

Who the son of
Man in Bath - "My Con - would not let me do that!" 11, Escent to X Aug 9, 87 P.M. WJ
Drove Park Mar 11, 90 P.M. WJ

1. Repeated →
critic & judge

CONSCIENCE

Acts 24:16

Felix Paul vs Paul, wise men begins with what they know, leads them
to some understanding of what they do not know. They are sunk
in corruption & sooner or later have heard the voice of conscience.
They will soon be void of conscience.

Can a person live without rules and without conscience? Suppose we abolish
the rules of the game of basketball. Do away with the boundary line as to whether
or not the ball was in play or not. Have no definition for size or height of the
basket. No definite number of players on either side. No fouls and no referees.
If you want to run with the ball, or trip another player, or tackle someone while
he is trying to shoot a basket. All of this would be permitted because there would
be no rules. Could such a game be played. It would be a wild riot.

Then I want to suggest to you today that if we abolish conscience and do away
with all of the signs and the guides that we have, we would certainly know that it
would not be beneficial for us very long. Even though we have become mature, some
people cannot police themselves without having to be policed by others.

We look to the New Testament in which the word conscience is found and will serve
for our theme about 32 times. Conscience is that which some men mock at. And saying,
if we could know the truth. There are men today who would rather disobey the dictates
of their conscience.

We find that such men as Rucretius said, though the dungeon, the scourge, the
executioner, the absent, the guilty-mind can apply the goad and scorch with blows.

Juvenal said, "the sight of a glittering sword hanging by a hair over the flushed neck of the youth is less terrible than the individual conscience of the guilty."

A clear conscience is a coat of mail.

A healthy conscience is like a wall of brass.

A quiet conscience sleeps in thunder.

Handwritten notes:
Came Boat
more surge & fire
Woman in Room for water
Not actual star! - Puffenbush
look at paper of the church

The power of conscience has been recognized by philosophers, poets, and all great leaders. Even Shakespeare had something to say about the dread of something after death. The undiscovered country, from whose bound no traveler would turn. Thus, he says, conscience makes cowards of us all.

A poet wrote - the struggles of conscience.

Oh conscience, conscience
Man's most faithful friend
How canst thou comfort
Ease, relieve, defend

Handwritten notes:
"I am lost, al and lost, dependent, worthless man
Lady Huntington heads said "Can't do nothing about it."
That statement - this came to save the lost
But until you admit your need - provide
Sal -

But if he will by friendly checks will go
Thou art oh, whoe for me
His deadliest foe.

Trust that man in nothing who has not a conscience in everything.

George Washington labored to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire called conscience.

Byron yet still there whispers the small voice within. Heard through gains, silence, and/or glories den. Whatever creed be taught or land be trod, man's conscience is the oracle of God.

I. CONSCIENCE - AN IMPORTANT POWER

At the outset of our message, we need to see that here is something that has such power and value in right conduct for the journey of life. We must remember that here is a judge. Nothing can be of greater help for the (true management) of the journey of life, than that we should early learn to follow Paul's example and exercise to keep a conscience void of offense toward God and toward man.

Certainly we need to remember this. We can have no better guide in this than Paul. He may have made great mistakes on many occasions, and been a part of great crimes. Whatever he did, whatever he said, no man can read his life and his words without feeling. That whether his conscience was uninstructed, whether it was distorted, at least Paul obeyed it.

Paul, in his early days, obeyed his conscience and he went wrong. In his latter

days he turned it over and let God instruct him and he stayed on a road that had value to it.

What then is conscience. What is the value. And what part does it play in life. How much heed ought we to pay to it. These are some questions that I hope we will not postpone for a more convenient season. For in the Bible we find that conscience brings inspiration in the New Testament - it bears witness. It gives testimony. It produces action for things done for conscience sake. In the New Testament, conscience is described as good. As void of offense. As pure as toward God. But conscience is also described in the New Testament, as seered or more literally branded with a hot iron. As defiled as evil, and finally, the New Testament declares that a persons conscience can be cleansed.

There is no clear definition of conscience as such in the Bible or in the Old Testament. But we do find that there is something in this word of conscience. That comes to us - even though it is not obeyed. In modern times, people try to do away with conscience. Even Christians in the church. Sometimes we say, we ought to let our motives, our impulses guide us. That conscience should not have a place.

Another side is, we forget about the consequences, that take place when conscience is disobeyed, and abused.

II. CERTAIN FACTS ABOUT CONSCIENCE

1- First, presence.

Man lit in head -
| that responsible for what I do -

I think no man can deny this. That conscience is that which gives a man a feeling and a sense of being in the presence of one who is higher than himself. Conscience is that which brings us into the presence of God. We are not being judged merely by ourselves - but we are being judged by another. We have a sense of duty. We know that we ought to follow this and avoid some other action. And here is a voice that comes to us whom we are indebted. Who has all authority. No wonder Paul said, my brothers, to keep a conscience void of offense toward God. He recognized that there is a voice of authority within. Which speaks to us. And this is the voice of God.

