

The Watford Word

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

What's on

Sunday 01 June: 10:30 AM.

Stefan speaking

Monday 02 June: Mentoring training (**NOTE change of date**)

Sunday 08 June: 10:30 AM.

International Service

Sunday 15 June: 10:30 AM. *Malcolm speaking*

Sunday 22 June: 10:30 AM. *Malcolm speaking*

Sunday 29 June: 10:30 AM. *Church service*

Sunday 06 July: Outdoor service hosted by the Thames Valley churches of Christ

Monday 7th July: Mentoring training

Sunday 20 July: 10:30 AM. *Dr Rolan Monje is our visiting speaker from the Manila ICOC.*

Monday 1st September: Mentoring training

3-5 October: Young Professionals' retreat



heart aligned with God's character and not distracted by selfishness or impurity.

In Scripture, the heart represents the centre of who we are: our will, thoughts, and desires. It's not just about emotions but our whole inner person. A pure heart is essential, not only because it reflects God's own nature (1 John 3:3), but also because nothing impure will enter His presence (Revelation 21:27). This beatitude is deeply tied to the greatest commandment: To love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

What It Means to Be Pure in Heart

Not Defined by External Factors

The root of sin lies within us, not outside us (Mark 7:21). You can't fix your heart by changing your circumstances. The Fall happened in paradise. Only God can create in us a clean heart (Philippians 2:13).

Not About Rule-Keeping

Moral perfection isn't the goal. The Pharisees tried to achieve purity through outward behaviour but missed the heart entirely (Luke 11:39, Matthew 23:25). Purity of heart isn't about image—it's about inner truth.

Marked by Sincerity and Loyalty

Purity means sincerity. No double life. What you are in public and private matches. It also means loyalty—like in a marriage or covenant. There's no mixing of loves or masters (Matthew 6:24). A pure heart belongs wholly to God.

Undivided, Christ-Focused

Just as pure silver is free from other elements, a pure heart isn't diluted by worldly desires (James 1:27). It's focused on becoming like Christ because we will one day see Him and be like Him (1 Jn 3:2-3). Present efforts reveal our future hope.

Blessed Are the Pure in Heart: Seeing God with Clarity

As I mentioned in the previous Watford Word, the North London congregation asked me to speak on the beatitudes last weekend. I hope you find it helpful as I bring some thoughts on another one of them this week.

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

To live out the Beatitude that calls for purity of heart, we must first understand its depth. It's not simply about moral behaviour or doing good things—it's about the condition and focus of our inner life. This beatitude connects back to the one before it: mercy. True mercy is born not from obligation or self-gain, but from a pure heart—a

What It Means to See God

To “see God” is both now and not yet. As our hearts are purified, we begin to see Him more clearly—in Scripture, in the world, in our lives. Others begin to see Him in us. And one day, in eternity, we will see Him face to face (1 Cor 13:12).

Living This Out

Purity of heart isn't accidental. It takes pursuit.

- ✦ Ask God for it – like David in Psalm 51:10.
- ✦ Remove impurity through repentance - Jms 4:8.
- ✦ Focus spiritually – seek wisdom and narrow your focus on Christ (Psalm 86:11).
- ✦ Know your triggers – understand how specific circumstances can stir up temptation.
- ✦ Depend on grace – ask God for strength to remain pure, even when it's hard.
- ✦ Pray for a heart that wants what God wants.

In a world of divided loyalties, the pure in heart are rare. But they are the ones who see God more clearly, reflect Him more deeply, and live with undivided loyalty to their King.

Reflection:

What might your life look like with a growing purity of heart? What would others see? What would you begin to see more clearly?

Study Suggestion

Joseph is an excellent biblical character to study if you want to understand purity. Read his life in the book of Genesis and make notes on what you observe that indicate his purity of heart.

Spiritual Practice Suggestion

Practice: Meditating on God's Word renews the mind and purifies the heart.

How: Choose one passage each week that highlights God's holiness or love (e.g., Psalm 24, Philippians 4:8). Read it slowly, ask what it reveals about God, and invite Him to purify your desires.

Your brother, Malcolm

Watford Contribution Details

Church bank account: Three Counties churches of Christ HSBC

Sort Code: 401915

Account Number: 04759613

This Week's Quiz

What is going on in this gruesome scene? It was painted as a spiritual teaching aid. What do you think the point was? Answers next week.



Answers to last week's quiz

This is a photo of the Church of St. Peter in Antakya, Turkey (ancient Antioch). It's one of the oldest churches in the world, carved directly into the mountainside. Tradition holds that early



Christians, including Paul and Barnabas, met here—making it a key site in the history of the early Church. Penny & I visited the cave church last year. It was a moving experience to stand where Christians worshipped 2000 years ago.

Watford Media

