



SERMON NOTE

Having an attitude that desires to always do what's right, is a very special and rare quality nowadays.

This attitude isn't just necessary for healthy relationships and societies, it is also a quality of character that is necessary for a healthy relationship with God (**Psa 24:3-5; 51:6**).

In his defense speech before the Roman governor, Felix, the apostle Paul elevated the significance of possessing such quality of character:

"...having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust. So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man." -**Acts 24:15-16**.

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THE TESTIMONY OF CONSCIENCE

(2 CORINTHIANS 1:12)

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I) Conscience Plays A Significant Role In How We Live Our Lives

A) Key Things To Know About Conscience

- 1) It's self-awareness, that judges whether or not an act one has carried out or plans to carry out is in harmony with one's moral standards. Scripture reveals conscience as having its origin in God Himself (**Pro 20:27**). Conscience, then, is a gift of God to provide light in matters of good and evil.
- 2) Is capable of producing guilt, or reassurance in the case of innocence (**Gen 3:8-10**).
- 3) It is possible for the conscience to become deadened through abuse and lack of use:
 - a) Some are made calloused through greediness of sensuality and impurity (**Eph 4:17-19**).
 - b) Some are seared because they've willfully embraced false doctrines. (**1 Tim 4:1-3**).
- 4) Conscience alone is not a wholly reliable guide for godly living and life in general.
- 5) God's final judgment will involve an evaluation of our deeds and the conscience (**Rom 1:11-12, 16**).

My Sermon Notes

II) The Testimony of Conscience (2 Cor 1:12).

A) What motivated Paul and Timothy to conduct (behave) themselves the way they did in life and towards their converts— was not based upon earthly wisdom.

1) The guiding influence of their character and ways was the grace and wisdom of God.

2) This was the foundation of their boast or “proud confidence.”

3) We must be careful not to have received God’s grace in vain. (1 Cor 15:10).

III) The Testimony of My Conscience (1 Tim 1)

A) Contrary to the motives of the Judaizing teachers, Paul said the aim of Gospel teaching and living is to produce love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith (1 Tim 1:3-5).

B) The motives of my lie must be regulated by these four principles of Godly wisdom.

1) My love for God, my family, my fellow Saints, and others must be genuine (Rom 12:9-10).

2) All my motives and ways are laid bare before God, therefore I will mindfully and purposefully conduct myself in ways that will honor God (2 Cor 4:2; Mat 5:8).

3) I deeply value and trust God’s wisdom and promises for my life, I will not violate my conscience nor encourage others to do so. (Jas 4:17; 1 Cor 10:23-33).

4) I will take responsible steps each week to ensure the continued sincerity of my faith. I will not fall out of favor with God. I will not become useless to the Lord. I will grow and mature . (2 Pet 3:18).