

Paul, looking intently at the Council, said, “Brethren, I have lived my life with a perfectly good conscience before God up to this day.”

Acts 23:1

Paul – Acts 23:1

Paul, looking intently at the Council, said, “Brethren, I have lived my life with a perfectly good conscience before God up to this day.”

→ Acts 14-16

14 But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets;
15 having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.

Acts 24:14-16

14 But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets;

15 having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.

→ vs. 16

In view of this, I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience *both before God and before men.* Acts 24:16

In view of this, I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience *both before God and before men.*
Acts 24:16

→ What IS the conscience – word study

Conscience

- **Greek – sun (with) + eidesis (to know)**
- **Latin - con (together) + scire (to know)**

**To live in accordance
with our knowledge of
right and wrong.**

Greek – sun (with) + eidesis (to know)

Latin - con (together) + scire (to know)

→ What it is NOT -

Conscience

- **Hebrew – usually associated with the idea of ‘the heart’ –**
 - **2 Chr. 34:27 – tender heart – sensitive conscience**
 - **Ps. 7:10 – upright in heart = a pure conscience**

Conscience NOT:

- *It is NOT infallible! -*

–‘did what was right in own eyes’ – but was horrible!
Judges 21:25

what we ‘know’ may be wrong!

‘did what was right in own eyes’ – but was horrible!
Judges 21:25

what we 'know' may be wrong!

→ NOT a SOURCE of revelation about right and wrong

Conscience NOT:

- **It is NOT a SOURCE of revelation about right and wrong**

It is NOT a SOURCE of revelation about right and wrong

→ **THUS** it does not **TEACH** morals and ethical ideals...

Conscience NOT:

- **THUS... It does NOT TEACH moral and ethical ideals...**

THUS... It does NOT TEACH moral and ethical ideals...

→ Conscience IS

Conscience IS

- It is a **REGISTER** to record what we have done Jer.17:1

Conscience IS –

It is a to record what we have done

→ Jer.17:1

The sin of Judah is written down with an iron stylus;

With a diamond point it is engraved upon the tablet of their heart

Conscience IS

- The sin of Judah is written down with an iron stylus; With a diamond point it is engraved upon the tablet of their heart Jer. 17:1

Conscience is a 'register' of what we have done...

Jer. 17:1

The sin of Judah is written down with an iron stylus;

With a diamond point it is engraved upon the tablet of their heart

Conscience IS

- It is the **ACCUSER** that lodges a complaint against us when we are guilty.

Romans 2:14-16

It is the _____ that lodges a complaint against us when we are guilty.

Romans 2:14-16

For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do ainstinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves,

15 in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them,

16 on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus. Rom. 2:14-16

→ It is also a DEFENDER

Conscience IS

- It is a **DEFENDER** to side with us when we are innocent

Rom 2:15

It is a _____ to side with us when we are innocent

For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do ainstinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves,
15 in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them,
16 on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus. Rom. 2:14-16

→ It is a WITNESS.... 2Cor. 1:12

Conscience IS

- It is a **WITNESS** giving testimony either for or against us for it **Knows** what we did

2 Cor 1:12

It is a giving testimony either for or against us for it Knows what we did

2 Cor 1:12

For our proud confidence is this: the testimony of our conscience, that in holiness and godly sincerity, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially toward you.

→ It thus is a 'JUDGE' - 1 John 3:19-21

Conscience IS

- It is a **JUDGE** - either
Condemning or
vindicating

I John 3:19-21

It is a - either Condemning or vindicating

I John 3:19-21

19 We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him
20 in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things.

21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;

It is an EXECUTIONER – 1 Sam. 24:5

Conscience IS

- It is an **EXECUTIONER** - smiting us with grief when our guilt is discovered.

1 Sam. 24:5

It is an _____ -smiting us with grief when our guilt is discovered.

1 Sam. 24:5 It came about afterward that David's conscience bothered him because he had cut off the edge of Saul's *robe*.

→ A Pure Conscience – what it takes..

A Pure Conscience

- It takes STRIVING after -
- Confess / Forsake known sins
- Ask forgiveness and be reconciled to all involved - Matt 5:23-24
- Make needed restitution - Num. 5: 6.7
- Educate your conscience

ACTIONS for a pure conscience:

It takes STRIVING after – if you think it is wrong, DON'T DO IT.

Confess / Forsake known sins...

Ask forgiveness and be reconciled to all involved - Matt 5:23-24

anything against your brother – go be reconciled...

Make needed restitution - Num. 5: 6.7

6 "Speak to the sons of Israel, 'When a man or woman commits any of the sins of mankind, acting unfaithfully against the Lord, and that person is guilty,

7 then he shall confess his sins which he has committed, and he shall make restitution in full for his wrong and add to it one-fifth of it, and give *it to him whom he has wronged*.

Educate your conscience

Forgiveness – the salve that heals the conscience – 1 Pet. 3:21

1Pet. 3:21

Corresponding to that, baptism
now saves you — not the removal
of dirt from the flesh, but an
*appeal to God for a good
conscience* — through the
resurrection of Jesus Christ,

1Pet. 3:21

Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you — not the removal of dirt from the flesh,
but an — through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,