heart ________ to a pure life. Are you pure in heart or have you allowed sin into your life?

Our reading today is from Paul’s second epistle to the Corinthians, chapter 6, verses 14 to 18.

A person who is “pure in heart” is single-minded about God and doing His _______. He wants to do what is right and ________ doing what is wrong. He distinguishes the ________ from the evil, the ________ from the wrong, the ________ from a lie, and what builds up from what tears down. He takes seriously what God ________ because of his love and devotion to God. He doesn’t want any sin barrier to _________ his relationship with God. Sin offends God and _________ us from His grace. Isaiah 59:1-2 says, “Behold, the LORD’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, neither his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.” You cannot expect God to bless you if you cherish your sins. Psalm 68:18 says, “If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have __________.” If we keep on sinning, we cannot presume the grace of God will still _________ our sins. Paul asked, “What shall we say then? Are we to _________ in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who
to sin still live in it?” (Romans 6:1-2). God’s grace and forgiveness is a precious gift that came at a great cost. God forgave us so that we might live in sin and live to righteousness. Continuing to sin shows that we have forgotten the freedom. Continuing in sin after we become Christians puts our freedom back into peril.

Romans 8:12-13 says, “So then, brothers (he’s speaking to Christians), we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die (and he’s talking spiritually), but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.” Read Hebrews 10:26-31.

Many Christians today are not serious about their faith, but are Christians in name only. They’ll tell you they believe, but their behavior hardly differs from the worldly. Though they wear the name of Christ, they actually encourage others to blaspheme Christianity. You can’t flirt with lust and sin and it not overcome you. Sin can not only overcome you, it can destroy your heart, destroy your faith, and destroy your love for God. Read Hebrews 3:12-13.

So, we have to ask, what can we do to keep ourselves from being overcome by sin and then lose our souls? First, we’ve got to watch over our heart. Proverbs 4:23 says, “Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life.” Why is the heart so important? The Lord Jesus said, “For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander” (Matthew 15:19). Choices begin in the heart; and people have what they want to do and what is important to them. When people choose to sin, their hearts can say to them. Their hearts may say, “Well, it’s no big deal,” “no one will get caught,” “it’s only once,” or “no one will find out.” But sin is so deceptive and destructive by its very nature. That’s why God urges us and instructs us not to sin. He loves us and He knows what sin will do to us.

When people give their hearts to sin, they end up corrupting their lives and corrupting other people around them. Read Titus 1:15-16. Don’t ever let sin get a foothold in your life; it will overwhelm you. Rather, control your thoughts and focus on God and what is good. Philippians 4:8 says, “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there’s any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” Focus your heart on God and the good He’s doing in your life.

Repentance is a change of heart that leads to a change of life. You’ll never fully repent until your heart turns against sin and repents for righteousness. It’s not simply that you repent the sin, you don’t to sin anymore! You want, with all your heart, to and to God. First Thessalonians 5:21-22 says, “but test everything; hold fast to what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.” You must the ways of the world to Christ in righteousness.
Read Colossians 3:1-10. Don’t excuse your sin, but put it to __________. Don’t ________ someone else; put your sin to death. Don’t __________ sin; put sin to death.

Second, pray fervently for God’s ________. When the apostles at Gethsemane could hardly keep their eyes ________, the Lord Jesus said to them, “Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. Oh, the spirit indeed is ____________, but the flesh is _________” (Matthew 26:41).

We, too, need to watch and pray that we will ________ the temptations of life. The devil tempted Jesus. Even when Jesus overcame the devil’s temptations, the devil was not content to quit tempting Him. Luke 4:13 says, “When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time.”

The devil attacks us when we’re ________ or unprepared to resist. James 4:7-8 says, “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” Some folks are tempted to sin and they flee from God in fear. Hebrews 4:15-16 reminds us, “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in the time of need.” If we draw close to God, He will ________ us through every temptation.

Third, we need to ________ the Word of God diligently. The psalmist asked, “How can a young man keep his way ________? (The answer) By guarding it according to your _________” (Psalm 119:9). The psalmist then resolved “I have __________ ____ your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you” (Psalm 119:11). The best way to know God and to know His will is to ________ His Word. God gave us His _________ in His Word to protect us and to guide us.

Romans 12:2 reminds us, “And do not be conformed to this __________, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove (that is, live out and show it’s right) what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” Loving God means loving His _________. You’ll be __________ to live it out in your life if you love Him. When you live God’s way, you’ll __________ to yourself and to everyone around you that His way is right! The will of God ________ everyone to become good and honest and kind. People want to be around people like that because they’re acceptable. Who wants to be around a drunkard when he’s drunk? Or an angry person when he’s angry? A thief when he steals? Or a cruel person when he’s mean? God’s ways lift up rather than tear down; and that’s why we need to ________ and ________ God’s will. Because His way is truly ____________!

Fourth, we need to ________ from sin. Sometimes fleeing is the ________ thing we can do to overcome our temptations. First Corinthians 6:18-20 says, “Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom
you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.” Today people do everything but flee from ________ sin. Our sex-crazed world has ________ the ability to blush or even to feel ashamed. Lust will ________ your faith and your love for God and ________ you of your soul. If you want to stop sexual temptation, then ________ anything that promotes it. Put to death any bad habits of ________ sexually explicit things on television or on the internet. Stop ________ literature designed to inflame sexual passions. Flee the ________ of your temptations. Second Timothy 2: 22 says, “So flee youthful passions and ________ righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.” By all means, get ________ at a church of Christ that’s near you.

Why does all this matter? It matters because we ________ to Christ. We’re accountable to God. We’ve been bought with a ________, the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Paul said, “I’ve been crucified with Christ. It’s no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20). Since we belong to the Lord Jesus, shouldn’t we ________ Him? One day we’ll give an ________ for the choices that we’ve made, whether we lived a chaste and righteous life or a wicked and indulgent life. Are you living a life ________ to God or one polluted by the sins of the world? If you follow the world rather than Christ, you will undoubtedly have to give an account for your sins. Why not change the ________ of your heart and your life? Die to sin and live for God. There is no other choice if you wish to have ________ life.

Romans 13:11-14 says, “Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let’s walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.” None of us is getting any ________. As each day passes we are one step ________ either to the end of life or to the second coming of the Lord Jesus.

If you’ve been involved in sinful practices, isn’t it time that you woke up and ________? Why would you ________ your eternal soul for a brief moment of passion? Remember: “if you live according to the flesh you will ________, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will ________.” The Lord Jesus died upon the cross so that you might have the forgiveness of sins; but His grace has some _________. You can’t continue to live in sin and expect God to ________ you on the day of judgment. Grace doesn’t work that way. Grace teaches us to “to ________ ungodliness and worldly desires and to ________ sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age” (Titus 2:12).

Do you need to repent of your ways? Today is the best day to do that. Place your trust in the Lord Jesus, repent of your sins, confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and be baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Focus your heart on serving the Lord!