

PURSuing PEACE IN TURBULENT TIMES

PART 10 THE NEGLECTED GIFT

Pastor Stephen Chitty

November 15, 2009 9 & 11am

Acts 24:16 NIV

“So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.” – Paul

1 Timothy 1:18-20

“Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight, holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith. Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.” – Paul

1. Conscience is one of God’s special gifts with which He speaks to us.

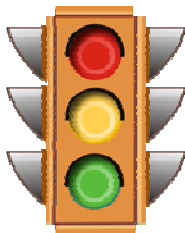
- Creation
- Conscience
- Scripture

(God also speaks through dreams, vision, intuition, Godly counsel, preaching, prophetic words, etc.)

2. Conscience is the created inner voice that either accuses or excuses our words, thoughts and deeds.

- **Genesis 20:5 NIV**
“Did he not say to me, ‘She is my sister,’ and didn’t she also say, ‘he is my brother’? I have done this with a clear conscience and clean hands.”
- **Romans 13:5 NIV**
“Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience.”
- **1 Samuel 24:6 NIV**
“Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his (Saul’s) robe.”
- **1 Samuel 24:10 NIV**
“David was conscience-stricken after he had counted the fighting men, and he said to the LORD, ‘I have sinned greatly in what I have done. Now, O LORD, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing.’”

Like a traffic light



Red

Yellow

Green

3. Conscience functions well or poorly depending on how we treat it.

- **1 Timothy 3:9** – A Good (pure/clear) Conscience:
“They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience.”
- **Titus 1:15 NIV** – A Corrupted Conscience
“To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted.”
- **Hebrews 10:22** – An Evil Conscience
“Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.”
- **1 Timothy 4:2** – A Seared (Dead) Conscience
“Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.”

Steps to maintaining a clear conscience...

1. Take care of it.

- Don't overrule it like David did when he counted Israel's army.
- Like a fine watch

2. Listen to it.

- Be quick to repent, like David did when he cut the edge off Saul's robe.
- Don't let the sun go down on your wrath.

3. Protect it.

- Listen to Godly counsel, like David did when Abigail reasoned with him.
- **1 Samuel 25:30-32 NIV**
“When the LORD has done for my master every good thing he promised concerning him and has appointed him leader over Israel, my master will not have on his conscience the staggering burden of needless bloodshed or of having avenged himself. And when the LORD has brought my master success, remember your servant.” David said to Abigail, “Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me.”