

"Pharisaic Purity" by Thomas Watson

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." **Matthew 5:8**

If the heart is not pure, we differ nothing from a Pharisaic purity. The Pharisees' holiness consisted chiefly in externals. Theirs was an 'outside purity' They never minded the inside of the heart. *'Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and self-indulgence! Hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people's bones and all sorts of impurity!'* (**Matthew 23:25, 27**).

The Pharisees were good only on the surface. They were like a rotten post, overlaid with fine paint. *"For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven!"* (**Matthew 5:20**)

"If Your Flesh Had Its Full Swing" by J.C.Philpot

"For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that you may not do the things that you desire."
Galatians 5:17

At times, we can hardly tell how we are kept from evil. There is in those who fear God, a spiritual principle which holds them up, and keeps them back from the ways of sin and death in which the flesh would walk. This inner principle of grace and godly fear has, in thousands of instances, preserved the feet of the saints, and kept them from doing things that would have ruined their reputation, blighted their character, brought reproach upon the cause of God, and the greatest grief and distress into their own conscience! They cannot do the EVIL things that they would do. The flesh is always lusting towards evil, but grace is a counteracting principle to repress and subdue it. Grace does not wholly overcome the evil lustings of the flesh, but it can prevent those lustings from being carried out into open action. For the Spirit fights against the flesh, and will not let it altogether reign and rule, nor have its own will and way unchecked. What a mercy lies couched here!

For what would you be, if your flesh had its full swing? What evil is there which you would not do? What crime which you would not commit? What slip which you would not make? What open and horrid fall which you would not be guilty of—unless you were upheld by Almighty power—and the flesh curbed and checked from running its destructive course? We can never praise God sufficiently for His restraining grace—for what would we be without it? "Hold me up, and I shall be safe!" Psalm 119:117

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7/9/17

Call To Worship

A refuge for sinners the Gospel makes known,
'Tis found in the merits of Jesus alone;
The weary, the tempted, the burdened of sin
Are never excluded from entering in.

This refuge for sinners God's love did ordain
In Jesus, the Lamb, from eternity slain;
In Christ the Redeemer Who lived and Who died,
God's law and His justice are now satisfied.

Should conscience accuse us, as often it may,
The blood of our Saviour has put sin away;
In Jesus, our Surety, the sinner can view
A city of refuge and righteousness too.

(Tune: "How Firm A Foundation," p. 268)

Remember In Prayer This Week:

Judy Ward; Mavis Gray; Cindy Brantly; Emily Dubose;
Donald Cobb;Devonne Lewis; Dusty Adams;
Lydia Headrick; Shelly Miller

"The Sins & Slips Of The Saints" by J.C.Philpot

The Scriptures faithfully record the falls of believers—the drunkenness of Noah, the incest of Lot, the unbelief of Abraham, the peevishness of Moses, the adultery of David, the idolatry of Solomon, the pride of Hezekiah, the cowardice of Mark and the cursing and swearing of Peter. But why has the Holy Spirit left on record the sins and slips of the saints? First, that it might teach us that they were saved by grace as poor, lost, and ruined sinners—in the same way as we hope to be saved. Secondly, that their slips and falls might be so many beacons and warnings, to guard the people of God against being overtaken by the same sins. As the apostle speaks —"*Now all these things happened to them by way of example, and they were written for our admonition.*" And thirdly, that the people of God, should they be overtaken by sin, might not be cast into despair—but that from seeing recorded in the Scripture the slips and failings of the saints of old, they might be lifted up from their despondency, and brought once more to hope in the Lord.

From William Mason's "Evening Thought"

"Men shall be blessed in Him: all nations shall call Him blessed." **Psalm 72:17.**

"Cursed is every one who continueth not in all things, which are written in the book of the law to do them." (Gal. 3:10.) This curse, **God hath never revoked.** Every man upon the earth is naturally under it. But the greatest curse is, men neither believe it, feel it, nor care for it. Hence they slight and disregard that dear Man, who was made "*a curse for us,*" that we might be blessed in him. Says our Lord, "*search the scriptures, they testify of me,*" (John 5:39.) Here is a sweet testimony for our mind, and precious food for our faith. Jesus, Master, bless me while I meditate on it. (1st.) See all blessedness in Christ. Well might Luther say, "I will have nothing to do with an absolute God." That is, God **WITHOUT A MEDIATOR.** O sinner, O saint, there is nothing but curse and wrath for us, out of Christ. There is a hell of sin in our nature. The pride of the devil, and the lust of the beast dwell in our flesh. Spirit of God, give us to know this more and more, to the humbling of our hearts, and to the prizing of our dear Immanuel. For in Christ there is nothing but blessedness. We are blessed **IN** him. Blessed be his God and Father, who hath blessed us, with all spiritual blessings in Christ, according as he hath chosen us **IN HIM** before the foundation of the world.(Eph. 1:3.) These are the precious foundation truths of our blessedness. Faith receives them, and works by the love of them. (2d.) Not only blessed **IN**, but blessed **BY** Christ. As our covenant head, He hath every blessing for time and eternity to bestow upon His members. We have not only a notion of this, but the enjoyment of it. Christ is the author of our faith. He gave us faith, that we might feed on Him in our hearts, have fellowship with Him in our spirits, and have all things in common with Him, which our Father's love can bestow, to make us blessed and happy. (3d.) Men, miserable, sinful men, shall not only be blessed **IN** and **BY** Christ, but shall bless themselves **IN** him. This is a sweet art. Holy Spirit, teach it us from day to day. Though we find ourselves vile, miserable, and cursed, yet let us bless ourselves in the Lord: boast of Him, glory in, and rejoice for what Christ of God is made to us. Lastly, Men shall call Christ blessed. The most blessed objects their eyes ever saw, or their hearts ever knew. Lord make up in spirit what is wanting in letter. There is no end of speaking, dear Lord, of thy blessedness.

In Christ I am for ever blest,
Tho' sin and law condemn me still:
Christ is my refuge and my rest,
Let carnal sense say what it will.

Faith lifts me out of nature's views,
And judges not by carnal sense:
When on Christ's love I sweetly muse,
It drives all slavish terrors hence.