

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Is Conscience a Guide?

Much is said these days about conscience. Is conscience a guide? We discussed it in school. The question was, "Is conscience a safe moral guide?" It is discussed today by many religious people who take it as a guide. But is it a guide? Does it dictate? Conscience may compel, but it does not guide or dictate. The conscience condemns (I John 3:20) We often hear it said: "His conscience pinches him." That is the same as saying: "His conscience condemns him." Sometimes we hear people say: "I know I am right, or my conscience would condemn me." Our conscience does not condemn us until we do contrary to what we think is right. It does not matter whether we are right or not. If we think we are, our conscience does not condemn us. Then, to have the right kind of conscience, we must believe the Bible and take the Lord's standard of right. Conscience is a creature of conditions. It never appears until we have violated our supposed knowledge of right. It appears even though our knowledge of right is not well-founded. Where there is no conception of right or wrong, there is no conscience. Paul said he lived in all good conscience when he persecuted the Christians (Acts 23:1), but that did not make it right. He thought it was the thing to do. That was his standard of right (Acts 26:9). His conscience did not condemn him, for he acted according to his standard of right. Conscience and knowledge go hand in hand. False knowledge makes a false conscience. A satisfied conscience does not condemn. When properly taught, our conscience is not satisfied until we are baptized.

Now there is such a thing as a seared conscience. ***"Having their conscience seared with a hot iron"*** (I Timothy 4:1-2). In that case, conscience fails to condemn. When a man reaches that point, he is very corrupt. The conscience convicts. ***"Being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one"*** (John 8:9). They knew what was right, which caused their conscience to condemn. When Judas returned the thirty pieces of silver, he pictured a condemning conscience. He acted contrary to his knowledge of right. He fell. The Bible tells us that we must believe in Christ, repent of our sins, confess our faith in Christ and be baptized for the remission of sins. ***"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved"*** (Mark 16:16). If a man believes what the Bible says, his conscience will continue to condemn him until he is baptized. Peter tells us that baptism is the answer to a good conscience (I Peter 3:21). If I believe baptism is for the remission of sins, my conscience will not be satisfied until I have been baptized.

A certain "pastor" who had recently acquired another degree told his flock that conscience was born a little over five thousand years ago. That was not so bad, but his following statement was that man was a savage thousands of years before that. I suppose that is what he learned when he received his recent degree. Well, it seems that he does not believe in the Bible's account of creation. He does not seem to believe that Adam and Eve were the first people on earth. Indeed, conscience did not appear until Adam and Eve violated their knowledge of right. The fact is: conscience does not appear in any of us until we violate what we consider to be the standard of right. All people, even savage races, have their standard of right. The Indian, in his savage state, has his standard of right. The Indian looks to the Great Spirit, and in his own way, he is a worshiper. The

preacher who denies the Bible's account of creation should "unfrock himself" and give the pulpit to those who believe in the Bible. Where there is an intellect, there can be a conscience. The Lord appeals to man's intellect. Man is allowed a choice. If he chooses the evil, he may know what to expect. A man may sin and run away, but when he gets there, he finds that his conscience is with him. His conscience will condemn him.

—E. M. Borden

Sympathy

Our sympathy goes out to Mary Anchondo and her family in the loss of her niece in an automobile accident last week. Her niece leaves behind three small children. Keep this family in your prayers.

Prayer Requests

Wilene Wright had a CT scan last Monday to determine what is causing her weakness. Please continue to keep her in your daily prayers for some answers.

Gloria Craig requested prayers for **Janet Bell**, who is going through chemo treatments for breast cancer; they have discovered other health issues as well. She is in need of prayers at this time.

Concerns Update

Daniel Eastwood's surgery went well but was kept in the hospital for a few days undergoing treatment for the infection. He will have to stay off his leg for another month for the healing process. Continue to keep Daniel in your prayers that he has a speedy healing and recovery.

Loyce Driver's angiogram on August 3rd turned out well...her heart checked out good. Loyce thanks everyone for the prayers offered on her behalf.

