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→ 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

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→ 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

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 \rightarrow 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)

ightarrow What it is NOT -



- 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



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

what we 'know' may be wrong!

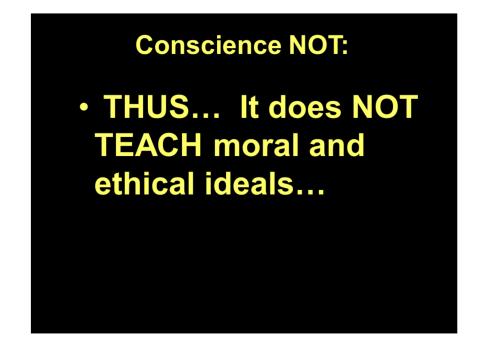
ightarrow NOT a SOURCE of revelation about right and wrong

Conscience NOT:

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ightarrow THUS it does not TEACH morals and ethical ideals...



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

 \rightarrow Conscience IS



Conscience IS – It is a to record what we have done

 \rightarrow 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;

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Conscience IS

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

Romans 2:14-16

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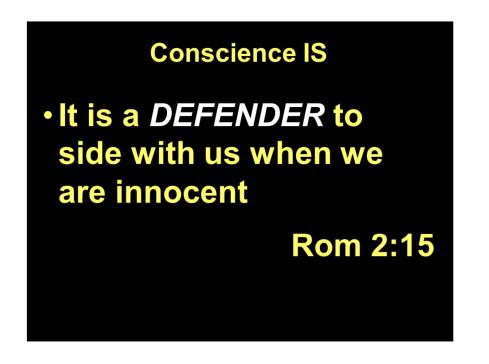
Romans 2:14-16

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

 \rightarrow It is also a DEFENDER



It is a to side with us when we are innocent

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→ 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

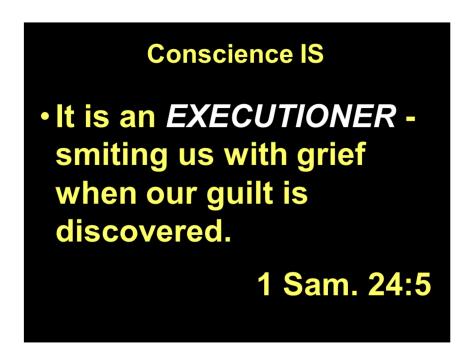
It is a - either Condemning or vindicating

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



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*.

 \rightarrow 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*.

<u>Educate your conscience</u> Forgiveness – the salve that heals the conscience – 1 Pet. 3:21

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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,

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