

Excerpts for contemplation, discussion, and application from this week's issue of THE LOOKOUT.

Blessed Are the Pure in Heart (pages 4 & 5)

"Purity of heart is not high on the list of goals for college students."

- Name your top three life goals. How are these reflected in your actions?

"It [attaining purity of heart] begins with the Beatitudes that precede it, particularly the first of the Beatitudes. We must come to God poor in spirit. We come as beggars."

- What do you observe about the order and progression of the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12)?

"The Greek word for purity means 'free from mixture or anything that soils, adulterates, or corrupts.'"

- List three things you could remove from your life to make your heart purer.

The Purity that God Alone Can See (pages 6 & 7)

"Visible, ceremonial purity was a reminder of invisible purity, the purity of the heart."

- How does obedience in external areas affect the purity of your heart?

"Jesus announced that he came not to destroy the law, to

end God's demand of purity, but to fulfill it, establishing real purity in his people."

- What can you do to cultivate purity of heart?
- How is purity of heart appealing as part of the gospel message?

"As he cleanses us, as he rules in us, we learn what it genuinely is to live in the purity of his presence."

- At this point in your life, what is God cleansing in you?

Where Is Your Heart? (pages 8 & 9)

"We can sin while sitting in church on Sunday or visiting the poor and lonely."

- Have you ever sinned while engaged in worship or ministry? Explain.

". . . while looking very nice and Christian, I'm actually just making sure I'm liked. Again, my motivation is selfish. Where is my heart?"

- What motivations have you had that have undermined your "good works"?

"In spite of our attempts to fool others, God sees the heart of the matter."

- Do you think it's possible to view things the same way God does? What does this say about being "pure in heart"?

W O R L D W I N D O W S

By Zach Wood

"I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content in whatever the circumstances" (Philippians 4:11).

Life brings thunderstorms on the just and the unjust. No one is excluded. Sometimes life seems grand, and we feel as if we're walking on "Cloud Nine." But then we hit a slump and feel terrible.

Paul learned to be happy and content no matter what life brought to him. Whether in pain, suffering, joy, peace, plenty, or good health, Paul knew the happiness and joy that come from knowing Christ Jesus.

Even if I have problems or trials surrounding me, I can still be at complete peace with my Savior. Why? Because he is always there for me and has promised never to leave me. I can turn to him

anytime I need a friend. And I know that he has so much more to show me and so much he wants to do through me. Now that is exciting!

We can serve the Lord with great joy regardless of our circumstances. ■

Zach Wood is an associate minister and freelance writer in Dassel, Minnesota.