

STUDY QUESTIONS CONT'D

6. How can someone be happy (blessed) and persecuted at the same time?
7. Since we all have sin in our life, how can we live according to these beatitudes?

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

The word “gospel” means “good news.” The Gospel, or good news, of Jesus Christ is that He did what no one could ever do. You see, God loves us, but ever since Adam and Eve sinned against God, every human being has sinned and therefore cannot come into God’s presence because He is holy and perfect. As much as we try, we cannot bridge the gap to God because of our sinful nature. We can never be good enough to reach God. Good works, religion, philosophy and morality all fall short of God’s perfection.

God loves us so much that He sent His Own Son, Jesus Christ, to bridge the gap (John 3:16). Jesus did what no one else could ever do, because He is both God and human, born to Mary. He took upon Himself the punishment we deserve, dying on the cross in our place. Now, through a relationship with Jesus Christ, we can come before a holy God. That is the good news! We enter a relationship with Jesus by placing our faith and trust in Him and Him alone for our salvation. Do you have a relationship with Jesus Christ?

The good news doesn’t end there. Not only can we have eternal life through Jesus, but we also now can live without being condemned because of sin. Jesus paid the price for our sins, and He lives within those who have placed their trust in Him. In Christ, not only have we secured our future in eternity with God, but we have the Holy Spirit living in us to help us today to live for Christ. For more information on how to know God, check our website at www.gbcmilescity.com.



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SERMON NOTES

“Blessed Are the Pure in Heart for They Shall See God.”

Matthew 5:8

- 1) The “Heart” is the control center of the mind and will, as well as the emotions.

(Jer. 17:9-10) ⁹“The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked; Who can know it? ¹⁰I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.

- 2) To have a clean heart – unmixed, unpolluted, cleansed, forgiven – single purpose is to glorify God.

(1 Peter 1:22) ²²Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit, in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart.

The Person With A Pure Heart

- 1) Keeps himself unspotted from the world

(Prov 20:9) ⁹Who can say, “I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?”

- 2) We must stay in God’s Word

(Jn. 15:3) ³You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

- 3) It is essential to be controlled by walking in the will and way of the Holy Spirit.

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Continued Next Page

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- 5) We must come before God daily in prayer.
(Eph 6:18) praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.
(Ps. 51:10) Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

God has always been concerned above all else with the inside of a person, with the condition of the heart.

“Blessed Are The Peacemakers”

Matt. 5:9

There is no peace now for 2 reasons:

- a) The opposition of Satan
 - b) The disobedience of man
- “war and rumors of war”

God’s peace not only stops hostilities but settles the issues and brings the parties together in mutual love and harmony. (James 3:16-18)

The great enemy of peace is sin. (Mark 7:21-23)

There can be no peace until we confront our sins.

There is no peace without God. (Eph. 2:13-14)

Jesus Christ Himself is our peace.

Characteristics of a Peacemaker (Phil. 4:7)

- a) One who has made peace with God (Col. 3:15)
- b) Leads others to make peace with God (Acts 10:36)
- c) Helps others make peace with others (Matt. 5:23-24)

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” Matt. 5:10

Continued Next Page

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(Matt. 5:10-12) ¹⁰ Blessed *are* those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. ¹² Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

(Luke 9:26) For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His *own* glory, and *in His* Father’s, and of the holy angels.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. How is the *heart* in Scripture really talking about the *mind*?
2. What is someone with a pure heart like?
3. What is involved in creating and having a pure heart?
4. Of the two reasons there is no peace, which do you think is more prominent?
5. What is the difference between peace with God and the peace of God?

Continued Next Page