

THE



“The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2)

February 2020

No. 410

BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART (PART II)

The inspired Matthew vividly expounds, *“Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God”* (Mat. 5:8). In the previous issue of *The Harvester* we began to investigate the idea of how we are to keep and maintain a pure heart (mind) before God. The Apostle Peter plainly conveys,

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to broth-

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erly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall. (2 Pet. 1:5-10)

In last month's issue we investigated virtue, knowledge, and temperance. In this month's issue we will study the remaining four Christian "graces": patience, Godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity.

Patience. The dictionary definition of patience is "the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset." Whatever negative experiences we encounter in life, with strong faith, we can "*hold fast*" (Heb. 10:23) the profession of our faith in spite of disagreeable circumstances. Paul said he had "*learned to be content*" in whatever state he was in (Php. 4:11-13).

Godliness. Godliness is "honoring one's duties to God" (*Coffman's Commentary of the New Testament*, 2 Pet. 1). Matthew teaches us that

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. (Mat. 22:37-38)

John also states that "*For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous*" (1 John 5:3). To have Godliness in our lives we must subject by volition our will to God by doing faithfully what He has told us to do to live righteously before Him (Psa. 119:172; 1 John 3:7; 1 John 3:23-24).

Brotherly kindness. Brotherly kindness is translated from

the Greek word *philadelphia*, which means “brotherly love.” The inspired Paul teaches us, “*Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another*” (Rom. 12:10). We are to “*let brotherly love continue*” (Heb. 13:1). Peter teaches us to “*love the brotherhood*” (1 Pet. 2:17). If we truly have our minds fixed on living for God so that we can live with Him in eternity – we will naturally love our brothers and sisters in Christ more than the world.

Charity. Charity is *agape* love. *Agape* love is sacrificial doing love; it is love that does things for others. We are to *agape* or love our enemies. This kind of love is not a warm feeling. It is doing something to help others. In Matthew 5:44 we learn,

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.

Let us consider Paul’s teaching on *agape* love (“charity,” KJV) in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7:

Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

Keeping a pure heart before God Almighty is no easy accomplishment. However, it can be done. When God gives us a command or commands to follow, He is not going to do the requirements for us. We are not so very “depraved” that we cannot respond to God’s will in faith. We are to add to our faith; virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, Godliness, brotherly kindness (*philadelphia*) and charity (*agape* love). By adding these seven areas of Christian graces to our faith we can maintain a pure heart and walk righteously in the eyes of God. Let us ever be very serious about studying, read-

ing, and meditating on the Holy word of God. It is where our faith comes from (Rom. 10:17). We are to DO the word of God with an active faith (John 6:28-29, Jas. 2:14-26, 1 John 3:23-24) so that we can have a pure heart.

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SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. What does the name Abraham mean?
2. Israel split into two kingdoms after the reign of King Solomon, with Israel in the north, but what was the name of the southern kingdom?
3. In Nebuchadnezzar's dream what did the different metals of the statue represent?
4. Until when did Jesus remain in Egypt with his parents, when he was a baby?
5. What was the first temptation of Christ?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH...

And remember last month's questions?

1. On what mountain did Moses receive the law from God?
MOUNT SINAI (Lev. 26:46)
2. What did Naomi tell the people in Bethlehem to call her?
MARA (Ruth 1:20)
3. What miracle had Jesus performed when he said, "It is I; be not afraid"?
WALKING ON WATER (John 6:19-20)
4. What was the name of the place where Jesus Christ was crucified?
GOLGOTHA / CALVARY (John 19:17)
5. Who wrote the book of Acts?
LUKE (Acts 1:1 (cf Luke 1:3))

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF YOURSELF?

What do you think about yourself? What do you think about your abilities, your potential, and what you have accomplished in life? There are two extremes one can go to. One extreme is for a person to see himself as nothing and incapable of accomplishing anything worthwhile. He is unwilling to try to accomplish much in life because he has failed before. He sees others as much more capable, and so he is willing to sit back and let others do the work and take the lead. He is constantly putting himself down. He is willing to take a back seat. The other extreme is also common. Such a person has too high of an opinion of himself. He is proud of his abilities and accomplishments. He boasts about what he has done or what he can do. He wants to be heard. He wants his ideas and opinions and plans to be accepted and followed. He does what he wants to do because his ways are always right.

The Israelites initially did not have a king. Since they wanted to be like the nations around them, they asked God for a king. God told the prophet Samuel to anoint Saul to be king (1 Samuel 9 and 10). Saul was very handsome, and he was taller than any of the people; he was blessed physically. But Saul had a low opinion of himself; he was from the smallest tribe of Israel and his family was one of the least in the tribe. When Samuel called all the people together to proclaim Saul as king, they couldn't find him because he was hiding among the equipment. Saul was bashful. After Saul became King, his feelings of importance changed. Now, he was the one everyone looked up to. He made the decisions on what was to be done. One time, God through Samuel told Saul to punish the people of Amalek for the bad things they had done. Saul was told to utterly destroy the Amalekites and kill all of the people and all their animals. Saul and his army went and destroyed most of the people and animals. But he saved the king and the best of the animals.

And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel? And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed. Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD? (1 Sam. 15:17-19)

Saul changed from having too low an opinion of himself to having too high an opinion of himself when he made the decision to disobey God and do what he thought was best. From Saul you should learn to have the appropriate opinion of yourself.

Having too low an opinion of yourself can cause you to be like the one talent man that Jesus taught about in the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30. The one talent man did nothing with what he was given, and he did not make a profit for his lord. His lord called him wicked and lazy and he was cast into outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Having too high an opinion of yourself leads you to be like the Pharisee that Jesus taught about in Luke 18:9-14. His teaching was for those who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others.

The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. (Luke 18:11-12)

This Pharisee was not justified before God.

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God's harvest (Luke 10:2). This paper is mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address, address changes and all correspondence to:

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You need to be careful in your self-assessment.

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. (Rom. 12:3)

You need to think about yourself and whether or not you are walking in the truth or not and whether or not you are contributing what you can to the kingdom of God.

For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. (Gal. 6:3-4)

If your honest assessment of yourself is good, then you can be happy. If it is not good, then pray God to help you correct what is missing.

When you think about yourself, don't compare yourself to other people.

For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. (2 Cor. 10:12)

All of your abilities and resources come from God.

That no one of you be puffed up for one against another. For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it? (1 Cor. 4:6b-7)

Give God the glory for everything.

Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; (2 Cor. 3:5)

It is only by the grace of God that you are saved.

We need each other. Every one of us is necessary in the body of Christ to serve in God's kingdom.

GOSPEL MEETINGS

DATES	PLACE	SPEAKER
Jan. 31 - Feb. 2	Taylor's Cross Roads Roanoke, AL	Hunter Bulger (Prattville, AL)

But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: (1 Cor. 12:20-22)

Rather than having too high an opinion of yourself, it is better to be humble and value others more than yourself.

Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. (Php. 2:3-4)

My encouragement to you is to have a sober judgement of yourself, having neither too high nor too low an opinion of yourself.

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NOTEWORTHY SIGNS

LOVE CURES PEOPLE -
BOTH THOSE WHO GIVE IT AND
THOSE WHO RECEIVE IT

NO ONE KNOWS HOW BAD THEY ARE
UNTIL THEY TRY TO BE GOOD

PREACHING IS SOWING,
PRAYER IS WATERING,
BUT PRAISE IS THE HARVEST