

Lecture No. 40

Dated: . **April 28, 2018** .

. **A Clean Conscience** .

No. 1.) Our last lecture examined what it is about us, that makes us, us. Something about the mind. Today we are going to look into the conscience of man.

No. 2.) Notice this verse: John 8:9 “And they which heard it, *being convicted by their own conscience*, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.” Now we have a correct understanding of what our conscience does, *it convicts us*. In this case it convicted of wrong, in other cases it convicts of right.

No. 3.) We are going to look at a few passages from the authentic Spirit of Prophecy, we look for a harmony with the Bible, and a more clear understanding of what God is saying.

No. 4.)
Exaggeration becomes habit. Blunt falsehoods are told *with but little conviction or reproof of conscience*. p. 71, Para. 2, [4OT].

Satan's power is constantly exercised to stupefy the sensibility of God's people, that their consciences may not be sensitive to wrong, and that the sign of distinction between them and the world may be destroyed. p. 65, Para. 3, [7OT].

God's people, taught by the inspiration of truth, and led by a good conscience to live by every word of God, will take his law, written in their hearts, as the only authority they can acknowledge or consent to obey. The wisdom and authority of the divine law are supreme. p. 6, Para. 2, [9OT].

This passage indicates that our conscience needs instruction, knowledge, or we end up without a good conscience.

To have our corrupt natures renovated by grace, our lustful appetites and animal propensities in subjection, and we standing forth with noble, moral independence, achieving victories every day, will give peace of conscience which can arise alone from right doing. p. 11, Para. 2, [12OT].

Dear brother, life or death is before you. Do you know why your steps have faltered? Why you did not persevere with courage and firmness? You have a violated conscience. Your business career has not been straightforward. You have something to do here. Your father did not regard these things in the correct light. You regard them as do worldlings in general, but not as God regards them. Thou shalt love thy

neighbor as thyself. Hast thou done this? Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. If this commandment is obeyed, it prepares the heart to obey the second, which is like unto it--love thy neighbor as thyself. All the ten commandments are embodied in these two specified. The first takes in the first four commandments, which show the duty of man to his Creator. The second takes in the last six, which show the duty of man to his fellow man. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. They are two great arms sustaining all ten of the commandments, the first four and the last six. These must be strictly obeyed. p. 32, Para. 2, [15OT].

[A conscience once violated is greatly weakened. It needs the strength of constant watchfulness and unceasing prayer.](#) You are standing in a slippery place. You need all the strength that the truth can give you to fortify you, and save you from making entire shipwreck. Life and death are before you; which will you choose? Had you seen the necessity of being firmly settled upon principle, not moving from impulse, and not being easily discouraged, but prepared to endure hardness, you would not have been overcome as you have. You have moved from impulse. You have not, like our faultless pattern, been willing to endure the contradiction of sinners against yourself. We are exhorted to remember Him who endured this, lest we become weary and faint in our minds. You have been weak as a child, having no power of endurance. You have not felt the necessity of being established, strengthened, settled,

grounded, and built up in the faith. p. 78, Para. 2, [15OT].

You cannot serve God and mammon. You are either wholly on the Lord's side, or on the side of the enemy. "He that is not with me is against me, and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad." Some persons make their religious life a failure because they never seem decided. They are always wavering, and do not have determination. They are frequently convicted, and come almost up to the point, and fall back again. **While in this state, the conscience is hardening, and becoming less and less susceptible of the impressions of the Spirit of God. The Spirit has warned, has convicted, and has been disregarded, until it is nearly grieved away.** God will not be trifled with. He shows duty clearly, and if there is a neglect to follow the light, it becomes darkness. p. 84, Para. 3, [17OT].

You have had many convictions and many pangs of conscience. You have had so many purposes, and made so many promises; and yet you linger, you will not come to Christ, that you may have life. p. 124, Para. 1, [17OT].

It is neither wealth, nor intellect, that gives happiness. It is moral worth. p. 135, Para. 4, [17OT].

True goodness is accounted of Heaven as true greatness. The condition of the moral affections determine the worth of the man. A man may have

property and intellect, and yet be valueless, **because** the glowing fire of goodness has never burned upon the altar of his heart, because his conscience has been seared, blackened and crisped with selfishness and sin. p. 135, Para. 5, [17OT].

A faithful accomplishment of home duties, filling the position you can occupy to the best advantage, be it ever so simple and humble, is truly elevating. The divine influence is needed. In this, there is peace and sacred joy. It possesses healing power. It will secretly and insensibly soothe the wounds of the soul and even the sufferings of the body. **Peace of mind, which comes from pure and holy motives and actions, will give free and vigorous spring to all the organs of the body. Inward peace and a conscience void of offense toward God will invigorate, like dew distilling upon the tender plants.** The intellect is strengthened and quickened. p. 161, Para. 1, [17OT].

And now I would say to my brethren and sisters, I would have that moral courage to take my position, and see that I had moral courage to govern myself. I should not want to put that on somebody else. You sit down and eat too much, and then you are sorry. You have eaten too much, and so you keep thinking upon what you eat and drink. **Just eat that which is for the best, and go right away, and feel clear in the sight of Heaven, and not have remorse of conscience.** We do not believe in removing temptations entirely away from children, or any human beings. We all have a warfare before us, and must stand in a position to resist the

temptations of Satan. p. 31, Para. 1, [18OT].

The conscience illuminated with divine grace, would be quick and pure, controlling the will and desires, leading to frankness and uprightness in every act of life. p. 80, Para. 1, [18OT].

No. 5.) We have here a sampling of the nearly two hundred focus points on our consciences; and this, just in the Testimonies. Our conscience is obviously very important to God, or he would not be talking about it so much. For now, we have some good background about the conscience, something to base some comments on.

No. 6.) Our purpose is to understand the importance, position, and handling, of our conscience, in our every day living, within a framework of our salvation. Personally, I am fascinated about this great mind that God has given to each one of us. Not our brain, but our mind, our ability to think; because thought is the parent of act, and by our acts we will be judged. For what you think, you are. Why? Because you will act out all you think.

No. 7.) When you become a Christian, you surrender yourself to God, and he has some good news for you. Ephesians 4:23-24 “**And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;** (24) **And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”**

Every one of us is in a terrible fix. But, God so loved us that he gave his

only Son, Jesus, to save us. Think back upon some of those passages in the Testimonies, understand that our consciences must be renewed. And God has made provision for this. Titus 3:4-5 “But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, (5) Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, **by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;**”

No. 8.) Paul speaks more about this. 1 Timothy 4:1-2 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; (2) Speaking lies in hypocrisy; **having their conscience seared with a hot iron;** Titus 1:15-16 **Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.** (16) They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.” **Here is where we were before being converted, after conversion, God still gives us instruction.** Hebrews 10:22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, **having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience,** and our bodies washed with pure water. *Here is the promise of faith.*

No. 9.) These things mean that every day, you and I must be listening to our conscience, it being a tool in the hand of God to help guide us in the path of life; but this will not work if we are daily keeping our mind staid on the world, instead of staid on him, daily eating at his clean table,

absorbing new thoughts about each of our circumstances. Your consciousness about your thoughts, interaction with others, experience with trials, all of life, will prompt you to protect your conscience; be prompt to act upon it's reproofs, keep it tender, listen to it, keep it clean. Doing these things, you are preparing for the grave, or, translation; which must all be done, here, in this life, under this probation. Heaven calls. The promise is real. Be the man or woman God wants you to be.

And that is...

~ **The End** ~

of our Presentation for Today,

God Bless your Study

