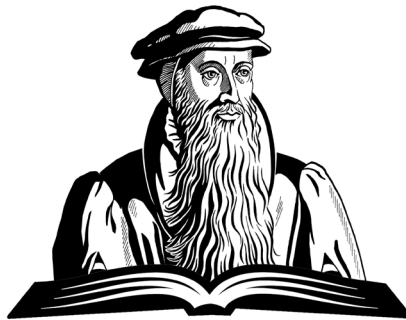


STUDY GUIDE
for
The Beatitudes
A VIDEO LECTURE SERIES

by Rev. A. T. Vergunst

Lecture #8

Blessed Are the Pure in Heart



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version.

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STUDY GUIDE FOR
The Beatitudes

10 Lectures

by Rev. A. T. Vergunst

1. A General Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount
2. A General Introduction to the Beatitudes
3. Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit
4. Blessed Are They That Mourn
5. Blessed Are the Meek
6. Blessed Are They Which Do Hunger and Thirst After Righteousness
7. Blessed Are the Merciful
8. Blessed Are the Pure in Heart
9. Blessed Are the Peacemakers
10. Blessed Are They Which Are Persecuted for Righteousness' Sake



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The Beatitudes

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Lecture #8

Blessed Are the Pure in Heart

Scripture Text

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

Key Points

1. These Beatitudes are about being blessed, but also may bring discomfort.
 - a. Know that God will complete the good work he has begun in each believer.
 - b. If you don't see the fruit of God's Spirit in you, seek that new birth in Jesus Christ.
2. Only the Lord Jesus Christ is perfectly pure in heart: Psalm 24:3–5.
 - a. True believers still struggle with sin until they die, the flesh against the Spirit.
3. Defining the pure in heart in the born-again believer.
 - a. Sincerely desires to live to God's glory.
 - b. Admits that the sinful flesh is still present.
 - c. Takes their sins to the Lord.
 - d. Pursues holiness, Christ-likeness.
 - e. Strives to separate from the unholy.
 - f. Does all to promote holiness in others.
 - g. Makes frequent use of the grace provided in the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. Jesus proclaims that the pure in heart are already blessed: “They shall see God.”

- a. Experience God in their heart, enjoying his presence in the Spirit, always in the context of holy living.
- b. Sin grieves the Spirit, and he withholds himself. He will not comfort us, reveal God to us, or assure us.
- c. At death, true believers will see God with their own eyes, in heavenly glory.

Review Questions

1. Rev. Vergunst tells us that there can be both comfort and discomfort in meditating on these Beatitudes. What would bring us comfort? What would discomfort us?

2. Why do true believers still experience struggles in their inner being with sin? What motivates the believer to fight against sin?

3. Who is the only one who has a truly pure heart? Can the heart of a born-again believer ever be truly pure in this life?

4. What is the relationship between the new nature and being pure in heart? Can the old nature be pure in heart? How do we see this in the Scripture?

5. Please define the word “pure” using the three passages quoted in this lecture.

6. Rev. Vergunst gave us seven characteristics of the pure in heart. What are they?

7. Using the example of new owners in a new house, describe the state of a born-again believer.

8. If God is a spirit, what does it mean when the Lord Jesus says that the pure in heart will see God?

9. Why is holy living necessary for the believer to be in God’s presence, or to “see God”? What happens if a believer grieves the Holy Spirit?

10. How will the believer “see God” in heavenly glory?

Personal Applications

1. Did this lecture help you to better understand what it means to be pure in heart? What comfort does this give you? What discomfort?

2. Please meditate on the seven characteristics of the person who is pure in heart. Are these things seen in your own life? Write out your thoughts on this important matter.
