



INSTRUCTIONS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

Dr. Peter D. Wyns

Entry 5 - I

A - Ω

Guarding Your Conscience

As goes the conscience, so goes a person, a family and a nation. If we follow a good conscience, it leads to life. Like the rails on a railroad line, a good conscience keeps us on track. We have the ability to follow it, and the capability of getting off track by ignoring it. Much worse than that, an unguarded, unprotected conscience can change into a mushy pile of confusion. It can become soiled and deceived and then it will mislead us. Jesus said, **“See to it, that the light within you is not darkness.”** *Lk. 11:35* If our conscience becomes defiled, we will believe that right is wrong and wrong is right. The Bible teaches a lot about the conscience. It describes six different types of conscience. Many pressures in society focus on destroying a good conscience. Your job is to protect it.

The six descriptions of the conscience mentioned in the New Testament are: **a pure conscience, - a good conscience, - a weak conscience, - a defiled conscience, - an evil conscience and - a seared conscience.**

Many people do not understand the importance of guarding their conscience. A beautiful, godly child can end up in ruin if they fail to guard their conscience. They start with a pure conscience but they can easily lose it.

Paul said, **“I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience.”** *2Ti. 1:3*

When our children were being toilet trained, Joy sat them on a potty in the bathroom and left the door open. If someone could see the child through the open door, the child would call out, “Mommy, close the door.”

Their pure conscience was telling them that something was not right. The naked body is not shameful but precious and it should be revered and saved for the one we marry. Because of sin, people lose their innocence; they no longer have a pure conscience. Paul served the Lord with a pure conscience. In the intimacy of ministry, he guarded his conscience and kept his heart pure.

When we keep our thoughts pure and walk uprightly, our conscience is sharpened to discern good and evil (See Heb. 5:18-20). Then we have, what the Bible calls, a good conscience. The Lord can speak often and clearly to those who have a good conscience.

When we no longer have a good conscience, we cannot hear God clearly. We are in confusion and on a road that leads to ruin.

We read, ***“Having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected ... have suffered shipwreck.” 1Ti. 1:19***

Some who started in godly homes have fallen prey to an ungodly society. They have rejected a good conscience, compromised their walk and wandered away from God. This leads to shipwreck. Perhaps they did not understand the ramifications.

Rejecting a good conscience leads to a weak conscience. Scripture says, ***“When you thus sin against the brethren and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.” 1Cor. 8:12***

Without going into the background of this scripture, I point out that some Christians have a weak conscience. When people dabble in sin their conscience eventually becomes weak. They ignore or argue with their own conscience and make excuses for

their sin. Then they lose self-control and fall into more sin. They develop a weak conscience.

The Bible also speaks of a defiled conscience. It says, ***“To those who are defiled ... nothing is pure; ... their mind and conscience are defiled.” Titus 1:15***

A defiled conscience comes as we reject a good conscience and persist in sins such as pornography, gossiping, or habitual lying.

These and other sins defile us. Over time our conscience can become twisted and dysfunctional.

Christians who walk this way will have a defiled conscience. They will not fulfill their destiny and may even slip further into the lost condition of an evil conscience.

Hebrews says: ***“Draw near with a true heart ... having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience.” Heb. 10:22***

An evil conscience is a good conscience turned bad because of stubborn rebellion. It will cause someone to believe their own lie. People with an evil conscience

believe that good is evil and evil is good. They might, for example, believe that it is good that a woman has the right to have an abortion. Heb.10:22 tells us that the cross of Christ has the power to cleanse us from an evil conscience. Praise God!

The worst conscience is a seared conscience. Scripture says; ***“... demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron.” 1Ti. 4:2***

Nothing penetrates a seared conscience. Those who have it are demonized and some will become servants of Satan, promoting wickedness.

We must guard our conscience. Our children must learn the benefits of a good conscience. It will not only keep them from wickedness, but become an open channel for the voice of God. A good conscience is the soil - where God plants His blessings. AΩ



Christians for Messiah Ministries

Instructions in Righteousness is produced monthly by “Christians for Messiah Ministries.” Dr. Peter D. Wyns is the President of “Christians for Messiah ministries.” After 35 years of extensive ministry in more than 35 nations, he is now based in the USA. This ministry continues because of your prayers and financial support. Your partnership is greatly appreciated. For information of Dr. Wyns availability to minister at your church, contact “Christians for Messiah Ministries.”

Christians for Messiah Ministries PO Box 36324, Rock Hill, South Carolina, 29732

Office: 803-324-0739 or 704-608-7793 e-mail: wynsusa@comporium.net www.peterwyns.org www.unexpectedfire.com

MAKE DONATION CHECKS PAYABLE TO CMM FOR TAX RECEIPTS