

# OUR CONSCIENCE

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## INTRODUCTION

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- A. TEXT: *"Brethren I have lived before God in all good conscience....v. 1.*
  - B. SETTING: Paul before the council, and high priest.
    - 1. Before he became a Christian.
      - a. Paul thought he was doing right in persecuting Christians.
      - b. \*the mere fact that a man is conscientious does not prove that he is right or innocent.
    - 2. After he became a Christian.
      - a. His actions have totally changed.
      - b. He is now doing the opposite of what he was doing.
      - c. Yet at both times he lived with a "good conscience".
    - 3. \*\*How could he have had a "good conscience" in both cases?
  - C. In studying the Conscience today we want to:
    - 1. Learn what it is
    - 2. What it does.
    - 3. How it affects our life.
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## WHAT IS THE CONSCIENCE

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- A. DEFINITION.
    - 1. "A sense of consciousness of the moral goodness or blame-worthiness of ones own conduct, intentions, or character, together with a feeling of obligation to do right or be good".
    - 2. "Hence, a faculty, power, or principle conceived to decide as to the moral quality of one's own thoughts or acts, enjoining what is good." (Webster).
  - B. Derived from Greek word rendered "consciousness" and in Heb. 10:2 the obvious meaning is the notion of awareness.
  - C. The realization of our obligation to avoid that which the judgment condemns, and to follow that which the judgment approves.
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## DOES AND DOES NOT

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- A. THINGS THE CONSCIENCE DOES.
  - 1. It convicts (John 8:9).
  - 2. Bears Witness (Rom. 2:15).
  - 3. Testifies (II Cor. 1:12).
  - 4. Endures grief (I Pet. 2:19).
- B. THINGS THE CONSCIENCE DOES NOT DO.
  - 1. It has nothing whatsoever to do with determining what is right and what is wrong...this is the faculty of judgment.

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2. It does not make a thing right by approval....Thinking that is right to steal doesn't make it right.
  - C. Basically, the Conscience monitors one's thoughts, motive, actions and manner of life.
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### EDUCATION OF JUDGMENT

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- A. JUDGMENT IS A CREATURE OF EDUCATION.
    1. I Tim. 2:15 "Study to show....
    2. Our judgment is determined by our knowledge.
    3. This underscores the absolute importance of knowing God's Word.!
  - B. THUS OUR ACTIONS IN LIFE ARE DETERMINED BY OUR KNOWLEDGE...WHICH DETERMINES OUR JUDGMENT.
  - C. The role of our Conscience is to approve or disapprove our actions in regard to our judgment.
    1. Our conscience approves when our actions is in harmony with our judgment.
    2. Our Conscience disapproves, condemns when our actions is in violation of our judgment.
  - D. REMEMBER OUR QUESTION ABOUT PAUL?
    1. Paul's actions was in harmony with his judgment...Even when judgment was wrong.
    2. As his **knowledge and judgment changed**, so did his actions and HIS CONSCIENCE APPROVED WHAT HE DID.
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### DIFFERENT STATES OF:

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- A. A righteous conscience.
  - B. A good conscience (I Tim. 1:1-5; 1:19; Heb. 13:18).
  - C. A pure conscience (I Tim. 3:9).
  - D. A weak Conscience (I Cor. 8:12)
  - E. A seared conscience d(I Tim. 4:2).
  - F. A defiled conscience (Titus 1:15).
  - G. An evil Conscience (Heb. 10:22).
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### EXAMPLE

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- A. "And Paul, looking steadfastly on the council, said, Brethren, I have lived before God in all good conscience until this day" (Acts 23:1).
  - B. *"I thank him that enabled me, even Christ Jesus our Lord, for that he counted me faithful, appointing me to his service; though I was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: howbeit I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief; (I Tim. 1:12ff).*
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### CONCLUSION

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A. WHAT WE THINK HOWEVER, DOES NOT DETERMINE WHAT IS RIGHT OR WRONG.

1. Many people think it is the sole criterion of conduct...
2. It is some times referred to as “the voice of God.”

B. This gross and hurtful error prompts multitudes of people today.....

1. To disregard the teachings of the scripture.
2. And to follow their “inner leading”.

C. RIGHT IS DETERMINED.....NOT BY WHAT WE BELIEVE...  
BUT BY WHAT THE BOOK TEACHES!!

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