



WHERE TO FIND HELP

“Clearing Your Conscience” Hebrews 9:1-14

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“Conscience, in contemporary life, is a foundling. Its paternity is questioned, its existence annoying, its demands for attention and responsibility burdensome” (Carl F.H. Henry).

I. Considering the Conscience.

A. Its meaning.

1. Conscience = Lat. “con” & “scio”; Gk. “syn” & “eidenai” = “know together.”
2. Consciousness = “awareness of.”
3. O.T. no word, but see 2 Samuel 24:10; Psalm 32:1-5; 51:1-9.
4. N.T. appears 30 times.

B. Its role.

1. It is innate. Romans 2:14-15
2. It is universal.
3. It distinguishes right from wrong.
4. It encourages toward right, away from wrong.
5. It judges retroactively—condemning, commending.
6. It evaluates proactively.

C. Its limitations.

1. Its fallen-ness—it can be manipulated.
2. Its fallibility—it can be misinformed. 1 Corinthians 4:4
3. Its frailty—it can be muted. 1 Timothy 4:2

II. Clearing the Conscience.

A. The desire.

1. Inward peace—living with yourself.
2. Outward harmony—living among people.
3. Upward reconciliation—living before God.

B. The difficulties. vv. 1-10

An illustration of frustration. v. 9

1. Ritual without reality.
2. Symbol without substance.
3. Church without Christ.

C. The delights. vv. 11-14

1. A perfect sacrifice.
2. An eternal redemption.
3. A clean conscience.

III. Cultivating the Conscience.

- A. Release from “dead works.”
- B. Revival by “living God.”
- C. Renewal of clean mind. Romans 12:2
- D. Recognition of noble objective. Acts 24:16

Points to ponder: Do I regard my conscience as God’s gift? Dare I come boldly into God’s presence through Christ? Have I chloroformed my conscience?