

**Russell Kelfer**

# **God's Truth About the Character of Man**

**540-A**

**Series: The Beatitudes**

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# God's Truth About the Character of Man

For the sake of review, we have been studying what it means to have a pure heart. There are 5 attributes to consider when talking about a pure heart: 1) an absence of hypocrisy, 2) the presence of clear motives, 3) a clear conscience which manifests itself in three ways: a clear conscience towards God, a clear conscience before men (that is towards the conscience of others), and a clear conscience with your fellow man. This lesson will continue our study of the fourth attribute of a pure heart, which is a single-minded spirit.

We began our study in James 4:1-10 in which we find the concept of single-mindedness. In verse 8 we saw The Complaint, that we should purify our hearts, because we are double-minded. James had told us earlier that a double-minded person is unstable in all his ways. He receives nothing that he asks for from the Lord, because his eyes are focused on the things of God and the things of this world at the same time.

The Complaint led to The Characteristics which began the passage in verses 1-3. The first was spiritual conflict, "*Whence come wars and fightings among you?*" James was telling them that they can't get along with each other, because they are double-minded. This is also characterized by spiritual indifference. He tells them, "*You have not, because you ask not*". He tells them that they are not even concerned enough to be interested in spiritual things. It is characterized by spiritual impotence. When they did ask, they received not. There was no power in their lives where spiritual things are concerned. This comes from the root cause which is spiritual self-centeredness. The reason they asked and received not is because they asked it amiss that they could consume it upon their lusts. Their goals were to satisfy themselves.

This brings us to the cause in verses 4-5 which is spiritual adultery. He says,

Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that  
friendship with the world is enmity with God?

(James 4:4 NKJV)

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You will recall that the Amplified Version says,

You are having an illicit relationship with the world which in essence is God's enemy. You are lovers with the enemies of God.  
(James 4:4 Amplified Bible)

In the last lesson We discussed nine foundational truths relative to spiritual adultery. In summary, they are that man was basically created to reflect an image, not his own, but of another. There are only two images he can reflect. One image belongs to God and one belongs to this world and Satan who is in control of this world. God and Satan are in conflict for control of the Christian's life. God's weapons are spiritual, to the pulling down of strongholds. Satan's weapons are subtle, reasonable, deceptive and appealing. What Satan wants is control of your mind.

The seventh principle was that although not all of the details are there, all of the principles of living the Christian life are clearly spelled out in the Word of God. The principles of God never conform to the philosophies of the world. Neither can the world receive or understand the things of God.

This brought us to the real problem which is man's confused computer. The principle is that there are about 112 waking hours in the average person's week, if that person sleeps 8 hours a night. Having computed this in the last lesson, we saw that a minimum of 2% and a maximum of 10% of our waking hours are spent being fed by the Word of God in one form or fashion. The average person spends 90% to 98% of his time being fed the impressions of the world system from various sources. This is the reason that God tells us that the Word of God needs to be like frontlets between our eyes and on the door posts of our houses. Everywhere we go we ought to see the Word of God.

The problem is that the human mind is like a computer. Two to ten percent of the time we receive real truth, the truth that moral purity is God's way, that there are absolutes that cannot be changed, that we are designed to have biblical principles that cannot be compromised which are called convictions. The real truth is that we are designed by God to be selfless, that is the act of giving up our rights for the welfare of others. We are supposed to have a yielded will, that is the process of letting someone else, namely God, run our lives. Ninety to ninety-eight percent of the time, our computer is programmed by the world. The world says that impurity is basically alright within reason. The world says

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that there are no absolutes and that compromise is a natural thing. The world teaches that selfishness is a necessary thing and to be self-willed is to succeed.

We also concluded that in today's world the enemy seems to have launched an offensive in five particular areas of society:

Area 1- The media which reports as natural the standards of the world.

Area 2- Secular education which teaches as reality the standards of the world.

Area 3- Secular counseling which reinforces as redeeming the standards of the world.

Area 4- Entertainment which demonstrates as fulfilling the standards of the world.

Area 5- Organized religion which accepts as progressive the standards of the world.

Satan's goal is singular. He wants to discredit God. He wants to discredit God in these four areas:

1- The worth of God- that is who He is- His character.

2- The Word of God- what He said- the Bible.

3- The works of God- what He has done- His manifestations on earth.

4- The ways of God- how He works- the higher, purer ways that astonish and astound the world but never conform to it.

As Satan succeeds in doing this, he has lured the Christian into a state of double-mindedness.

