

IS CONSCIENCE A SAFE _____?

Introduction: "And Paul, looking intently at the council, said, 'Brethren, I have lived before God in all good conscience up to this day" (Acts 23:1). "So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward God and toward men" (Acts 24:16). Men say, "Let conscience be your guide." Let's consider a few questions about conscience.

I. What is conscience?

- A. "That celestial spark in your breast," according to an old "copy book."
- B. "That great beacon light God sets in us all" according to Robert Browning.
- C. "The voice of God in the soul."
- D. That faculty within us that commands us:
 - 1. _____ says to a man, "Eat!" But it does not tell what to eat.
 - 2. _____ says, "Do right!" But it does not tell what is right.

II. Is conscience a safe guide?

- A. Conscience must be _____ what is right by the Holy Spirit. John 16:7-14
- B. Before his _____ to Christ, Paul followed his conscience in persecuting the church. Gal 1:13-14
- C. Peter and John had Christ-instructed consciences. They said, "We must obey God." Acts 4:1-24
- D. Every man must obey his conscience. But he must make sure it is _____ instructed.

III. How shall conscience be enlightened as to what is right?

- A. By _____ God's Word. 2 Tim 3:16-17
- B. By doing right when the right is _____. The "right" will always be in agreement with what the Bible teaches. Philippians 4:4-9
- C. By _____ to God. -----\
>>>Ephesians 6:10-18
- D. By _____ to the Holy Spirit. -----/

Conclusion: Saturate your mind, soul, and spirit with God's Word. Read it faithfully and practice what it teaches. Don't rely on your conscience unless you can find its leading you in the clear path taught by Scripture.