However, some people get this confused as the little girl who was asked what conscience was. And she bravely replied, it is something inside of me, that tells me when Johnny does wrong.

Now that is the kind of conscience that is common. . . very common and very useful in many lives today. There are many people however who base their moral standards on what they think is wrong-doing in somebody else. Did you ever notice how easy it is to sit around and pick apart somebody. Some individual,

Now Paul said, my brothers, keep your conscience void of offense, toward God. This is one of the certain facts that conscience has to do with a presence.

Our word "conscience" is almost a translation from a Latin word - conscientia -- which means simply knowledge with. Now that definition which is perfectly accurate and perfectly justified. The suggestion is knowledge (with whom) or (with what). That is the question that comes. So the person might say well, conscience is a knowledge

of social connotation. Which we share ideas as a community. Well, no, that is really not it. We do have a conscience that serves with our city, our community. But what the suggestion of the word is here -- that conscience is a presence. Paul said we are to keep that part void. In that sense, That (God is there within)

2- // Second, personal. // This is another fact and characteristic about conscience.

It is a personal possession. It concerns itself with the deepest things in our nature. It stands as a living witness to speak within us. Now, it may not always reprove us from mistakes or failures. That may be according to our taste or opinion. But it finds no fault with me if I do not achieve a stanza of poetry, or an expression in a musical phrase. Or get the exact color in a sunset that I am painting. But conscience is something that goes into my inner-most being. And it deals exclusively with what is right and what is wrong. In the inner-most sanctuary of my soul. Now this is a terrible and a real fact. Now men may have various theories on the existence of man, they may neglect and oppose it, they may try to hush it up. But they cannot get rid of conscience anymore than they can get rid of themselves. It is a personal fact. It witnesses to the character of conduct, in the inner life. Being personal then, in the inner recesses of my life, it is natural that conscience should deal with all the departments of my life. My spirit, everything that belongs to the material, as well as everything that belongs to the spiritual world. Not only by space and time, but my conscience concerns itself with things within time.

Sometimes conscience speaks in a low voice. Sometimes it speaks in a loud voice. Sometimes it brings a shock of fear. Sometimes it startles us for a moment as it goes beyond the veil. Right where we are living.

It will not be silent though it may have to speak, very quickly. And though we dismiss it, and the verdict of conscience with anger, and though we are in a noisy meeting, conscience will be swift and sure as a flash of lightning.

For you see, conscience is personal in that it takes a hold of the present. Perhaps, we were not conscious of anything on our own part. Nor does conscience neglect the past. On the contrary - it's most terrible and relentless force is felt there. It is constant effort in fallen human nature, to deceive us, ourselves - into imagining if an act or a motive is over and done with - and ended, especially we can dismiss it from our memory.

This is of course impossible. For although our lives are conditioned by time, we, ourselves, are creatures of eternity. And being such motives and actions which really are expressions, what I am insisting on is -- conscience is personal. It may not be possible for it at any moment to keep before us the exact value or seriousness of our actions or motives in the past.

But like a severe and watchful foe, it bides and bids its time at an unexpected moment it lights a light. It penetrates, it searches, it comes to that self-deceiving imagination, and we see real character of what has been.

This, my friend, makes conscience sometimes intolerable - does it not. But revealing revelations. Sooner or later there is within us the terrible power. The Proverbs say that conscience makes cowards of us all. It is an expression that is widely experienced by the human family.

And if conscience grapples with the past, present, and travels boldly into the future, like a full runner in the path of life's journey. It sends us reports to guide us in our conduct.

It warns, it speaks something like a guardian angel. It seems to imagine what our conduct may possible be. And what our motives may be in the field of the future. Whether we will or not.

There are two paths that we have constantly thrown open to us. Between which we are to choose.

First, do as we like.

We may do as we ought. Conscience teaches us very differently about this. Therefore, if conscience be personal, the knowledge we receive from the conscience. We recognize the good and the bad. The distinction between the right and the wrong. In a Biblical sense, so it is trustworthy and accurate that we need to be reminded that conscience is an activity of a human spirit, in the moral realm. And conscience that is within the soul of man that reveals goodness and Godliness, which reveals badness, as badness. And conscience calls things by their right names. Conscience will call a lie a lie. Conscience cannot prevent a man from saying the untrue thing. But it will trouble him. It cannot prevent him saying it - but it can prevent him thinking it. No liar escapes that voice. He can become so accustomed to it as to laugh at it. The terror of conscience which has to speak and to give heed to individuals.