As we conclude the review of the last lesson, we have for the sake of this study, divided Satan's lies into nine areas. These are areas in which the world's philosophies and the message of the world system are diametrically opposed to the message of the Word. These areas involve:

1- The character of man

2- The nature of God and His relationship with man

3- Man's source of happiness

4- Man's standards of morality

5- Man's concept of marriage and the home

6- Man's concept of authority

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7- Man's concept of responsibility

8- Man's concept of idolatry

9- Man's concept of holiness

In this lesson, I want to take a look at some of these areas. We are going to look at the lies the enemy tells and consider these questions: "What are his real objectives?" "What is it that Satan is trying to do?" and "What is the truth of the Word of God?"

Most of these lies are readily discernible when we read them on a Sunday morning during a Bible study class. They seem very basic and very simple, but please be careful. The point is that our children and we ourselves, while never denying these truths overtly, are subtly drawn magnetically by these five attacks of Satan (through the media, through education, through counseling, through entertainment and through religion) away from a polarized position where these are convictions. They cease being exclamation marks and they become question marks. As a result, you and I become double-minded.

### 1- The Character of Man

The first area of conflict and one of the most basic is Satan's lie about the character of man. Satan says that man is basically good. His environment or heritage may work against him, but, given the right tools, his heart is basically good. Therefore, he can overcome on his own effort.

### 2- The Nature of God and His Relationship with Man

Man needs something to trust in. Satan says that he can trust in the authority of his own wisdom. Science, education, philosophy, psychology and history can become man-made authority. Ultimately, these are assumed to be truth.

### 3- Man's Source of Happiness

Thirdly, Satan wants us to believe that we are in control of our lives. We are the captain of our fate. Whatever we make up our minds to do, we can do. Whatever we want to become, we can become.

These three lies exemplify Satan's violent conflict with the concepts of God. We won't buy these in the open, but we may, on occasion, succumb to their logic in one of a thousand various ways.

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### The Character of Man

Let's take the first lie for an example. This lie is that man is innately good and has tucked away in his little heart, apart from God, a burning, natural desire to do the right thing. Have you ever heard that? Left to himself, he will seek a noble profession and thus contribute to mankind. Left to himself and given a good, lengthy telephone, he will be moved to contribute to a worthy cause. Even if he robs, murders or rapes someone, given his freedom again, he will probably behave well, because he is basically driven to be good. What a lie this is. Satan says, "Man just can't help himself. He is innately good."

What is Satan's goal? Why does he tell this lie? This lie is to discredit God's plan of redemption. If man can be convinced that he is basically good, guess what he doesn't need? He doesn't need a cross. He doesn't need a Savior. Yes, there is infinite worth in man, but that worth is a vacuum waiting to be filled with God. God made us for Himself. In Him we are priceless. But my friend, whether we like it or not, apart from Him we are worthless. Do we believe that? Do our children believe that? The Word of God says this is true. It is true that in Him we are priceless and of inestimable value, or He would not have sent His Son to die for us. But apart from Him, the Scripture tells us that we are worthless. This truth was never designed to give us a negative self-image. On the contrary, it was designed to give us a need, a dependence on God, who alone can give us His image. That takes the place of a self-image.

I cannot forget the hymn we used to sing many years ago, "Would He devote that sacred head for such a worm as I." A few years ago, they decided that was a distasteful song and changed the wording in many of our hymnals, because we didn't want to look upon ourselves with such distaste. My friend, apart from Jesus Christ, "worm" is a very good word to describe us. The problem in our society today, for the most part, is that there is not a known awareness of sin. We are praying for a revival, but every revival that has ever taken place in the history of the church has always been preceded by a deep awareness of sin, personally, corporately and nationally. The problem that we face in this generation is that we have been convinced subtly by Satan that man, in and of himself, is kind of good at least. This is a lie.

If this is a lie, what is the truth? The truth is that you are a

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sinner by birth and a sinner by choice. Genesis 6 says,

Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (Genesis 6:5 NKJV)

In Psalm 51 we read,

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. (Psalm 51:5 NKJV)

In Romans 3 we read,

For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

In Jeremiah 17 we read,

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

I John 1 teaches us,

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. (I John 1:8-10)

Galatians 3 says,

But the Scripture has confined all under sin, (Galatians 3:22 NKJV)

Romans 5 says,

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned— (Romans 5:12 NKJV)

Ephesians 2 says,

And you [He made alive], when you were dead (slain) by [your] trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1 Amplified Bible)

These are verses familiar to all of us. But the truth is, no matter what Satan says, left to our natural desires, we will do that which is base, immoral, self-centered and self-destructive. Guess what? That is why we must be born again. Is it any wonder that Satan hates that truth as basic as it is. In the garden of Eden, Satan eases his way up to Eve and says, "It won't hurt you to eat of that tree. So what if you will know the difference between good and evil, you will choose to do good." The lie has been with

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us from the beginning. It penetrates every facet of modern life. Its goal is to destroy our need for Calvary.

