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They will see God

Why is purity of heart important to the Christian? What does it look like? How do we get it?

You'll find answers to these questions in this issue. Dr. Ward Patterson surveyed a group of young adults and corresponded with a number of Christian acquaintances before writing "Blessed Are the Pure in Heart." Combining the responses he received with his own insights into Scripture, Dr. Patterson brings us closer to an understanding of this vital biblical concept.

In "Purity that God Alone Can See," Dr. Jon Weatherly reminds us that purity of heart is something only God sees perfectly, because he alone is perfectly pure. Dr. Weatherly examines Old and New Testament teachings on purity and challenges us to rely upon God for the purity only he can give.

Amanda Smith does double duty in this issue of THE LOOKOUT. In addition to writing our Lesson and Life segment (an assignment made months in advance), Amanda wrote "Where Is Your Heart?" She observes that although we sometimes do the right things for the wrong reasons and the wrong things for the right reasons, God looks beyond the externals to the desires and motivations of the heart.

Jesus knows the value of a pure heart. He called the pure in heart blessed, and he blessed them with the promise, "They will see God" (Matthew 5:8). We hope this issue of THE LOOKOUT prompts you to think deeply about personal purity and motivates you to pursue a pure heart to the glory of our perfectly pure heavenly Father.

With this issue I'm delighted to introduce our new "Faith at Work" columnist, Susanne Dacus. Susanne is no stranger to our publication. You may have noticed her byline on several recent "Faith at Work" columns. Susanne's column will appear each month in THE LOOKOUT to help our readers integrate their Christian faith into the workplace.

Susanne graduated from Pacific

Christian College (now Hope International University), Fullerton, California, with a degree in Christian Education and an emphasis in youth ministry. Susanne served for 10 years in youth and college-age ministry in Rowland Heights, California.

Susanne's husband Brad, an attorney, is president of Pacific Justice Institute in Citrus Heights, California. Pacific Justice Institute (www.pacificjustice.org) is a Christian ministry dedicated to defending (without cost) the rights of churches, parents, Christian employees, and others. Susanne uses her writing and speaking skills as an active partner in this ministry. Brad and Susanne recently released a new book, *Reclaim Your School!* (Pacific Justice, 2002). Brad and Susanne reside in Sacramento, California with their one-year old son, Austin Bradley.

Susanne brings a wealth of insight and experience to her column. We're thrilled to have her on board. Welcome, Susanne!

We're listening! Since we introduced our redesign of THE LOOKOUT in January, many of you have called and written to say thank you. We appreciate your encouragement. We've also heard from faithful readers who like our new look, but have had difficulty reading the text on some pages. We've taken those comments to heart and are working to make the necessary improvements. We plan to use reverse type sparingly, and when backgrounds are dark, we will lighten the areas in which the text appears. While maintaining the right balance of aesthetics, creativity, and readability is no small task, we're committed to making THE LOOKOUT as timely, helpful, and reader-friendly as possible. Redesigning THE LOOKOUT has been a learning process for all of us. We appreciate your patience and continue to welcome your comments. ■



Shawn McMullen / Editor