

A Good Conscience

- *But the end of the charge is love out of a pure heart and a good conscience and faith unfeigned: 1Tim 1:5*
- End(purpose) of the pure gospel being preached is four important possessions for each Christian. One of these is a good conscience. If I don't have a good conscience, I am not gaining the true purpose of the gospel.
- What is a Good Conscience?

A Good Conscience

- ▣ What do we have to feel in our heart to have a good conscience?
- ▣ If we feel guilt is that a “**bad**” conscience?
- ▣ If we know we still need to grow and become better is that a “**good**” conscience?
- ▣ If we have a broken and contrite spirit after we sin is that a “**good**” conscience
- ▣ These are important questions to consider

What is A Good Conscience?

- *Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, "Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day." Acts 23:1-2*

● Perfect Passage to
Answer the Question

Paul always had a Good Conscience

- *Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, "Men and brethren, I have lived **in all good conscience** before God until this day."*
Acts 23:1-2
- *This being so, I myself **always strive to have a conscience without offense** toward God and men. Acts 24:16*

Paul always had a Good Conscience

- *For our boasting is this: **the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you.** 2 Cor 1:12-13*
- *I thank God, **whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did,** 2 Tim 1:3*
- Paul had a “**good,**” “**without offense**” “**pure**” conscience.

Paul: Example of a Good Conscience

- *Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. Phil 3:17-18*
- *The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you. Phil 4:9*
- If the inspired Paul could tell us to follow his example, and he always had a good conscience, so can we.

As Timothy We too Carefully Follow

- *But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, 11 persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra — what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. 2 Tim 3:10-12*

Nothing to do with Guilt

- *Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9 And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Acts 9:8-9*
- *So the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. Acts 9:11-12*

How the Conscience Works

- The inner workings and purpose:
- *in that they show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness therewith, and their thoughts one with another accusing or else excusing (them) Rom 2:15*
- The conscience bears witness
- accusing or excusing
- It assesses our thoughts, actions and deeds.
- Accuses when we have done wrong
- Excuses when we have done right

Paul's Conscience Bore Witness

- *I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience bearing witness with me in the Holy Spirit, Rom 9:1*
- Paul says it with his mind.
- I am NOT lying.
- his conscience bears witness this is true.
- Thus there are two voices.
- The mind trying to justify, excuse, accuse
- The conscience bearing witness and even sometimes overruling our mind.

Paul knew he was Chief of Sinners

- *This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. 16 However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. 1 Tim 1:15-16*
- This knowledge did not remove his good, pure and without offense conscience.

Paul Knew He had Done Evil

- *And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, 13 although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. 1 Tim 1:12-14*
- He freely acknowledged his past with regret, remorse and godly sorrow, but though he could change it – Still had a good conscience

Paul had a broken & contrite spirit

- *To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, Eph 3:8*
- *For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 1 Cor 15:9*
- He never forgot what he had done.
- It molded, humbled and strengthened him.
- Still had a good conscience.

A Good Conscience Lives in Present

- Paul could not change his past.
- None of us can.
- There are things in our past that make us cringe, groan, moan and anguish over.
- But with baptism ... A good conscience.
- I can't change it, but God can.

A Good Conscience

- ▣ *There is also an antitype which now saves us — baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 1 Peter 3:21*
- ▣ *And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.' Acts 22:16*
- ▣ *Paul's faith in God's power to forgive gave him that good conscience.*

A Good Conscience

- *For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. 11 For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter. 2 Cor 7:10-12*
- Repentance and all its emotions –

A Good Conscience

- *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. 1 John 1:8-10*
- Our faith in God's faithfulness and Justice will cleanse our conscience and keep it good.

A Good Conscience

- A conscience lives in the present moment.
- It trusts God to cleanse and remove all that is in the past
- Although we feel remorse and contrition, we trust God removed it. Conscience is good.
- When we sin ... Conscience starts working... it is a good conscience. If we repent and do what we know is right it stays good. .. If we don't...

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, 1 Tim 4:1-3

To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled. 16 They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work. Titus 1:15-16