

June 22, 1988 Island Pond

The Conscience and the Gospel, Part 2

Our conscience is the self-reflecting judicial power whereby we can know ourselves and accordingly pass judgment on our state towards our Creator. We will have to give answer for everything we say, think, or do. We have to judge ourselves or we'll fall into judgment (1 Cor 11:31). We can't confess what we don't *know* — what we aren't judging. He wants us to come to the place where we'll take every thought captive. You have to be condemned before you can be saved.

What is the conscience? It is Elohim's vice-regent. A regent is one who rules in the absence of the sovereign. This vice-regent calls the court in His name and acts for Him. If our conscience condemns us, He also condemns us. He is the greater witness and knows more. If we go against our conscience, we go against our God. Those chosen will be quickened by this. If our conscience is informed of God's will and still acquits us, then God also acquits us and we have assurance that He will accept us. How can we have confidence? (1 John 2:28 & 4:17) By abiding in Him and producing His fruit — love. This is lifting up the victory cup in integrity. This is saying, "Yahshua is our Master," and meaning it.

We can't do anything without a good conscience. Our conscience must be heard and attended to. Our Father doesn't hear anyone who doesn't fear Him and do His will. How will we come to fear Him? Pr 2:1-5. The root meaning of *conscience* is "to know"; it functions according to the highest standard it *knows*. Every one has eaten of the tree of knowledge of good and evil — blessing or calamity, the nations or the second death (Gen 2:9; 3:3). Until we came out of the nations we were eating of that tree. Col 1:13 is the only way out, and this is only possible with Mark 16:16. This is the gospel.

Heb 9:27 — This judgment is real, it will decide between the nations and the second death. All have sinned and fallen short of the ultimate rule, of the Holy City, of the Bride of Messiah (Rom 3:23; Rev 21:11). There are twelve gates in Rev 21, you can only enter by one of those gates. Either He will pay for your sin, or you will. For Him to save you all you have to do is give up your own rotten, stinking life, and then place your new life on the altar. Mark 9:43 — If your hand causes you to sin, disciple, cut it off; better this than the first death. We constantly help and correct one another, spreading the gospel among ourselves and preaching it.

Lk 12:45-48 — This speaks of our accountability as disciples, based on the light that our conscience has. To beat each other means with our words, our arrogant attitudes.

Right now it is required of us to live according to the light we have. Rev 18:1 — The day will come when this authoritative voice will speak. The whole earth needs to be illumined by the standard that people are to obey their conscience. Rev 18:2 — She has *become*. It would not be justice to favor with salvation those who have had the opportunity to have a Bible or TV preacher or a fine car to drive to church every Sunday and condemn to everlasting fire those who haven't had this opportunity. Where could anyone get such a notion?

If a Christian who hears the good news keeps on thinking he has the Holy Spirit, he can't be saved (Jn 3:18-20). Christians who claim that our Master didn't mean what He said will be judged for calling Him a liar. But some will ponder His message and know they are not righteous. John 6:44 — What would a person do if he knew where the Holy Spirit dwelt on the face of the earth? Heb 1:14 gives consolation to everyone who has been stirred up spiritually within Christianity, if they have not received an evil spirit masquerading as the Holy Spirit.

Rom 2:13-16 — One who has kept the law written on his conscience will be admitted to the nations after he has paid for his own sin in death (Rom 3:20,21). Some people who have truly

wanted to live a good moral life will not suffer in death as much as one who deliberately defied his conscience. He came to save us from death. Even David, when he died, went to Sheol, but there was a great chasm between having a good conscience and a bad one.

The conscience is the candle of YHWH that is not completely put out in fallen man. One may thereby be condemned to the Lake of Fire according to Rev 21:8. Where there is faith there is no doubt. Doubt is not even in your mind as to your eternal destiny. Rev 22:15 — ...those who *love* and *practice* lying. This qualifies what is said in Rev 21:8. He is looking for anything he can to keep a man from being thrown into the Lake of Fire.

The conscience is the faculty of the soul and spirit where His light (whether faint or great) dwells and works. It shows people where they are right or wrong. (For example, who says, "Get involved in the world?" The *devil* does.) If someone's candle goes out, he is reprobate, for he calls evil good and good evil. Rom 1:18 — To *suppress* the truth is to *consciously* forget it (Gal 1:4-8; Eccl 12:14).

1 Cor 4:5 — Certainly don't judge apostles before the time. Conscience is a witness; it testifies to that which is hidden in the chambers of the soul. The only thing that can cause a person to receive a good conscience is by receiving a preacher (Rom 10:14).

Man is so fallen that he could never attain the ultimate glory of YHWH by the works of the Law. That glory is found in John 17. It will judge the whole world (Jn 7:17; 5:41). If they reject you they reject Me (Lk 10:16; Jn 13:20). If they disbelieve you, they've rejected the Word of Life. Our Father knows who is willing to do His will; He searches throughout the whole earth and sends His precious ones to them (Jn 7:17). John 17:22 is the glory of the Holy City. If you don't have it now you won't have it then.