

Pure in Heart

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

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 _____ that came at a great _____. God forgave us so that we might _____ to sin and _____ to righteousness. Continuing to sin shows that we have forgotten the _____. Continuing in sin after we become Christians puts our _____ 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 _____, but are Christians in _____ only. They’ll tell you they believe, but their behavior hardly differs from the _____. Though they wear the name of Christ, they actually _____ others to blaspheme Christianity. You can’t flirt with lust and sin and it not _____ you. Sin can not only overcome you, it can _____ your heart, _____ your faith, and _____ your love for God. **Read Hebrews 3:12-13.**

So, we have to ask, what can we do to keep ourselves from being _____ by sin and then lose our souls? First, we’ve got to watch over our _____. 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 _____ of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander” (Matthew 15:19). Choices begin in the heart; and people _____ what they want to do and what is important to them. When people choose to sin, their hearts can _____ to them. Their hearts may say, “Well, it’s no big deal,” “no one will get _____,” “it’s only _____,” or “no one will find out.” But sin is so deceptive and destructive by its very _____. That’s why God urges us and instructs us not to _____. 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 _____ you. Rather, control your thoughts and _____ 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 _____. You’ll never fully repent until your heart turns against sin and _____ for righteousness. It’s not simply that you _____ 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 _____. 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!