### The Nature of God and His Relationship with Man

The second lie builds on the first. It says if we are basically good, then we can trust in the inventions of our own mind as final truth. Whatever is right today by man's authority is truth. So Satan uses five pillars of truth to support this: science, education, philosophy, psychology and history. Science says, "We define the truth." Education says, "We teach the truth." Philosophy says, "We interpret the truth." Psychology says, "We apply the truth." History says, "We confirm the truth."

What is the problem? The problem is that they all agree, there is no truth. Let me give you an illustration. I was told this story by a student a few years ago who was attending a local college and was enrolled in a psychology class. The professor greeted the class on the first day with this statement, "If you are in this class expecting me to teach you truth, you are in the wrong class. If you are seeking truth, sign up for philosophy class. They never quite find it, but they seek it. Psychology deals with theories, opinions and concepts about human behavior. They are not constant, but vary from year to year. What I am teaching you this year may not be true next year." He went on to say this, "Nothing is absolute. Everything is relevant and subject to change. Whether you agree or accept what I teach or not, I could care less."

What a foundation to build your life on. It is called building your house on the sand. When the rains come, that is adversity from above, and the floods come, that is guilt and confusion from within, and the winds blow, that is conflict on every side, then great is the fall of that house.

What is Satan's goal? He wants to brand as a lie that God alone equals perfect truth. He does it by assailing the worth of God, His omniscience. He does it by attacking the Word of God. Science seeks quietly to discredit the miracles of God. Science says, "We found some bones. We think they came from an ape that lived 27 trillion years ago. He had three kneecaps and this gives us a new truth so we are going to write a new textbook." Education seeks to discredit the truth of God. Philosophy seeks to discredit the plan of God. Psychology seeks to discredit the principles of God. History seeks to discredit the performance of God.



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What is the truth about truth? In John 18, Jesus said,  
...Everyone that is of the truth, can hear My voice.”

Pilate asked, “What is the truth? (John 18:37,38 NASB)

Men have been asking that question for generations. Jesus is the answer as we see in John 1 as he wrote,

For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. (John 1:17)

In John 14 paraphrased, Jesus says,

I Am the I Am which is the truth. I am the truth about God. Everything you will ever want to know about God, you will see by looking at Me. I am also the truth about man. Everything you will ever want to know about man, you can see by looking at Me. (John 14:6,7 paraphrased)

In John 8 Jesus said,

You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. (John 8:44 NKJV)

Satan is in control of this world system, but the Scripture says that there is absolutely no truth in him. John 16 says,

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; (John 16:13a NKJV)

All of truth is embodied in Jesus Christ, therefore, there is no truth apart from Him. This is true no matter how logical, no matter how reasonable, no matter how sensible any bit of information may seem. If the information conflicts one-half of one percent with God's position in Scripture, it ceases to be truth and becomes a lie.

I want to get on my soapbox now. This is why Christian education is so important in the age we live in. I believe that it is possible, if Jesus Christ is central in the educational system, for science to marvel at the creation of God and thus to worship at the sight of God's miracles. It is possible for history to validate God's faithfulness and thus to demonstrate that God's prophecies are true. It is possible for math to confirm God's absolutes and thus to reinforce God's disciplines. It is possible for language to explore the depths of God's wisdom and thus reveal the beauty of God's revelation. It is possible for P.E. to be used to marvel at

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God's spiritual body and thus to see the parallels of the disciplines of physical and spiritual training. It is possible to see all of life from God's perspective. It is possible to see all of education from the foundation of perfect truth and absolutes that never change and a foundation that is secure and unmovable. Public schools at one time partially reinforced Godly wisdom. Today, read your child's textbooks, and you decide what philosophy is central – the philosophy of the world, or the philosophy of the Word. Remember, they are always in conflict, one with the other.

### Man's Source of Happiness

Satan's third lie about the character of man is built upon the other two. This lie is that man is the captain of his fate. He can become whatever he sets his mind to. A little girl can watch television when she is five or six years old and dream of becoming Miss America. She thinks, "Mommy and Daddy would be proud of me, if I could be Miss America someday. I can do it if I set my mind to it." The next afternoon Daddy turns on the television set and glues his eye on a football player who is the ultimate in performance, and he jumps up and yells, "That is a real man." The little boy looks up and thinks, "Daddy will think a lot of me someday, if I can be like that football player. I can do it if I set my mind to it."

