

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 133

Practical Sanctification -
Live Purely, Love One Another &
Don't be a Hypocrite



Jesus



James



Paul

2019

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never personally believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior; you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Just tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sins of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior, died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of His Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you become a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven.

(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." (John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave is One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."



LESSON



few lessons.

Jesus, James, and Paul are in COMPLETE AGREEMENT about what our GOAL is in the Christian life...our practical Christianity! We've been learning a lot about this in our last

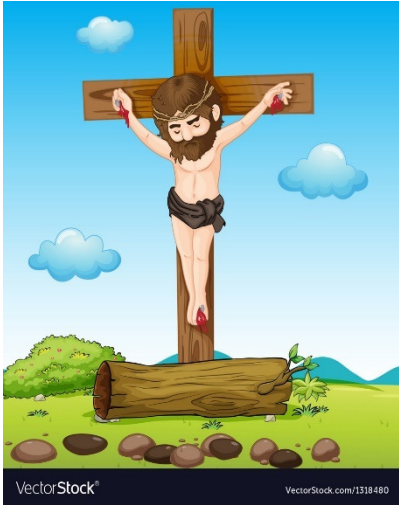
In review: they all want us to become pure in heart with single-minded loyalty to the Lord; no longer living for ourselves but for Jesus; loving the Lord with all our mind, heart, soul and strength; loving one another as Christ has loved us. Jesus, James, and Paul also want us to live in a pure way not doing the things of the world, which is run by our enemy, the devil.

Look again in review at what Paul says in Gal 5:16-24. "But I say, walk **by the (help of the Holy) Spirit**, and you will not do the things of the (sinful) flesh. (17) For the (sinful) flesh sets its wants against the Spirit, and **the Spirit against the flesh**; for these are against one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. (18) But if you are **led by the (Holy) Spirit**, you are not under the Law (of sin). (19) Now the deeds of the flesh are clear, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, (20) idolatry, witchcraft, hatreds, fighting, jealousy, outbursts of anger, quarrels, disagreements, conflicts, (21) envying, drunkenness, sinful partying, and things like these, of which I warn you ahead of time, just as I have warned you before, that those who practice such things will not inherit (get rewards from God in) the kingdom of God. (22) But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love,



joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law (of sin). (24) Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."

Now let's look at what Paul says in Titus 2:11-14. "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, (12) teaching us to **reject ungodliness and worldly desires** and to **live sensibly, righteously and godly in the age we live in now,** (13) looking for the blessed hope and



the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, (at the Rapture, when ALL Christians are taken up into the air to meet Jesus in the clouds to receive our resurrection perfect bodies like His) (14) **who gave Himself for us to redeem (rescue) us from every lawless deed (sins we commit), and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, passionate to do good deeds** (our service to Jesus in our everyday life...our practical Christianity)." Jesus tells us to **practice** our righteousness...pure living...which is the fruit of the Spirit.

Also, Jesus, James, and Paul tell us about God's judgment. **Now don't worry,** this judgment is when we enter heaven. We will ALL stand before Jesus right after the Rapture (when ALL Christians are taken up into the air to meet Jesus in the clouds to receive our resurrection perfect bodies like His).



Then right after the Rapture, He will grade us or judge us on the works or deeds we did for Him on earth after we were saved. This judgment has a couple of names: The Judgment Seat of Christ, or The BEMA (a Greek word that means the same) Seat of Jesus Christ.

At His throne, we will be judged and rewarded or not rewarded according to the those works or deeds we did while on earth. **2 Cor 5:10** "For we must all appear before The Judgment Seat of Christ, so that each one may be rewarded for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."



We have another demand from James that hits us right between the eyes on this matter of hypocrisy: **James 2:15-16** "If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, (16) and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,' and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?" The point James is making here is that there is a huge separation between what you say and what you do.

You SAY you want the person to be warm, but you DO NOT GIVE THEM the clothing they need to BE warm. You SAY you want your brother or sister to have a full belly, but you DO NOT GIVE THEM the food that would actually give them that full belly! Here's a little humor here for you>>>>>



Paul also warns about the same thing, talking about deceivers who teach falsehood in **Titus 1:16**. "They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being hateful and disobedient and worthless for any good deed." In other words, a hypocrite!!!



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Here's a few more verses from James so you understand how James is very concerned about Christians becoming pure in heart and not hypocrites. **James 4:1-10** "What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that make war in your members (body parts)? (2) You desire (in a bad way) and do not have; so, you commit murder. You are envious and cannot get what you want; so, you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask (correctly in your prayers). (3) You ask and do not receive,

because **you ask with wrong reasons**, so that you may spend it on your pleasures." Praying for the wrong reasons is the opposite of being pure in heart.

