The conscience and conviction

In this Newsletter, I want to deal with the “Conscience and Conviction”! Surely the saved and the unsaved alike do not realize the seriousness and gravity of God’s Convicting power!! None of us can ever come to God and be Saved without Conviction of the Holy Ghost to convict us of our sins and draw us to Christ. Once we are Saved and Converted, it will take daily the Spirit’s maintenance of Conviction to KEEP us Sanctified and in God’s Will and Favor. It makes you wonder as you look around now days at the world in which we live and even the so called Church of professing Christians - how they are living, what they are doing and allowing – where did old time Holy Ghost Conviction go? Where is the Conscience toward God and His Holiness? Where did the morals of righteousness go? Oh God have mercy upon this Satan deceived, flesh driven and sin polluted World, for it has no more Conscience!

WHAT IS THE CONSCIENCE?

 I asked the Lord to explain it so we can understand: Your **Conscience** is the part of you way down deep in the inner core of your heart that is aware of God your Creator. It tells you what is right and what is wrong. Deep inside your spirit man of your heart is where God put the Conscience to guide you through life, to help you make the right choices, to keep you from doing or going wrong! Your Conscience inside is God’s Voice – it is where He speaks to you, where He guides and corrects you! The only way He can do this is by His Holy Spirit through God’s Holy Word!

The Spirit of the Lord cannot direct you without the Word, which is your Bible – it is the Word of Truth, the Living Word, inspired and breathed by the Holy Ghost. It will keep you from error. It will show you God’s divine will for your life and keep you from missing it! God sends His Word to you by the preacher and teacher that will deal with your Heart and speak to your Conscience and the anointing of the Holy Ghost will Convict you – correct you – teach you right from wrong. He will Sanctify you and clean you up from this world and carnal living. If you will listen to the Lord’s voice in your Conscience, it will teach you what is good and acceptable – what is bad and what to shun. It will teach you how to please the Lord and stay in His divine favor! You must have and keep a good, honest tender Conscience. Take heed and listen to the Spirit when He speaks, for He is your safe guide. Yield to Him when He deals and draws – for it is in your Heart where He (the Holy Ghost) comes to dwell and live when you are converted and born-again. Pay attention when He nudges you, when He makes you feel bad and uneasy about something or over something you are doing or about to do! I call them inward “Red Flags” that God waves to get your attention. I have had the Lord to prick me in my Heart’s Conscience many times in my 48 plus years of serving Him. God looks and sees much farther ahead than we do. He sees where things are headed and where they lead to. He always sees the end result when we don’t. Our God knows every danger. Like the old saying – “There are a hundred different ways that you can go and do wrong when you follow the voice of the carnal flesh!” But there’s only one TRIED AND TRUE, Safe and sure Way to be Saved, Blessed and kept, and that is God’s divine appointed Holy Way!!

If you will sincerely and earnestly Pray and listen to the Lord’s voice in your inward Conscience, it will save you from much trouble, heartache and pain on down the road! For the seeds you sow today – good or bad, you will reap them later on. The deeds you do today, you will face and reap them in time. I’ve seen many precious souls who missed it – they listened to the wrong voice and now their reaping years are grievous and full of sorrows, scars and regrets. These poor souls not only messed up and wrecked their lives, but others’ around them also! “Please listen to the Lord and obey Him in all things that it may go well with you, that you and your home, marriage and family may have a blessed afterward!” **1Tim. 1:19** - Holding faith, and a Good Conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:

THE MAN WHO KEPT A GOOD CONSCIENCE

 We read in our Bible of the great preacher Apostle Paul who wrote 13 books of our New Testament. This blessed man traveled over 10,000 miles on 3 different missionary journeys preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ and giving the testimony of his conversion everywhere he went. He ministered for almost 30 years. But O what a sold out heart he had for God! This man kept a Good Conscience till the very end. His salvation and ministry costed him self-denial and suffering, but he maintained his integrity in the eyes of God and man in order to win souls to Christ. We’ll never know the pain of the persecutions he endured. He was whipped and flogged, beaten with rods and ridiculed, scoffed and stoned, was in 3 different ship wrecks, he fasted and prayed, was exposed to the elements and was weary. In one occasion, the unbelieving Jews in Jerusalem beat him and run him out of the synagogue, but he still gave them his testimony of how Jesus saved him and how Christ died to save them also. It got so bad as they were beating Paul that soldiers ran down to break up the fight and bound him with 2 chains to be brought into the castle. As they were leading him up the stairs, Paul turned around and preached and gave his testimony. When Paul opened his mouth, he declared unto them all:

