

CONSCIENCE

2Cor 4: 1-6

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Suppose you visit the doctor and after all sorts of tests he tells you your heart is not good, would that worry you?
- B. God gave us a conscience, (Vines) Literally a knowing with one's self, the witness borne to one's conduct by conscience, that faculty by which we apprehend the will of God, as that which is designed to govern our lives.
- C. We should be more concerned with whether our conscience is good or bad, with its health and soundness than about our heart or anything else regarding our body

DISCUSSION:

I. AN ILLUSTRATION OF CONSCIENCE

- A. Driving and approaching a railroad crossing with flashing lights, you press brake pedal, it goes to the floor and you hit the moving train. If you lived you would say: brakes bad and would not stop you.
- B. Your conscience is your moral brakes.
 - 1. If good, it will stop you when tempted to do wrong.
 - 2. If it is not good, you are headed for a wreck spiritually 1Jhn 3:20,21
 - 4. Paul said we must hold a good conscience 1Tim 1:19 see also Acts 23:1
- C. Your conscience works positively and negatively.
 - 1. Car without starter or without brakes is useless
 - 2. without conscience you would have no power to make you attend to obligations and duties
- D. Conscience: power to start and power to stop

II. YOUR CONSCIENCE IS GOD'S ONLY MEANS OF ACTIVATING YOU

- A. God could force you to stop or start. He could police the world with angels
- B. Good conscience prompts obedience when truth learned
 - 1. Command of baptism promptly obeyed Acts 22:16
 - 2. Perform all Christian duties such as: assembling, worship, giving, helping poor, studying, praying, teaching others etc. Matt.7:21
 - 3. Will avoid whatever learned to be against God's will such as: cursing, lying, cheating, fornication 1Thes 5:22
 - 4. A good conscience more effective in keeping from sin than a whole army, it can keep out evil thoughts
 - a. Boy's mother making him sit down, he replies "You can make me sit down, but I will still be standing up on the inside."

- b. When one keeps free from evil thoughts he will not engage in overt acts of sin

C. If you do not have a good conscience:

- 1. Preaching and reading the Bible will not help you.
- 2. Preaching does good only when conscience is tender.
- 3. Your father's and mother's appeals won't be heeded

III. WHAT DESTROYS STARTING AND STOPPING POWER OF CONSCIENCE?

A. Consider the Bible description of this condition

- 1. Conscience seared 1Tim 4:1-3
- 2. Hardness of heart Heb 3:7,8
- 3. Past feeling, doesn't care Eph 4:17-19
- 4. Could not blush Jer 8:12; Phil 3:18,19

B. This condition develops when we disregard conscience

- 1. Every time we yield to temptation over protest of conscience, the conscience is weakened, it will raise less objections next time
- 2. Every time we shirk our duties, it becomes easier next time, our conscience becomes weaker
- 3. We get to the point that sin does not seem bad

C. This state is produced by a failure to recognize the deceitfulness of sin Heb 3:13

- 1. Satan says you can enjoy sin till you are tired of it then it's. easy to repent and turn to Christ
- 2. Satan knows that as you get your fill of sin the conscience is being seared and hardened. bad habits are being formed, maybe even addictions

IV. FUNCTIONS OF CONSCIENCE ARE MISUNDERSTOOD

- A. It is not a guide to tell right from wrong it must be educated with God's word Psa 32:8; 2Tim 3:16,17
- B. It can lead us astray if it accepts a faulty standard
- C. Modernist try to remove all warnings and tell us there is no danger anywhere.
- D. A good watch, no matter how accurate, must be set by the right time, so must the conscience be properly educated with God's word

CONCLUSION:

- A. One must never turn a deaf ear to their conscience when it appeals to you to yield yourself to God's will
- B. Don't let anyone influence you to put off your duty as it becomes apparent to you from God's word
- C. You will never be a real man or woman, only a puppet, if you allow others to determine your manner of life,
- D. If you realize that you are accountable to God today, then obey him before your conscience becomes hard