

The Voice Within

Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith, from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.—I Timothy 1:5-7

To the Apostle Paul, a good conscience was no light matter. He wanted to live in a manner that every action and every thought were righteous. In Acts 24:16, Paul tells, “And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.”

Puritans at the time of the founding of this country did the same. They sat “close to self-scrutiny”. They believed that God used the conscience as a mirror to expose their desires and deeds in light of God’s word.

Today, many take their conscience lightly. When convicted of sin, they ignore it to the point that it is seared and does not bother them anymore. I Timothy 4:1-2 describes this as part of the last days. “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.”

It is our responsibility as believers to allow the Holy Spirit to speak to us through our conscience. We can do this by having a quiet time each day where we search and scripture and genuinely seek the Lord to show us anything that falls short of His pleasure.

Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.—Psalm 139:23-24