**Acts 23:1** – Men and brethren, I have lived in all Good Conscience before God until this day.

**Acts 24:16** – And herein do I Exercise myself, to have always a Conscience void of offence toward God and men.

 To live for God and live true will cost you! Can we say like Paul – “I have lived in all Good Conscience before God until this day?” Look at the word Paul used – **Exercise**, I Exercise myself. What this Godly praying man was saying – “I have to work on this, I safeguard my heart! I’m not only God’s voice to others, but I am a light and I must be careful in my actions, words and deeds not to do anything to offend my Lord and hurt or hinder others that would keep them from coming to Christ to be saved. My life and my witness must be genuine, honest and sincere! If I do or say anything that would shine a bad light, it might keep souls out of the kingdom!”

 I studied and found in the Bible eight (8) different types of Conscience! There is a Good Conscience and there is an Evil Conscience; a Weak Conscience; a Wounded Conscience; a Defiled Conscience; a Seared Conscience; a Purged Conscience, and there is a Pure Conscience! Only two out of the eight are good and ready for Heaven. Which one do you have? Where do you stand in the eyes of the Lord who searches the Heart? Paul writes a letter to the saints in the Church at Rome:

 **Rom. 9:1** – I say the Truth in Christ, I lie not, my Conscience also bearing witness in the Holy Ghost.

What are you telling us Apostle Paul? “Since the day Jesus saved me, it’s my whole desire to love and serve Him and win the lost to Christ. It’s all about precious souls and getting them saved to keep them out of Hell! God knows I tell you the truth and the sweet Holy Ghost inside me bears witness that God is pleased. My Conscience lets me know that I am on the right track and I’m doing His Will!”

 I tell you in this Newsletter – When you’re in the Will of God and pleasing Him who saved and called you, you will know it! The Spirit of God will bear witness in your Heart and Conscience. There will be no condemnation. There’s no better sweeter feeling inside than knowing that you have God’s favor in your obedience and service to Him! There will be a peace and deep contentment in the soul!

AN OLD INDIAN PROVERB

 An old Indian proverb goes like this: The Conscience of man is a “Square Wheel” with 4 sharp corners that God put in the soul of every one of us. When you do wrong or start to do wrong or head in the wrong direction, that wheel begins to turn inside and you feel the sharp corners jab you. It pricks the heart to make you feel uncomfortable. When that wheel turns, it brings an inward pain in your spiritual heart. It is God’s voice, His way of getting your attention. O sinner and backslider whom God is dealing with, O professing Christian - that Square Wheel will stay sharp on the corners when you take heed and listen to God’s voice and obey! But when you keep ignoring and doing wrong, the sharp corners begin to wear down. It might take days, weeks, months or years of turning away God’s voice, but the square wheel will wear down, the sharp corners lose their sharpness and become dull and smooth until there’s no more a sharp prick and pain in your soul like there use to be! O pity the soul that can no longer feel the prick of God’s sharp Wheel of Conscience! God tried to get their attention but they would not listen and now they go on their own way in their sins and self-will and it does not bother them. **Please** do not ignore God’s voice! Don’t ever turn away Conviction when the Spirit of the Lord deals to warn, correct and guide you, even in the little things; for one day when life here is over, you will stand before God at the great Tribunal to be judged. Millions of souls will stand before Him with their Wheels worn smooth, but the Lord will re-awaken your Conscience, He will roll back the years of your life to the time when you were sensitive and heard God’s voice and felt His Spirit Convicting, drawing and dealing with you. He will remind you – “I tried to get your attention on things in your life! I had a purpose and plan for you. I dealt with your sins and tried to turn you. I told you the things to lay aside, to get rid of and quit doing. You would not listen, repent and turn that you might be Saved! You would not give me your whole heart but went your own way to do your own things!” O how fearful that day will be.

