

Sermon Outline
The Rev. Dr. S. Edd Cathey
Having a Good Conscience
August 23, 2015

Sermon Text: 1 Peter 3:8-17

NOW, generally: Peter commends good conduct flowing from their Union with Christ v. 8 - 12
Specifically in v. 16 [16] having a good conscience,

Greek - con / science = together with / to know

1. Conscience acts as a judge, either before a deed or afterward

Conscience is an endowment common to all: examples
(Romans 2:14-15) (John 8:3-9)

2. Conscience does not always work as it should.

examples

3. Every Christian is expected to have a good conscience toward humans and the institutions of human life.

[13] Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?

Acts 23 before the Sanhedrin

But even if not....

[14] But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,

No fear in the ultimate sense! If you know what is right and do it you will be okay ... even if you die for it.

4. Every Christian is expected to have a good conscience toward God.

(Acts 23:1) And looking intently at the council, Paul said, "Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day."

- First, CLEANSED by union with Christ, Not guilty, not dulled by rationalizing but well-trained, informed by truth.

- Regularly CLEANSED

Sensitive to sin—going to the fountain that was opened!

Zechariah 13:1 “On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness.

5. You need a good conscience!

6. Do you have a good conscience?

Galatians 6:7-9

Proverbs 28:1 The wicked flee when no one pursues,
but the righteous are bold as a lion.

(Psalm 4:8) In peace I will both lie down and sleep;
for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

Where does this teaching fit in the teaching of Peter?

1. A good Conscience is vital for gospel witness

[15] but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

2. A good Conscience is vital for shaming those who accuse

[16] having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

3. A good Conscience is vital for suffering in peace

[17] For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

You need a clear Conscience!

God has provided for you to have a good Conscience...What did it cost????!

(Hebrews 9 & 10)

That blood is still available for cleansing!