

Sermon Notes July 28, 2019

The Conscience of the Heart

(Seeking God With All Your Heart Series Part 2)

Introduction:

Last time we looked spiritual heart we looked at the intellect part of the heart.

- We learned that the spiritual person's mind is focused on the things of God, but the sinners mind is focused on self and pleasure.
- We also learned that the backslidden mind, quits trusting in God, and is unrepentant, and doesn't want to think about God.

This sermon, we are going to look at the conscience as it pertains to the disciple of Christ, the unregenerate sinner, and the backslider.

The conscience **prompts** you toward a decision, but does **not** entirely decide what is right and wrong.

- This is why it is unwise to entirely trust the conscience when it comes to making decisions.
- It is only acting on what it has been taught.

To have a properly **trained** conscience, it must be **taught** by the truth of God's word.

- The problem that most religious people face today is that they have had their conscience trained by more of **man's** teaching and what they feel is okay, rather than **God's word**.

I. How does the **disciple of Christ's** conscience affect him?

- 1) He **loves** the light. He is glad his conscience prompts him to **stay** from evil. John 3:19-21
- 2) It provides a **testimony** for your behavior. 2 Corinthians 1:12
- 3) The testimony of your conscience says to the follower of Christ, your doing the right thing.
- 4) He lives in accordance with what he **approves**. Romans 14:22-23
- 5) It provides **confidence** in our prayer life. 1 John 3:21-22

So the Christian is very grateful for his conscience and is living his life free of guilt.

II. How does the **unregenerate sinner's** conscience affect him?

- It depends on the state of his conscience.
 - a) The sensitive conscience **has** respect for God.
 - b) As a child develops, he begins to be aware of his surrounding and environment. He begins to understand what he sees and how it relates to himself and others.
 - c) As this develops, God is revealed. Romans 1:18-20
 - i) Verse 20 "**clearly seen, being perceived**". That word "being perceived" means understood.
 - ii) This word is passive in the Greek. This is something that happens not because he tries to understand, but because as he looks around he is caused to see God in the creation.
- 1) This knowledge of God provides a moral conscience. Romans 2:14-15
 - a) God has made this so powerful that the statement in vrs. 20 says, that people who reject God, are "without excuse".
 - 2) Because of this overwhelming manifestation that there is a God, mankind all over the world, has made idols that associate themselves with this God.

- a) Paul speaks of this in Acts 17:27-30
 - b) The times of ignorance about God were overlooked. But now, God has been revealed to all mankind through Jesus Christ, and there is no excuse for not knowing who God is.
- 3) But there is another unregenerate sinner who has rejected God.
 - a) The reprobate conscience **has no** respect for God.
 - 4) He started out with this God conscience, but refused retain it. Romans 1:21-28
 - a) There are those of the unregenerate state that have refused to have the awareness of God that they receive from what is around them.
 - b) Because of this refusal to acknowledge God and glorify him and be thankful to him, God gives them over to a reprobate mind. Titus 1:15-16
 - 5) The refusal to have God in your knowledge is a **choice**. Ephesians 4:17-19
 - a) When you refuse to have God in your knowledge you no longer feel shame for what you do against your God given conscience.
 - b) The result is that you live ungodly with a clear conscience.
 - c) See vrs. (19) who being past feeling gave themselves up to lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. Romans 1:28-31
 - i) Vrs. 29 states that those who refuse to retain God in their knowledge are filled with these things.
 - ii) The word filled is literally to cram full
 - iii) These people sin with no remorse.
 - iv) When you see in the world, kind people, honorable people, who are not Christians, it is because they have not rejected their God influence conscience and live according to what they believe to be right.
 - v) On the other hand when you see people living lives that are filled full with wickedness, it is because they have refused to let their God influence conscience be effective in helping them make right choices.
 - d) What God's word teaches, is that no matter what category they fit into, the only way for them to be saved is through the perfect Son of God, Jesus Christ.
 - 6) So how does an unregenerate sinner get back a good conscience?
 - a) This is done through faith in Jesus Christ when you **submit** to Him in **baptism**. 1 Peter 3:21
 - b) Every unregenerate sinner can come to Christ and leave the baptistry with a good conscience provided through Jesus Christ.

III. How is the **backslider's** conscience affected?

- 1) It makes him **uncomfortable** with the light. John 3:19-20
- 2) It is susceptible to becoming **insensitive**. 1 Timothy 4:1-2
- 3) It digresses to a point where it no longer prompts him to **repent** and do right. Hebrews 6:4-6
 - a) Remember repentance comes when your conscience prompts you to do what is right when you are guilty for doing what is wrong. 1 Timothy 1:19
- 4) If you are experiencing times in your life when you can live in sin and it does not affect you or your desire to repent of sin has become less, you may be living in a backslidden state.
 - a) Catch yourself before you get to the point that your conscience no longer is affective in moving you to do what is right.

Final thoughts on keeping your conscience sensitive:

Allow it to **work**.

When it prompts you respond. Don't ignore it.

Train it with God's word as to what is right and wrong.

Psalms 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, And light unto my path.