These are lies. First, not all men are created equal. I'm here to tell you that for sure. In the physical realm, if a top-notch quarterback were to walk in here and look at this crowd, and I were to say, "Each one of us is in line to take your place, son," he would laugh so hard he wouldn't be able to play today. We could have an accomplished singer come to sing and tell him that he could sing today, but I was going to take his place the next time, he would think I was crazy. We could look at the great minds of this age and say, "The only difference between you and me is that you tried harder." That is not true. All men, by God's grace, were not created equal in the physical realm. They were never intended to be. It makes a good pep talk from the world's perspective. It makes good sense humanly, but it is a lie.

This lie is perpetrated on our children. They grow up thinking they have failed, because they have not become in a human sense what they have seen our idols become. They are suffering, because we have set worldly standards that they can never meet. We then relegate them to second-class citizenship unconsciously,

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if they don't meet these standards. "You can do it!" we say, but this is a lie.

What is Satan's goal? He wants to discredit the power of God by replacing faith with self-motivation. What is the truth? The truth is that we can do apart from God as much as Jesus could do apart from His Father - nothing, absolutely nothing. I'm not sure we or our children will ever understand all that really means. Satan has so infiltrated our minds that we have been squeezed into the mold of this world, by and large, that even in the spiritual realm, we have convinced ourselves that we are the ones who can. What do we see in John 3?

John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. (John 3:27 NKJV)

In John 5 Jesus said,

...the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; (John 5:19 NKJV)

In John 5 Jesus says,

I can of mine own self do nothing:...I do not seek mine own will, but the will of the Father who has sent me. (John 5:30 NKJV)

In John 8 Jesus says,

"When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; (John 8:28 NKJV)

In John 9 we read,

If this man were not of God, He could do nothing. (John 9:33)

In John 15 Jesus looked at them and said,

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." (John 15:5 NKJV)

Proverbs 16 in the Living Bible capsulizes one aspect of this truth as it says,

We can make our own plans but the final outcome is in God's hands. (Proverbs 16:1 TLB)

The truth is that man is not to grit his teeth, set his goals, and become a self-made man. The pages of history confirm that self-made men make the same kind of messes of themselves that man as a whole has made of this world. The truth is that man cannot chart his own destiny. Man cannot make his own way.

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He was designed by God to yield his goals, his expectations and his talents into the hands of a sovereign God. It is not, "I am the captain of my fate." It is, "The great I AM is the captain of my fate." Do you see Satan's challenge to God? He says, "I will be like the Most High." Do you see his challenge to Eve? He says, "You can be like God." Do you see his challenge to Jesus? He says, "Worship me and all of this will be yours." Satan is saying to all of us, "You can make it apart from God." That is a lie. Don't let the world squeeze you into that mold.

Satan's lies about God, the nature of God and His relationship to man involve three things. The first lie is that man is basically good, and he is his own authority and in control of his own destiny; therefore, his concept of God is not vital. Whatever turns him on religiously is okay. The main goal is to find a religion, a means of relating to a god that meets his needs best because, after all, he is basically good and all he needs from God is a little cooperation circumstantially. He can find God, and he can serve God, because God is love, and He wouldn't send anybody to hell, if there is a hell.

The lie is that it doesn't matter what you believe. Satan's goal is to discredit God's unique place in man's life by equating religion with God. Religion says, "We can find God." Jesus says, "God found you." Religion says, "We pay a price, God has to take notice." Jesus says, "I paid the price, you have to take Me." Religion says, "We work for God." Jesus says, "God works through you." Religion says, "All roads lead to the same place." Jesus says, "Here is the truth, (John 14:6), I Am the I Am who leads the way. No man comes to the Father but by Me." Jesus tells us that there is one road to eternity, and it must come by the cross. All other roads are dead ends. All other roads. Do you really believe that? Of course you do. Do your children understand that? Perhaps they do. But, there are so many subtle infiltrations into our minds that flood us day after day after day that we begin to assume a somewhat gray position where the truth is concerned. Matthew 7 says,

"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.

Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."

(Matthew 7:13,14 NKJV)

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In John 3 we read,

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."  
(John 3:3 NKJV)

Do you really believe that? Do you really believe that there are only two classes of people in the world, Christians and non-Christians? Do you know that there are no non-Christians good enough to find God? Of course you do, but do we live as though we really understand that principle? There are no "nearly saved" people. There are those who think they are active religiously enough to get into the kingdom of God. The Scripture says that these people will some day come into the presence of Jesus, and He will have to say to them, "Depart from Me, I never knew you."