3 - Third, precious fact. Now I have commented on the presence, and the personal aspect. Now let us come to something of the precious side, or the sunny side of this text. Now, I would not have you forget that there is a bright side to this. The Scripture knows this. And the Scripture reveals to us that it is a solid blessing to have a good conscience. John speaks, beloved, if your heart condemns us not, then have we confidence toward God. It is to that, our blessed Lord, said--whosoever cometh to me and hearth my sayings and doth them, I will show you to whom he is like. He is like unto a man who built a house and digged deep and layed the foundation on the rock. When the flood rose, the stream beat upon the house, and could not shake it for it was founded upon a rock.

*Woman's Husband died - Pastor, I have a good conscience -
"Nursed him your. Paralyzed"*

No wonder Paul feels so strongly to always have a conscience void of offense. And toward men.

So we have a teaching here, that the pangs of an evil conscience are terrible. And more terrible than acute bodily pain. So the comfort of a good conscience is a source of the purest and the most lasting joy.

It is not a matter of mere feeling. It is an up-right nature. It becomes stronger and increases with the years, in proportion to its sincerity and reality, and continuance to our obedience. It brings increasing strength and peace. It has been said and truly said, that there is no example that we know of in this matter more thoroughly than St. Paul himself.

And Paul said, I keep my body and bring it under subjection. Lest that any means when I have preached to others, I, myself, should be a cast a way.

Again, he says, I know nothing against myself. Yet, am I not hereby justified. And again, some years later, speaking to the Philippians, I follow after if that I may apprehend, which also I am apprehended, of Christ Jesus. I count not myself to have apprehended, but this one thing that I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth toward those things that are before. I press toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

And it is ever so in Paul's life as he wrote to Timothy. That he said, I am ready to be offered, the time of my departure is at hand, I have fought a good fight. And from his prison, he gave this glorious assurance. And think of the wonderful conviction when he said, keep the conscience void of offense. Be careful that it be not instructed.

Paul knew he could give us a testimony of a bad conscience, and he could give us a testimony of a good conscience. And I think Paul was saying, that for that precious fact, for the practical side of the future life, when the Great Judgement arrives, a man ought to be able to stand with a good conscience. And hear "well done, thy good and faithful servant". Enter into the joy of Thy Lord. And so by this fact, it is witnessed that conscience is going to have something to say when the soul first begins to sin. It is the severe judgement and it gives heavy penalty and sentence. And when the soul is being brought to trial, after sin becomes habitual, there will be a judgement.

Friends, conscience is unable to do everything that it ought to do, in the way of punishment if it stood alone. But brethren, conscience does not stand alone.

It's whole case points to the future. Wast that there be a future - there the law of righteousness shall be vindicated. We will find that conscience will have its day.

III. CARE OF CONSCIENCE

Now we have said, something about the importance of conscience. We have said something about certain facts that conscience had to do with the presence, the presence of God. Had to do with a personal aspect. And that it has to do with a precious fact that a good conscience will bless. Now let us come, to say just a few short things about the care of the conscience.

✓ / - First, instruction. // Heb. 9:14 - purge your conscience from dead work. Paul says the conscience should be and should receive something of instruction. It is important for this purpose, from the earliest days, to teach the young the meaning and the force of moral principles.

It is also important to teach the faith, the truth. Now this is not the easiest thing in the world. With a clear eye, and a ready mind, that we need to be instructed in conscience.

I think this is important, because we take a child, naturally. I mean any child. And that little child born in the slums and the filth, where the street is his only playground. He will go out with no offense at all - in that sort of environment.

But when we instruct the conscience - have you ever sat down in the presence of some temptation. Some opportunity, some duty, some responsibility - and just talked to yourself.

Oh no, I am not speaking now of that muttering word which is a sign of old age creeping on. I am thinking of something that is profound. You think all by yourself. Yes, that thing is wrong. And then you say, I do not really see that it is wrong. Then, still alone, you argue with yourself. That is conscience. It is you. As but the spirit of a man is the lamp of the Lord. And is also, God dealing with you.

I think that is one of the first activities that conscience needs to be instructed in. (Right and wrong.) And later on, when we have stayed the voice, there will come that conscience witnessing and emphasizing the condemnation of the wrong done.

Without a proper instructed conscience, when Jesus' fame spread about Galilee, there was a man on the throne who said. It is John, whom I beheaded. Risen from the dead. Now what was the matter with that ruler or that man. Why, that man did not believe in the resurrection. Did he not. Conscience let him escape from the wrong that he had done. It never allowed him to dodge the truth, that he and strong drink had pleased a lustful woman, who had violated conscience. And conscience though it had been battered, had been wronged, kept on. And he heard the (voice), and he said, it is John, whom I have beheaded - risen from the dead.

And had Herod repented, and been redeemed and ransomed - conscience is always calling men back.

Consequently the first human responsibility in this matter is obedience at all cost.

