

May 23, 2021

Conscience

by Ken Weliever

It all began in 1811, during the Administration of James Madison when an anonymous donor who said he had defrauded the government and sent the Treasury Department \$5.00.

Today, it's known as Conscience Fund, a place where people with gnawing guilt can make restitution to the United States government for their sins.

In the past 210 years, the Treasury Department has received almost \$7 million. Some send letters of explanation. Others don't.

"Please accept this money for two postal stamps I re-used," wrote one person.

Another individual confessed, "About eight years ago I took from a railroad station an item worth about \$25 and this has been on my conscience since, so I'm enclosing \$50 to clear my conscience."

"I am sending \$10 for the blankets I stole while in World War II. My mind could not rest. I want to be ready to meet God." It was signed, "an ex-G.I."

Then one donor whose motives were suspect wrote, "Dear Internal Revenue Service, I have not been able to sleep at night because I cheated on last year's income tax. Enclosed find a cashier's check for \$1,000. If I still can't sleep, I'll send you the balance."

Our conscience can convict us of

wrongdoing and leave us with feelings of guilt, remorse, and shame. Many people follow the theology expressed from this famous exchange in Pinocchio, where Jiminy Cricket sang, "...Always let your conscience be your guide."

The one flaw in such reasoning, is that the conscience can only direct us properly to the extent it has been taught, trained, and shaped. Like a GPS, the conscience can only guide based on the information that it's fed.

You do know that a GPS can give you the wrong information, don't you?

A few years ago, a 67-year old Belgian woman, followed her GPS directions and ended up going 900 miles in the wrong direction! Stories like this abound.

"Conscience" is a Bible word, defined by W. E. Vine, as "a knowing with" or "a co-knowledge with oneself." Furthermore, he writes, that the conscience bears witness to one's conduct as we understand God's will and "is designed to govern our lives"

Used 30 times in the New Testament, Conscience is described in various ways.

A "good conscience" 1 Pet. 3:21

An "evil conscience" Heb. 10:22

A "weak conscience" 1 Cor 8:12

A "clear conscience" I Tim. 3:9

A "seared conscience" I Tim. 4:2

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Upcoming Ladies' Bible Classes - Next class May 25.

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

A “defiled conscience” Titus 1:15

The condition of our conscience depends on the extent to which it's influenced by the Word of God. By a clear understanding and a proper interpretation of the Bible. The more we saturate our minds and hearts with Scriptural principles and precepts, the more accurate guide the conscience will be.

However, if we allow false information to infiltrate our minds, and subjective emotional feelings to fill our hearts, we will be less likely to be correctly guided by our conscience.

A good and pure conscience is felt when we obey Christ's commands, live faithfully to His Word, and conduct our lives in accordance with moral, ethical and spiritual direction it provides.

However, when we knowingly violate God's will, refuse to heed His counsel, and defiantly travel our own path, then we defile our conscience and soon will sear it to the point that sin doesn't bother us anymore.

Of course, those who've never been taught right from wrong, or who've long ago rejected God and His moral absolutes, are not surprisingly guided by an evil conscience where they've become a law unto themselves.

By keeping our hearts tender, our purpose divinely directed and our minds filled with a knowledge of His Word, the conscience, as C. S. Lewis expressed it, can be the “voice of God within our souls; the bridge that links the creature to the creator.”

{used with permission from thepreachersword.com}

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson continues to struggle with debilitating back pain and may be having surgery soon.

Doug Adair is struggling with back pain and is undergoing tests to find a course of treatment.

Jerry Richardson is still undergoing cancer treatments.

Nancy Richardson is doing better but still dealing with breathing problems.

Ron Stanberry has been diagnosed with lung cancer, causing great pain. Please pray for him and Sue both.

Karen Hallmark has improved but is still struggling with her health and her eyes.

Morgan O'Hair has an appointment June 2 to see what can be done for the lesion they have found.

Dinah Williams continues to be homebound due to mobility issues.

Bobbie Gibbons continues to be limited by balance and breathing issues. She could use encouragement.

Tyler Hairston is investigating options to treat his cancer.

Don and Alene Simmons are both suffering from pain and mobility limitations.

Dorothy Steadman is continuing to recover from her recent stroke. She is staying with Pam.

Faye Estes has been diagnosed with colon cancer.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

**“praying at all times in the Spirit,
with all prayer and supplication.
To that end, keep alert with all
perseverance, making supplication for
all the saints,”**

(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

Evangelist

Darrell Trammel
512-756-4493 Office
Darrell@
oakswestchurchofChrist.com

Elders

George Gresham
Jim Johnson
Darrell Trammel

Contact Us

Address:
P.O. Box 675
Burnet, TX 78611

Call:
(512) 756-4493

E-Mail:
oakswestchurch@gmail.com

Website:
oakswestchurchofchrist.com