If that truth is really true, what about our next door neighbor, the people we work with, our classmates, the missionaries toiling overseas that we forget to pray for. Basically these people are either born again or not. The movies, television, newspaper, entertainment and even religion today all fill our minds with the simple thought, "We are all going to make it, because we mean well." We are not all going to make it to heaven.

The second lie Satan tells about our relationship with God is that eternity is either non-existent or an unknown quantity. His objective is to discredit the eternal purposes of God by convincing man that LIFE IS NOW. Very few people talk about heaven any more. We don't see much about it in the entertainment realm. Very few counselors talk about eternal principles and values. Very few people talk about heaven, and no one certainly seriously talks about hell.

I haven't seen many movies, but there has been a recent one I saw called "Heaven Can Wait." It was one of the funniest movies I have ever seen. I saw it twice and laughed both times. It was one of those movies that was all "tongue in cheek". But let me tell you something about that movie, there were six subtle lies tucked in that movie. Those of us who saw it received these lies as truth. The first one was that God's timing, if there is a God, is off. The second one was that God makes mistakes. The third one was that heaven is a joke. The fourth one was that angels are just strange, weird humans. The fifth one was that we need to stay on earth as long as we can. The sixth one was that it has nothing at all to do with Jesus Christ. This is the message of the movie. It was

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hilarious, but it was a lie.

I saw an interview of John Wayne shortly before he died. He was an idol to so many. He was so typical in his comments. I can't help but quote some of them, more or less. As he was being interviewed, the question was asked, "What do you think as you look at death." He answered, "I believe there is a man upstairs. I kind of hope He'll take a liking to me. I do believe there is something after this life." In the newspaper the next day, a summary of the interview stated that the "Duke" was a sensitive, moral, religious man, but he didn't know the truth. The statement "Life is now" is a lie. The thought goes on to infer that, because if life is now, God's principles are a joke. Why store up treasures in heaven where you can't enjoy them? Satan says, "Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow you may die." God answers,

...Fool! This night your soul will be required of you;  
(Luke 12:20 NKJV)

What is the truth about eternity? It ought to be a conviction with you and with me. Our families ought to see it as a conviction. In John 14 Jesus says,

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."  
(John 14:1-3 NKJV)

Do you believe that? In I John 5 we see,

And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.  
(I John 5:11,12 NKJV)

In I Corinthians 15 we read,

Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen.

And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.

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Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise.

For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen.

And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!

Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. (I Corinthians 15:12-19 NKJV)

That is the truth. This is the truth about eternity. We see this also in Revelation 21 as John writes,

I saw a new heaven and a new earth because the old heaven and the old earth had passed away.

(Revelation 21:1 paraphrased)

We also see the truth about hell. In Mark 9 it says that it is better to live a life maimed than having two hands that cause you to go to hell in the fire that will never be quenched and where the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.

In Matthew 23 Jesus says,

“Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?” (Matthew 23:33 NKJV)

In Revelation 20 we see,

And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire and whoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:13)

Do you believe that?

The truth is that every person will spend eternity somewhere. No one will come back a second time as Rock Hudson or Barbara Streisand or Joe Namath or Billy Jean King. You will go immediately into the presence of God for all eternity, or you will spend an endless eternity separated from God in agony, despair and torment. That is the truth. The world system says that a loving God and hell are not compatible. They don't understand what real love is. If there is no hell, Calvary is a hoax. Jesus, therefore, died for a lost cause. God made a horrible mistake. He sent His Son to die in order to save you from something that doesn't exist. Our views concerning heaven and hell must be a conviction, and we must not let the world squeeze us into its mold.

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In the next lesson, we will continue this subject by dealing with Satan's lies about where we find happiness, what is morality, and more. These conflicts that I have shared are very subtle. They may even seem unnecessary to you to discuss. But friend, they are devastating. Like cancer, they gnaw at the heart of every man, woman and child, day after day as the world sends out its signals of lies. They then reach the bloodstream and infect the heart. Ultimately, they blur the vision, and we become double-minded. You and I and our children and those about us need to rebuild some convictions based upon the truths of the Word of God. We need to understand what our children are being taught in school, who is teaching them, and why they are teaching what they are. We need to combat what they are being taught with the truth. We need to reinforce the truth with our right response and battle the lies of this world, because blessed are the pure in heart, the single-minded ones, for they shall see God.

Note: Russell wrote each of these lessons in a manner that would enable him to clearly communicate them to his weekly class. The grammar or punctuation you encounter may not be technically perfect, but you will certainly "hear" his unique gift for making the message applicable to the common man in everyday situations.

It's been said of him that he was really a writer who read his stuff. And that's a very accurate statement!

May you be richly blessed as you "hear" as you read.

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