Again, James gets his message to us in 4:4 in a very strong way! "**You cheaters**, do you not know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a **friend of the (devil's) world** makes himself an **enemy of God**." A two-timer, or double-minded believer is NOT pure in heart. Pure in heart means your heart is pinned on one thing.

Not two things. Not one and its opposite...but ONE thing, Jesus and doing what is right or pure.



Here we have this going back and forth between being a friend of the devil's world and a friend of God's. This is not being pure in heart. This is **not** 100% loyal to Jesus and James presses us really hard here to obey. **James 4:5** "Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: 'He (God) jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us?' (6) But He gives a greater grace. Therefore, it says, 'GOD IS AGAINST THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.' (7) **Give in, therefore, to God.** Don't give in to the devil and he will flee from you. (8)

Get closer to God and He will get closer to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; and **purify your hearts, you double-minded.** (9) Be miserable and sad and weep; let your laughter be turned into sadness and your joy to misery. (10) Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will praise you." And here in **verse 8** we have the very important verse that explains why James wrote this letter. He wants us to purify our hearts and get rid of the double-minded garbage, kids! **This means we have to be humble in God's eyes.** We saw that in **Proverbs 9:10** as well a while ago, remember? "The fear (respect) of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

But of course, we cannot be humble without help from God the Holy Spirit and God's Word, which if you remember is the "mind of Christ." We get this command and we become like Paul in **Romans 7:20**. "But if I am doing the very thing (sinning) I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me (my flesh or body)." This is where Paul wanted to do the right thing but constantly did the wrong thing by sinning until he realized it was his sinful flesh that caused that to happen to him.

That's why Jesus said what He did when He said in **John 15:5** "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who lives in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for **without Me (Jesus) you can do nothing.**" We are completely helpless to obey the Lord without the ruling power, of the Holy Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.



There's one more here in **James 4:17**. "Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin." This is for sure not being pure in heart as Jesus asked us to be, right? This is the center of hypocrisy, knowing what the right thing to do is but not doing it. It's sinful!



Let's pretend: can you picture a conversation between James and Paul back then? Maybe James said...

"I told them what they need to do. But they won't do it. These people are pathetic. Weak. Selfish.

Hopelessly addicted to their evil lusts. I'm done. See if you can do anything with them!"

"Who me? Hey listen, James, I know what you mean because I have been there and acted just like them! The things I want to do, I didn't do. The things that I didn't want to do, I did.

"Yeah, Paul, that's what these stubborn so and so's are doing."

"James, here's the deal. I am what I am by the grace of God. You too, actually. It's Christ or nothing, James! The only hope here is the ruling power of the Holy Spirit of life in Christ Jesus!"

"You are so right, Paul. But I still have to teach them what they need to know and so do you! That's our job!"

That was fun, right kids? We can't know if this ever happened but we can ask Jesus when we get to heaven, right? It was fun imagining it though.

So, now remember where we were in the book of **Colossians** in the last couple of lessons. Paul comes on the scene after James (in history) in the Bible and what he does is introduce this new life that we can lead because of the **Holy Spirit** living in our bodies...in our hearts/minds.



Colossians 3 is all about changes of heart. It tells us that the Christian life is first of all a matter of the heart. That's what James says too. And Paul in **Colossians 3** gives us the basic three-steps of daily practical Christianity:

1. Put away the old clothes...your bad old attitudes and behaviors.
2. Renew your mind, having God's Word richly live within your soul.
3. Step forward by putting on new clothes...the good new heart/mind attitudes and behaviors that Jesus, James and Paul taught us about.

James taught us, too, in **James 1:21-22**. “Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, **in humility receive the Word** rooted (in your souls), which is able to save your souls. (22) But prove yourselves doers of the Word (after salvation, serve the Lord), and not merely hearers (of the Word) who deceive themselves.” It is a matter of changes of the heart, your heart and mine so that, our lives show in action what we say we believe in God’s Word...a pure in heart.



Paul says it. James says it too. And that’s what Jesus says...with Jesus giving the great statement for all of us: “**Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.**” If you remember, that means they will understand God through His Word and His commandments. That is having the Mind of Christ!

So, kids, you have this teamwork between Jesus, James, and Paul on the matter of our hearts/minds...pure hearts. Please, practice righteousness like Jesus asked us to do. Be pure in heart and do as our wonderful writers of the Bible teach us to do. We are in very good hands there, don’t you agree? Yes, indeed.



Remember, live purely, love one another and don’t be a hypocrite...be humble whenever you serve the Lord and in your everyday living!

Until next time, stay in God’s Word...

Close in prayer.



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