It is not enough that I shall obey my conscience, I must constantly seek to instruct by correction, by readjustment of my conscience. Conscience may be weakened, maybe seared, defiled, evil. As the Scriptures tell us, Who shall correct it. Not you, not I, no human being can do it. God alone is able to do it.

There is so many things that we could say about instructing a conscience. Now suppose a man comes in late to work, or a young person comes in late to school. And someone says to him, you are late. And you reply, you will excuse me. I'm not late, I'm just a minute to the hour. And the sharp reply comes back, your watch is wrong. You need to re-adjust your watch. What do you do that by - Big Ben. Or by the sun.

You see a person who habitually steals things, or takes things that do not belong to them, or takes other people for a ride so to speak as we find out in the business world day by day. Your conscience may get out of gear. It may be wrong. And every man ought to face in this particular hour - your conscience may be misleading you. It may need re-adjustment. It may need correction.

Prejudice must be denied. Pride must be impossible. Sincerity, all of this needs to be remitted to the Son of God. It is just as simple as Joshua decided whether he was going to obey God or whether he was going to listen to the crowd. So conscience needs instruction.

2- Second, appealed.

In Acts 23:1 - I have lived in all good conscience before you. Paul constantly appealed to his conscience in the training of the young today, we need the waking up of the conscience. The putting it on alert. The teaching it. The exercising it.

We need to appeal to it as a rightful power, as authority within.

In our text, Paul says, the greatest power in a man is conscience. And Paul said, to have a conscience void of offense toward God and man. If we understand that correctly, it is stumbling - not striking against stumbling stones. We are to walk free such impact. Free from collision. With stones or rocks, in the path.

Walk without

This is a figure that is most expressive. What Paul is really saying about conscience is, I have tired to walk, he says. And not be embarrassed by stumbling blocks of evil done, and good left undone.

I shall not trip here over a hasty or uncharitable word. And trip over there over a neglected duty.

Nor shall I stumble over an injured soul. Or a corrupt and polluted imagination.

Of course, Paul knew that all of this would be judged. And the conscience must be kept void of offense. I know nothing against myself he said.

3- Third, examine. The last thing, and the last duty - the examination of your conscience. The part that will be witnessed as well as judged, we need to exercise it, we need to listen to it, we need to be serious about it. Conscience will do little for us on this journey of life than terrify and condemn us. But conscience can be a school master and bring us to Christ. And therefore, we need to make a confession.

When we have an accusing conscience, we need to come and bring that burden of sin and lay it at the feet of Christ. Heb. 10:22. Let your hearts be sprinkled from an evil conscience.

If we examine it, we can have a pure conscience. I Tim. 3:9. Or a good conscience - I Peter 3:16. If you examine your conscience today there will be three voices. One will be warning you against evil. Rom. 2:15. One will be approving of well doing. 2 Cor. 1:12. One will be condemnation of wrong-doing. John 8:9. D. L. Moody was preaching in England and the story is a young New England man who had refused Christ and said, tomorrow night I will settle the issue. He walked out of the building - his heart was not satisfied. His conscience was troubling him. As he walked home in the bright moonlight, he gave serious consideration and thought to it and suddenly, he dropped down and drew a line on the street. He said, if I step over that line, it will mean that I will surrender my life to Jesus right now. With hardly a moment's hesitation - he stepped across the line. And that man became one of the leading ministers in New England. As you examine your conscience today, perhaps maybe there is some decision

that you need to make. He who cleanses human conscience, He who gave us the conscience which is good and pure, and needs to be void of offense. Will come and make all things right in your life if you will come and take your stand, and step over the line.

Man - Postman - Sun After Kosov - - over 75 years -
Had shot a man in France, 40 years ago, disgraced, national
in heart - that man, told me & loathed him day & night,
Want to reincarnate + be saved - I want him to forgive me &
Want people to state come ask for forgiveness = flowers, angel

Man - Painter talked person about one hundred - confused,
taking something as stealing young person - surely you say
after 75 yr 5 yr ago & over thing that up -
What is on your today - Now - that
needs purging, also is clean -
Adrian's C told him about sin & the fall but
C could not redeem! God made the covering of skin -
your C is tell you of some known sin -

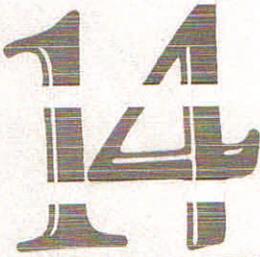
Only your confessing today will make it right -
Come now, come without delay, come fully!
What C says, respond, God will provide the
Cleansing - step over the line Now -

Peter hard and cross - Remembered

WEDNESDAY/ MARCH 1990

Today's
Verse

THE
BOOK



A man's conscience is the Lord's
searchlight exposing his hidden motives.

PROVERBS 20:27

Joseph (Gen. 50:20) "God turned into good what you
meant for evil"

Joseph (Gen. 50:20)