

than the ones in this physical life. The pure heart is merciful (Mat. 5:7), because it sees others with a feeling of sympathy. In no other area does one imitate God more than when he shows mercy. In nothing does God delight more than He does than when one exercises mercy. The pure heart is a peacemaker (Mat. 5:9) in that he sees righteousness as the solution to every conflict.

The pure heart is the heart that is devoted to keeping the commandment of God. His goal is not to be seen of men, but rather to be approved of God. The result will be that all who have the pure heart will give light to a dark world that does not appreciate them. The one with the pure heart will be ridiculed and labeled as being self righteous, Pharisaic, neo-anti or some other name of derision. Jesus encouraged the pure heart by saying: "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you" (Mat. 5:11-12). The reward for the pure heart is peace with God, approval from God, and in the end, a home with God. May all desire to be purer in heart.

*-- Terry York*

### The Numbers

Attendance	Sunday, May 13	15/17/10
	Wednesday, May 16	11
Offering	Sunday, May 13	\$1165.00

### Those Serving

See 2012 Gospel Meeting Serving List for this weeks assignments.

## Prayer List

Doris Reyes Fernandez, Marc Genua, Ashleigh Green, Eleanor Green, Gordon Hatcher, Juan Mandujano, Early Phillips, Andrew Ragle, Chris Ragle, Norma Ragle, Verne Ragle, Ronald Russell, Tim Smith, Dolores Snyder, Sheila Sollars, Joe Stephenson, Ramona Sutton, Kevin (Chela Keever's nephew)

- Amanda Hatcher had tests this past week to determine what is causing health issues she has been having

### Gospel Meeting

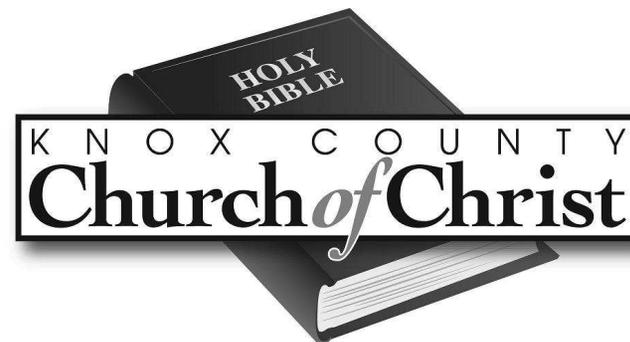
We are excited to begin Our Gospel Meeting with brother Terry York this morning. We welcome our visitors and would encourage you to ask questions. We will do our best to give you a Bible answer for your Bible question. We invite you to attend all of our services this week.

#### Service Times

Sunday: 9:30 & 10:30 AM, 1:30 PM  
Monday - Wednesday: 7:00 PM

There will be a fellowship opportunity this evening at 5:30 PM at the home of David and Tresa Snyder. All are invited.

**May 20, 2012**



*<http://www.knoxcoc.com>*

#### Meeting Location:

130 Mabry Hood Road  
Suite 102  
Knoxville, TN 37922  
865.247.4620

#### Schedule of Services

##### Sunday

Bible Study.....9:30 AM  
Worship.....10:30AM & 1:30 PM

##### Wednesday

Bible Study.....7:00 PM



## *From The Preacher's Pen*

### **"THE PURE HEART"**

[Written by brother Terry York, an elder and preacher with the Northside church of Christ, Calhoun, GA.]

Recently, while discussing various things with a dear sister from Northside, she made a very interesting and logical observation. She said that those whom she had observed to remain loyal to the Lord when their faith was challenged were not necessarily the ones who were distinguished for their strong stand for truth. They were not the ones who "seemed to be somewhat" in the eyes of men (Gal. 2:6). Neither were they the ones with the appearance of a humble, loving, compassionate, or captivating personality. She suggested that the ones who have continued to be faithful when the "fiery darts of the wicked" (Eph. 6:16) are hurled at them are the ones who are faithful in the small, everyday matters. They are the ones of whom Jesus was speaking when He said, "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much" (Luke 16:10). God's faithful children do not lie and steal on their tax returns. They obey the laws governing and regulating public safety, traffic, copyrights and on the list could go. They are faithful when no one else but God is watching. They are the subject of this article; they are the ones with the pure heart.

The person with the pure heart realizes that the very center of his life must be right before God, not just his outward appearance alone. His eye, mind and purpose is single and his loyalty undivided (Mat. 6:22-24, Jas. 1:8). He is aware of the fact that as he walks before God in his daily life, the very motive for his actions are under inspection by God who knows the hearts of all men (Acts 1:24, 1 Sam. 16:7). This is a wonderful preventive for sin because when the man with the

pure heart understands that "the whole duty of man" in life is to "fear God, and keep His commandments" (Ecc. 12:13), he will not have to be overly anxious about what men may think of his actions. The Proverbs writer expressed it this way: "By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD depart from evil. When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him" (Pro. 16:6-7).

The person with the pure heart is the one whom God blesses, or, approves. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God" (Mat. 5:8). But, someone may rightfully conclude that God "blesses" all men. That is true, there are some "blessings" that God makes available to all men, whether they choose to love and obey Him or not. For example, Jesus said that God, "maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust" (Mat. 5:45). One also learns that "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Many other examples could be used to illustrate the fact that God blesses all mankind, good and evil, in some ways. However, there are manifold blessings reserved for the pure heart exclusively. Can you think of a greater blessing than to know you have God's approval? So, one may correctly say without contradiction, blessed are the pure of heart, for they alone are approved of God, and they alone shall see God.

The importance of keeping the pure heart can be seen in the words of Solomon when he wrote: "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (Pro. 4:23). The word "keep" means to "watch...guard from dangers...to be kept closed, be blockaded" (Brown-Driver-Briggs). These words used to define the word "keep" helps one to see the importance of not allowing anything to enter the

heart that could defile it, therefore making it impure. The inspired counsel given in this chapter explains how one can blockade the pure heart and protect it from corruption. One way is by having a reliable standard to determine that which defiles the heart. Solomon refers to the standard as "good doctrine" and "law" (Pro. 4:2). Equally important is to avoid the path of those who do wickedly (Pro. 4:14-17). Another is to do as has already been stated, and that is to be single in purpose (Pro. 4:25-27). It is interesting to note that in this chapter, the one giving this instruction is a father to his son (Pro. 4:1). Solomon is giving instruction to his son as David his father gave unto him (Pro. 4:3-4). Just prior to David's death he encouraged his son Solomon to be strong, keep the charge of the Lord, walk in His ways, keep His statutes, and to walk before God with all his heart (1 Kin. 2:2-4). The primary responsibility of fathers today is to assist and instruct their children in developing the pure heart (Eph. 6:4).

Other characteristics of the pure heart are seen in the "beatitudes." The pure heart is the one who is poor in spirit (Mat. 5:3). He is the one who can look at himself honestly and see himself as he really is, without hope apart from God's mercy and instruction for forgiveness. The pure heart will rejoice at God's plan of salvation. He will accept and obey the words of inspiration to repent and be baptized for remission of sins (Acts 2:38). The pure heart is the heart that will mourn over sin because it sees sin as it really is (Mat. 5:4). The pure heart is the heart that constantly battles to overcome sin. Those with a pure heart know that sin will separate one from his God (Isa. 59:1-2). They are sensitive to sin and remove it from their lives immediately upon a realization of its entrance. They are meek before God and submit to His every command (Mat. 5:5). The pure in heart hunger and thirst for righteousness (Mat. 5:6), because they see the deeper needs