

Pure

‘The stream is always purer  
at its source’ – Pascal

- Pure: not mixed or adulterated with any other substance or material; freed of any contamination
- Food . . . Air
- Mind?

# I. The Problem And The Provision

Leviticus: focus included  
food, blood, leprosy, corpses...

Prevention, Disinfection, Purification

- Lv.12, child birth (Lk.2:22-24)
- Lv.14, cleansing leper
- Lv.16, sin
- Lv.18-20 (20:10)

Ceremonial cleansings  
taught Israel  
purity of heart.

“Cleanliness is next to godliness.”

Filth: fitting symbol of sin.

# Psalms – Prophets

## Emphasis on moral purity

- Ps.24:3-5 [Pr.4:23]
- Pr.5-7, warning: folly and destruction of immoral woman
  - Ends with praise for virtuous woman (ch.31)

NT: highest standard

Builds on OT foundation

- Mt.5:28, source of problem
- Mt.19:9, eternal death [Ga.5; Ep.5]
  - Disciples shocked at severity of warning (10-12)
- Jn.8:1-11
- Hb.10:22

NT: highest standard

Builds on OT foundation

- Hb.10:22, hearts sprinkled with blood of Christ...body washed with pure water
  - Tit.3:5, washing of regeneration
  - 1 Pt.3:21, baptism...now saves you

NT: highest standard

Builds on OT foundation

- Hb.10:22, hearts sprinkled with blood of Christ...body washed with pure water
  - 1 Co.6:11, But **you were washed**, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

ASV footnote:  
*Gr washed yourselves*



# NT: highest standard

## Builds on OT foundation

- 1 Co.6:11, But you were **washed**, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

“...i.e., ye, by your baptism, washed away those stains (Acts 22:16). The very object of Christ’s death had been that he might cleanse his church ‘by the washing of water by the Word’” – Farrar, 1 Co.

# NT: highest standard

## Builds on OT foundation

- 1 Co.6:11, But you were **washed**, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

“Ye washed away your sins’; exactly as in Acts 22:16. Their seeking baptism was their own act, and they entered the water as voluntary agents, just as Paul did”

– Robertson/Plummer

I. The Problem And The Provision

II. The Practice And The Possibility

# Can we be pure in world of sin?

- Mt.5:8
  - Battle begins, continues, ends with heart
  - Mt.5:28; 6:21
  - The world attracts our mind

Desensitization (ct. 'sensitive'). Ps.10:4,11

Normalization (new normal). Gn.6:5; 2 Pt.3:1

Participation (mixed with world). Ja.1:27

# Can we be pure in world of sin?

- Mt.5:8
- 1 Tim.4:12

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

# Can we be pure in world of sin?

- Mt.5:8
- 1 Tim.4:12
- 1 Tim.5:22

Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure.

- 1) Constant attention
- 2) Consistent control (1 Co.9:27)
- 3) Careful focus

# Can we be pure in world of sin?

- Mt.5:8
- 1 Tim.4:12
- 1 Tim.5:22
- Tit.1:15

To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.

# Can we be pure in world of sin?

- Mt.5:8
- 1 Tim.4:12
- 1 Tim.5:22
- Tit.1:15
- Lk.11:41, 'But give that which is within as charity, and then all things are clean for you.'
  - Emphasis on outward things; inside is corrupt.
  - Clean heart; rest will follow. Mt.23:26



# Can we be pure in world of sin?

- Mt.5:8
- 1 Tim.4:12
- 1 Tim.5:22
- Tit.1:15
  - Lk.11:41
  - Ro.14:20, Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are pure, but it is evil for the man who eats with offense

# Can we be pure in world of sin?

- Mt.5:8
- 1 Tim.4:12
- 1 Tim.5:22
- Tit.1:15
  - Lk.11:41
  - Ro.14:20
  - Tit.1:15 (10-16)

“Impure things do not defile men; impure men make every pure thing impure.”

- Immoral teachers corrupt everything
- Fasting does not make them pure

# Can we be pure in world of sin?

- Mt.5:8
- 1 Tim.4:12
- 1 Tim.5:22
- Tit.1:15
- Ja.4:8, Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
  - Pharisee
  - Pilate
  - Is.1:15-16; 1 Tim.2:8

# We must purify the stream at its source

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are **pure**, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things – Ph.4:8