**BIBLE - YOUR CONSCIENCE**

***ROMANS 2:13-15 – TEXT***

**INTRODUCTION** – We have probably heard the expression, “let your conscience be your guide” as our text indicated our conscience can either accuse us or excuse us. If our conscience has been properly trained by the word of God it indeed can be our guide but often times it is not properly trained and so there is danger in allowing it to be our guide.

What is the definition of conscience? In order to better understand let us think of our brain as having two compartments. One compartment chooses a standard by which every act we engage in will be governed. All of us have a standard by which we think one ought to governed. This standard we choose may not always be correct (I.E. - Muslim, Mormon, Christian). The conscience is the compartment of the brain that either approves or disapproves our actions based on the standard we have chosen. We are either in or out of harmony with our conscience based on what standard we use.

The conscience was given to us by God to let us know whether we have violated the standard we have in our mind. If our standard is wrong then when we do things that are wrong our conscience is not violated, so it is of utmost importance to use the right standard so when properly trained our conscience can be our guide

The conscience is something discussed in the Bible - Examples – **1 SAM. 24:5** – David; **JOB 27:6** – Job lived to keep his conscience clean before God; **ACTS 24:16** – Paul strived to maintain a pure conscience.

***YOUR CONSCIENCE:***

1. **MAY BE WEAK** –
   1. **1 COR. 8:10** – This kind of conscience does not know enough to discern between right and wrong. The strong one was the one who had the knowledge of what he could eat or not eat and did not associate the eating of meats sacrificed to idols with idolatry.
   2. **1 TIM. 4:1-5** – The eating of pork was not wrong, but if the conscience is weak it needs to be properly trained so the conscience will not be affected.
   3. **HEB. 5:14** – Our senses must be exercised to discern between good and evil.
2. **MAY BE DEFILED** –
   1. **TITUS 1:15** – What is a defiled conscience? It is polluted and one who has a defiled conscience is one whose standard is so corrupt it is impossible for his conscience to think in terms of what is right and wrong
   2. **ACTS 4:12** – Denominational people are unable to determine right from wrong many times because they use standards built on false premises such as names are not important, there is nothing in a name. Some claim they are right with God because they feel right inside. We can feel right but be wrong – I.E. - Paul
3. **MAY BE SEARED** –
   1. **1 TIM. 4:1-2** – How is a conscience seared? It is made insensitive and seared when it is continually over and over ignored and run over. When a person does that which is against the chosen standard (for a Christian – Bible) their conscience cries out for and forbids that action.
   2. **HEB. 3:8-13** - If a person continually does not heed the warnings of his conscience over and over then the conscience will eventually become seared, hardened or calloused and no longer responsive to the word of God.
   3. **HEB. 10:25** – I.E. – Do people just one day wake up and decide they will forsake the assemblies? It happens over a period of time as their conscience becomes seared.
4. **MAY BE EVIL** –
   1. **HEB. 10:22** – An evil conscience cries out to be purged? This type of conscience will allow people to obey the gospel or correct their lives if necessary.
   2. **HEB. 9:7-14** – The Jewish practice of sprinkling blood related only to external and could not make the conscience perfect, but the blood of Christ could cleanse internally and produce a clean conscience.
   3. **MATT. 26:35, 69-75** – Why did Peter go out and weep bitterly? The conscience of Peter had notified him that he had not done what he should do. He felt guilty and immediately corrected his transgressions by repenting. When a person has an evil conscience it can move him to repent and make amends for their sins.
5. **MAY BE GOOD** –
   1. **ACTS 23:1** – Paul lived in all good conscience even while he persecuted the church and committed Christians to death and prison. In other words his conscience did not cry out because he did not violate the standard he had chosen to follow.
   2. **ACTS 26:9-11** – He could persecute Christians at that time in all good conscience. Once he became a Christian Paul no longer persecuted the church or Christians because to do so would have then violated his conscience.
   3. **1 PET. 3:21** – What about your conscience? Is it good, clean, and pure before God? It cannot be if you have not been baptized into Christ for the remission of your sins because that is what God’s standard, the Bible teaches. Maybe you think you are saved but has your conscience been trained by the proper standard, the word of God?

**CONCLUSION** –

Is God’s word pricking your heart?

Do you know what to do?

Listen to God’s word and obey it today!!