
PRESIDENT'S PAGE

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Purity

I'm going to start my timer. 20 seconds. For 20 seconds, think of pure water. Nothing else. Just pure water. 20 seconds. Go!

How'd you do? Be honest. Were you able the full 20 seconds to think of pure water and pure water ONLY?

When I try, I very quickly picture polluted water.

God says, "Think about what is pure." Philippians 4. It's difficult, isn't it?!

How can I go from pure thoughts -- and in the blink of an eye, impure thoughts?! Lord, have mercy!

Saint and sinner. Godly mind wrapped in ungodliness. My mind needs help -- work -- training!

Speaking of training, consider this thought from a 100+ year old devotion: How should you, then, test amusements? Ask if they draw you nearer to Christ or remove you farther from Him; if they increase or diminish respect for Christian manhood and womanhood; if they

increase or lessen love for virtue and PURITY; if they make resistance to temptation easier or harder; and if they redound to the glory of God.

During our Evening Prayer service (LSB p.244) we sing:

*Joyous light of glory: of the immortal Father;
heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ.*

*We have come to the setting of the sun,
and we look to the evening light.*

We sing to God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

You are worthy of being praised with PURE voices forever.

Pure voices -- think of such things.

And then we pray: Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord -- and let Your loving kindness descend on us -- that with PURIFIED minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host.

God's apostle writes, "Whatever is PURE, think about such things." **Jesus is PURE.** The Greek word is "AGNA." Agna -- PURE -- means "fit to be brought into God's presence & used in His service." The service of purifying you and me. God the Son! Perfect servant! Jesus certainly is "fit to be brought into God's presence and used in His service."

Jesus is PURE. Agna. It means "without stain or error or sin." Jesus certainly is w/o stain or error or sin.



Jesus is PURE. So think of Jesus and the God of peace will be with you.

Jesus PURIFIES us! 400 years before Jesus... God's prophet writes: When Jesus comes, He will sit as a refiner and PURIFIER. Malachi 3:3.

Daniel, the lions' den guy, writes: Many will be PURIFIED, made spotless and refined -- but the wicked will continue to be wicked. 12:10.

We think of pure air yet live in the reality of polluted air.

We think of pure water while knowing it will always have some impurities.

Our pure clothes and pure furniture over time pick up dirt and stains.

Earlier you thought briefly of pure water. Think of the expense of purifying water. Water treatment plants. Various home water purification units.

Think about Jesus' expense on His cross to purify us -- the Pure One for us impure many. Think about these things. Jesus spent much to purify you and me. Jesus spent everything to purify us. Think about such things!

Whatever is PURE -- think about these things -- and the God of peace will be with you.

Pastor Paul Egger

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