



“Worship with a Clean Heart” (Psalm 51)

Proverbs 3:5, “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.”

There are several manifestations of the heart:

- THE EMOTIONS

John 14:1, “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.”

- THE INTELLECT

Mark 2:8, “And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts?”

- THE WILL

Daniel 1:8, “But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.”

INTRODUCTION: When you read Psalms 51 you are reading the words of David just after he had committed adultery with Bathsheba. You are reading the words of a man whose heart had fainted in the day of difficulty. When David chose to take the wife of another man, he chose to break fellowship with God. (Psalm 66:18)

I Peter 3:7, “Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.”

I. THE CREATION OF A CLEAN HEART (PSALM 51:1-4)

You will never have a clean heart until you get to the point where you are willing to repent and admit that you are wrong and turn away from sin.

A. REPENTANCE REQUESTS MERCY (PSALM 51:1)

True repentance is acknowledging before God that you have sinned, asking for His forgiveness and turning away from what you were doing.

II Corinthians 7:9-10, “⁹ Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. ¹⁰ For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.”

B. REPENTANCE REQUESTS FORGIVENESS (PSALM 51:1)

The phrase “*blot out*” literally means to obliterate them. The word “*transgression*” means to rebel. It means to revolt against God’s nature.

I Samuel 15:23, “For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. . .”

C. REPENTANCE REQUESTS CLEANSING (PSALM 51:2)

Matthew 3:8-9, “⁸ Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: ⁹ And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.”

D. REPENTANCE MAKES NO EXCUSES (PSALM 51:3-4)

When we are justifying ourselves, we have not come to the point where our hearts have been changed.

II. THE CULTIVATION OF A TENDER HEART (PSALM 51:17)

A. A TENDER HEART IS A BROKEN HEART

The word “*broken*” means to be crippled or maimed.

Jeremiah 4:3, “For thus saith the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem, Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns.”

Hosea 10:12, “Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.”

“*Fallow ground*” is a farming term. If you don’t plow the ground, the ground won’t receive the seed or the water and therefore the seed can’t grow.

“A heart crushed is a fragrant heart.” – Charles Spurgeon

B. A TENDER HEART IS A CONTRITE HEART (PSALM 119:9-11)

III. THE CONTINUATION OF A CLEAN HEART

A. CONTINUE WITH CAUTION (PROVERBS 4:23)

The word *keep* means to guard your heart.

Jeremiah 17:9, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”

Psalms 139:23-24, “²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: ²⁴ And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

B. CONTINUE WITH CARING (PSALM 51:13-15)

Hebrews 13:15, “By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.”