

9th of September 2018

Conscience – Pt 3 The conscience of a believer is purged

This is our third teaching on the topic of our conscience. In our first study we established the conscience of a non-believer is (1) defiled and (2) evil, and (3) under the law even the high priest who offered the sacrifices and offerings did not have a perfect conscience. In this our third study we establish from the scriptures – (1) Christ's blood purged our conscience from dead works to serve the living God, and (2) a Christian has a pure conscience, a conscience that is void of offence and is good – evidenced by living honestly.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. Christ's blood purged our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.
"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Heb.9: 14).

2. A conscience that has been purged to serve the living God is –

* pure

"Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience" (1Tim 3:9). See also 2Tim.1: 3.

* void of offence

"And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men" (Acts 24:16).

* good

"Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck" (1Tim.1: 19). See also – 1Pet.3: 16 & 21

A good conscience is linked to –

i) living honestly.

"we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly" (Heb.13: 18).

ii) unfeigned (sincere) faith.

"Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned" (1Tim 1:5).

An illustration to help apply the teaching to our life today.

Patrick is a Roman Catholic in Nelson that for over 18 months has received evidence from the scriptures that the Roman Catholic religion is of man and therefore contrary to the scriptures of truth. But after all this time Patrick has only sought to defend his position and with great subtilty not answer the question – how does a Roman Catholic believe in a separate place called Purgatory where their venial sins are purged, when the scriptures say that Christ "purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Heb.1: 3)?

Question to think about.

In the context of this study on our conscience – If a man has been given evidence that proves what he believes is contrary to the scriptures why would he not accept the evidence?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

If a Roman Catholic believes in a separate place for purging his conscience **cannot** be purged by the blood of Christ, therefore regardless of the weight of evidence there is no conviction in his conscience until he believes the gospel. The evidence is his works – the saved man's conscience is purged from dead works to serve the living God, and therefore his conscience is pure, good and void of offence, and responds when the holy Spirit convicts him. Whereas the lost – "They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate" (Tit.1: 16) because their conscience is evil and bears fruit of dead works. Let us remember that a believer does works (bears fruit) that shows forth their conscience as being purged by the blood of Christ from dead works to serve the living God. He lives honestly and so his fruit is evidence of a pure, good conscience that is void of offence. Amen!