

## **Clean Hands**

1. Ceremonial cleansing
  - a. The Laver of Bronze
    - 1) Preparation for Worship: Ex 30:19,21 (17-21)
    - 2) Washing versus a Full Bath: Ex 8:4 (1-10)
  - b. Discharges: Lev 15:11 (2-11)
  - c. Superficial Tradition: Matt 15:2 (1-20 + Mk 7:3,4)
2. Symbol of Innocence
  - a. Innocent of One's Blood
    - 1) Elders of Nearest City: Deut 21:6 (1-9)
    - 2) Pontius Pilate: Matt 27:24 (21-26)
  - b. Free from Bribery: Isa 33:15
3. Metaphor for Living a Righteous Life: Job 9:30 (29-31); 17:9; 31:7 (6-8); Ps 26:6 (1-7); 2 Sam 22:21 (21-25)

## **Pure Heart**

1. Cleansing at Salvation: Acts 15:9 (5-11)
2. Ongoing Cleansing
  - a. Confession of Sin: Ps 51:10 (5-13)
  - b. Obedience to Truth: Ps 119:9 (9-16); 1 Pet 1:22 (22,23)
3. Resulting in Blessing: Ps 73:1 (1-9); Mt 5:8
4. Producing Love: 1 Tim 1:5; 2 Tim 2:22

## **As Related to James 4:8**

1. This verse specifically calls into view Ps 24:4 (1-6) and the need for spotlessness before God that is not merely external in nature (clean hands), but also genuine within (pure heart). (Ps 15)
2. James is exhorting these believers to repent, confess their sins and be made clean by the Blood of Christ.

## **J. Vernon McGee**

“If the only ones who are going to ascend into the hill of the Lord are those who have ‘clean hands and a pure heart,’ and those who have not ‘lifted up’ their souls ‘unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully,’ I guess I won’t be there. That leaves me out. But I am going to be there, because I am going to be there *in Christ*.”

3. He properly recognizes that the outward acts of unrighteousness described at the beginning of this chapter are the direct result of their ongoing carnality.
4. Ps 24:4,5 and James 4:10 highlight that their repentance must be accompanied with an attitude of humility in order to experience sustained spiritual growth.
5. The result of this spiritual growth will be a purity of heart that will be outwardly manifest in love, peace, grace, etc.
6. Believers who have clean hands, a pure heart, and are humble before God will be exalted by Him – at the proper time.