Prayer List

Maria Baeza; Betty Branson; Mary Brown; Naomi and Adelynn Bustillos; Glenna Callendar; Arthur Campos; Sylvia Campos; Charlie Carson; LaDonna Chism; Carolyn Craig; James Drake; Cathy Eastwood; Daniel Eastwood; Aisha Garcia; Becky Gillespie; Hattie Gilmore; Paul Gunn; Doug Guynn; Lon & Lana Howard; Connie Jimenez; Shane Lester; Charles Lewis; Leigh Ann McFarland; Juan & Estella Morolez; Joe Morrison; Emma Ochoa; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Linda Straw; Bill Tate; Atasi Titlow; Marilyn Upshaw; Jurlean Warren; Terresia Weaver; Josh Wells; Carolyn Wilkerson; Ron Williams; Jefferson Wood; John Wood; Natalynn Wood.

Eisenhower's Homebound...

Glenna Callendar; James & Joyce Drake; Ronda Lyne; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley & Marilyn Upshaw.

Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military and the spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

Events

Watch "***In Search of the Lord's Way***" Sunday mornings at 7:30 am on KWES TV 9.

Office News

This evening following our service, we will have a "**Back to School Family Devotional**" in the Annex. The menu is "**ice cream and sandwiches**". Everyone and our visitors are invited.

Our "**Fall Quarter**" starts on Sunday, September 3rd. If you would like to teach or be a helper in a class, please get in touch with one of the coordinators to let them know what class you are

interested in. Your dedication in teaching the Bible to the young children is so very much appreciated.

Thoughts to remember ...

About the only difference between stumbling blocks and stepping stones is the way we use them.

The Thorny Soil

As Jesus went about preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of Heaven, He did not always find a receptive audience. The problem He faced was that many people were “hard of hearing” (Matthew 13:14-15). To illustrate this problem, Jesus told “The Parable of the Four Soils.” In it, we can see ourselves as we really are concerning how we received the Word of God in our lives. Therefore, let us consider the first one, the thorny soil (Matthew 13:7).

According to Jesus, this is the person who “hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.” Luke 8:14 adds, “the pleasures of life.” this soil represents the distracted hearer of God’s Word; those with divided faithfulness and obedience (Matthew 6:24). Therefore, we ask, how do these thorns cause us to be unfruitful?

First, the cares and anxieties of this world can take our minds away from what is truly important (Matthew 6:25-34), which can have a direct impact on our faithfulness to Christ. Additionally, the deceitfulness of riches can turn our attention away from God and His righteousness. This danger is described by Paul in 1 Timothy 6:9-10. There we see that the distraction of “desiring to be rich” or “desiring to have more” can lead to other problems. Finally, pleasures of life can crowd Jesus out of our lives. The Scriptures teach us that earthly pleasures cannot produce true happiness (Ecclesiastes 2). In other words, the main focus of family, educational pursuits, desire for popularity...etc. can come before Christ. In fact, sports, hobbies, recreation and so on come first for many people today. Yet, 1 Timothy 4:8 declares that “godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.”

Are you the thorny soil? If you responded to the Gospel at one time, but are becoming too preoccupied with the cares, riches, and pleasures of this world, you will not be able to bear fruit! Do not allow these thorns to choke out the Word in your heart.

—John Garza

August 13, 2023

Announcements

Song Leader

Sermon

Opening Prayer

Scripture Reading

Second Prayer

Closing Prayer

A.M.

Larry May

Oliver Hernandez

Allen Weakland

Larry May

Tommy Garcia

Jr. Munoz

Caleb York

P.M.

Larry May

Cody Wesson

Allen Weakland

Larry May

Bill Ryan

Don Easlon

Jeff Wesson

Lords Supper

Don Easlon

Jackie Perkins

David Ryan

Scot Straw

Jacob Carson

Communion

(In Library)

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Larry May 638-3990 *Deacon:* Jacob Carson 940-3775 —*Pulpit:* Craig Wesson 934-4633 —*Table:* Jacob Carson 940-3775 —*Song Leaders:* Cody Wesson 934-4646 —*Recording Sermons:* Cody Wesson — *Contributions:* Jacob Carson

Sunday AM

“Alcohol” (Proverbs 20:1)

Sunday PM

“Important Birth Announcement” (Judges 13:1-5)

Our Records

Bible Class... 84

Morning Worship...122

Evening Worship ... 79

Wednesday...74

Contribution...\$4,780.00