 O God have mercy!! **Heb 3:15** - While it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts! The dearest thing you have & possess is your soul and your Conscience – KEEP IT, cherish it. Don’t ever do anything to injure, harden or wound it. Be careful how you treat it, for you will carry it into eternity with you, it will be with you forever and never depart. Make it GOOD and PURE! O to know and have deep inside you the peace of God and have His favor, means more that anything in this whole wide world! There will be a contentment in your soul when you know you are in His Will.

SERVE GOD IN YOUR YOUTH

**Ecc. 12:1** ¶ Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them. **13** - Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. **14** For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

A recent poll and survey were taken on the age that people came to Christ, of how old they were when they gave their heart to Jesus and were saved. They found that 85% of the people who serve God, gave their hearts to Him and were converted between the age of 4 and 14. This was when their hearts were tender and easy to deal with. They recorded in their study that once you pass the age of 30, only 15% will pray and become Christians. Do you know why? Because as you get older your spiritual heart inside gets harder. As you grow older you become occupied with working and building a life in this world and making a living. Your mind is filled with obligations to family and friends. Then you spend what spare time you have left seeking entertainment and find you have no time left for God. The tender voice of God from yesteryear calling you in your youth has faded away! O God how sad and scary! Jesus said – what would it profit a man if he should gain the whole world and lose his own soul; or what would he give in exchange to get his soul back?

DON’T OVERRIDE YOUR CONSCIENCE

AND GO TOO FAR

Remember **Demas**, the man who worked along side Paul in the ministry for souls? How he left Paul, having loved this present world? Did he ever renew his heart and return to the Lord and the ministry? He’s in eternity somewhere now living with his Conscience! What about **King Agrippa**? Paul stood before him and preached Christ, the mercy and love of God and His Salvation. He said to Agrippa – “I know you believe the prophets!” Agrippa answered Paul – “Almost Paul, Almost thou persuades me to be a Christian!!” It’s been over 2,000 years now and he's living with the word “Almost” running over and over in his mind forever! His Conscience has been reawakened but it’s too late. Conviction stops at the gates of Hell! There’s no gospel there and no invitation in that awful place! What about **Pilate** the Roman governor who had the power to release Jesus and set Him free when He was on trial? The angry mob of unbelieving Jews cried out – give us Barabbas who is a thief and murderer and crucify Jesus! Pilate answered Why? What evil hath he done? Pilate’s wife sends an urgent message to her husband – have thou nothing to do with that Just man for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of Him! You better stop and listen to your Conscience Pilate, God is warning you! Be careful how you treat the Lord. Your only chance is standing before you right now! Pilate answered the people 3 different times “I find no fault in Him at all” That’s your Conscience speaking Pilate, you better take heed. The Truth is standing before you, it’s now or it’s never! Pilate takes a pan of water and washed his hands and said – “I am innocent of the Blood of this Just person!” And to please the crowd, he said – “take Him away and crucify Him”! O dear God Pilate, do you realize what you just did to please others and keep your position? History records that Pilate lost his mind and went insane. People would see him constantly going through the motions of washing his hands trying to get the innocent Blood of God’s Son off. It got so bad that he later took his life!! Two thousand years have now passed and somewhere in Hell’s eternal flame, there’s a man tormented in his Conscience and soul, wishing he could recall his life back and make the right choices and serve God, but now it’s too late!

 It is believed by some that **Pilate’s wife** was touched by Jesus, believed on Him and accepted Him to be her Saviour and was saved! Hell is filled with regrets. There’s no coming back, no second chance to answer the Spirits Call and ever again hear God’s gentle voice pleading – “Come to me! Give me your whole heart and serve me and Heaven shall be your eternal Home!” Now is the accepted time – Today is the Day of Salvation – Harden not your Heart! May God bless all my readers!!