

A GOOD CONSCIENCE!

“...holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith.”(1 Tim.1:19 NIV) Both of these are so important to our walk with God and the fruitfulness we can bear for eternity. If we don't hold fast to them, it may just shipwreck our faith, and God's purpose for us will be thwarted.

A good conscience!! In Ps.32:2 the important quality; a heart without guile, is needed for forgiveness of sins. **We have to be honest and open, admit our sins, not try to cover up or make excuses for our wrongs; God responds to this heart.** Jesus gives the parable of the sower in Luke 8, and he tells us that the productive ground, the fruitful soil, is the “good and honest” heart. It is the heart that is open and ready to trust and cooperate with God.

The apostle tells us that he served God with a clear conscience. (2 Tim.1:3) **Then he speaks to the Corinthian church that he is careful to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men.**(2 Co.8:21) We want to be a good example to all, and not be a stumbling block to any. We want to do all we can in the way we live and serve to be a good testimony for Christ.

Let's not live our lives with a bad conscience. Walk in the light of truth God has given. Don't take advantage of others, but deal honestly with all. **Circumstances and people will not always treat or react toward you as you desire. Watch out for bitterness or malice in your hearts toward others.** Forgiving others as Christ forgave you, frees your conscience, then you can again receive God's blessing. Clear up the past with God and men. Get things right with others; there is such freedom in an honest heart.

The apostle Paul is clear that he believed in the resurrection of the righteous and the wicked, so he was diligent to keep his conscience clear before God and man. (Acts 24:15-16) **Deal quickly with sin in your life. Confess to God! Forgive and get things right with others. Let's not have a shipwreck that will count for eternity.**