

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

5.21.2023

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

Convicted by Our Conscience

John 8: 3 – 11,....

God has given unto mankind a conscience, to guide our behaviors, concerning matters in our life. Our conscience can only be a reliable guide if it is good, and it can only be good if it is controlled through our obedience to the word of God. Our conscience gives unto us the ability to evaluate our thoughts and our desires, and to discern between right and wrong. Choosing wisely means that we are on the right pathway, therefore, having a good conscience, and being at peace in our life.

Colossians 3: 15,....and let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body, and be ye thankful....

A problem that we have in our conscience is that it has been distorted by sin. This means that when we act upon sinful desires, it brings about a change in our lives, that will lead us to approve things in our lives that is against the will of God.

A good conscience is led by the Holy Spirit. Through faith believing in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit indwells within us, and awakens us unto reality. This reality brings us to a place in our Christian life, where we can see our self-righteousness. Therefore, we do not know what righteousness is until we come to know Christ.

John 16: 7 – 14,....it is expedient for you that I go away, for if I go not away, the comforter will not come....but if I depart, I will send him unto you....and when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteous, and of judgement....he will guide you into all truth....he will show you things to come....he shall glorify me....he shall receive of mine, and....shew it unto you....

As Christians, our conscience was once corrupted, but now is made good, because a good conscience is the one that is cleansed by the blood of Christ, powered by the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, and set permanently within us by the word of God.

If you will turn with me to the book of John chapter 8, we are going to see what the word of God has to say about being convicted by our conscience.

John 8: 3 – 11,....brought unto him a woman taken in adultery....the law commanded....that such should be stoned....this they said tempting him....when they continued....he said unto them, he that is without sin among you let him first cast a stone....they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one....Jesus....said unto her....where are thine accusers....Jesus said unto her....go and sin no more....

All sin is an insult and an offense against God. As Christians, we must learn to understand what it is that we are experiencing after we have sinned. We will experience one of two things, one is conviction, the other is condemnation. Conviction comes by the indwelling Holy Spirit, who desires that we confess our sin so that we might be restored in our fellowship with God, so that his purpose and plan for our life can continue. Condemnation on the other hand, comes through Satan, who is trying to convince us that we are no good, and that God will not forgive us. Satan's purpose is to stir up our worldly emotions of guilt and shame, which brings anxiety and worry, and disrupts our relationship with God, which therefore hinders our effectiveness as a witness of the truth of Gods saving grace. The feeling of conviction is one of being drawn closer unto God, whereas doubt and worldly fear are a result of the feeling of condemnation, which comes through the deception of the devil.

Isaiah 5: 20,....woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil, that put darkness for light, and light for darkness, that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter....

Temptation and deception can lead us to proclaim sinful things as good, instead of respecting the righteousness of God. Mankind tends to celebrate in their own self-righteousness, which causes us to see it as good works for the Lord, instead of sinfulness. We live in a world that is full of rebellion against God, and therefore has a sinful perspective of immortality apart from God. The worldly system of value will always be confusing, which can cause us to take offense to the truth of Gods word, which states that Christ is the only way to salvation. Living in a fallen state of man, and rejecting the guidance of the Holy Spirit, will keep us from determining right from wrong. Only God can give unto us definite answers concerning good and evil, and these answers can only be found in his word.

Titus 1: 5,....unto the pure all things are pure, but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure, but even their mind and conscience is defiled....

More often than not, the word of God is taken out of context, which distorts his word, and corrupts the message of salvation, which states that we should live Godly lives. Although many profess to know the Lord, their actions and attitudes deny him.

Titus 1: 16,....they profess that they know God, but in works they deny him, being....disobedient....unto every good work....

For this reason, God will chastise believers so that they might remain in sound faith. Therefore, it is very important to challenge those that deliberately distort Gods word, by questioning their unscriptural interpretation of his word, for when the truth of Gods word is compromised, it is then that people will believe a lie.

Hebrews 10: 22,....let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkles from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water....

We do not come to God with an element of doubt in our heart, but we approach his throne of grace with boldness and a steadfast assurance that when we believe in all that God has promised he will perform it. Our confidence in the Lord does not depend upon what we have done or achieved in our Christian life, our confidence abides in what Christ has done for us through the cross and the resurrection. We can only trust in the suffering of Christ when we allow the Holy Spirit to help us to recognize our own insufficiencies. We must study Gods word, because his word is true, his promises are secure, and as we enter into his presence with a sincere heart, he sets us free from the guilt of sin. Therefore, by the promises of the word of God, we are cleansed, and brought into his righteousness.

Hebrews 4: 16,....let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need....

Man, indeed has a conscience, which impresses upon all humanity, a sense of right and wrong, which often time visits our inner being with a sense of conviction and remorse. While our conscience serves many useful purposes, it is not sufficient without understanding from Gods word, and following after the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, through faithful communication with him.

Just like the scribes and the pharisees, we are convicted by our conscience, which is based upon the truth of the word of God. Therefore, through the work of his conviction, the Holy Spirit enters into our conscience, and as we allow his will to reign in our life, he will bring our actions under submission unto him, so that we may live and abide by Gods unchanging love.

Let us Pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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