

Diligently Seeking God
(The Foundation of the Conscience and Integrity)
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Introduction: How can I come to find and know the one true God?

- A. This must be the very foundation of all that we do! **(Heb 11:6)**
 - 1. This search must begin with a heart that is prepared for the task.
 - 2. What do we seek first? Whom do we seek to please? (Ex. Prayer to know God)
- B. Do I have a commitment to be honest with myself and simply come to desire to see what is true? Then you can find and come to know God! **(Acts 17:11; Jn 17:3)**
 - 1. If we fail to have an honest heart, then we can easily be deceived.
 - 2. How does a truth-seeker act, think and speak? (Ex. How a scoffer acts.)

I. What kind of heart can come to know God?

- A. God wants us to discern and imitate His own ways. **(Ps 119:104, 128, Heb 1:9)**
 - 1. All deception is contrary to the God of light, the One who never lies. **(James 1:17-18; Titus 1:2)**
 - 2. How we view all deception? We must act on principle. **(Heb 5:13-14)**
 - 3. Sadly many have come to label this ability to discern and act as “negative teaching.” Satan has deceived many Christians. **(Isa 5:20-21)**
 - 4. The one who has a “lazy mind” simply walks away from the effort it takes to develop discernment. He may even be highly critical of those who do.
“In an age in which discernment is viewed as a vice and gullibility as a virtue, there is a price to be paid if one decides to be “picky” about what to believe and how to live.”
- B. We must come to hate the “acceptable deception” we want to justify. **(James 4:4)**
 - 1. If our opposition to deception is partial then we have opened our hearts to sin.
 - 2. If we do not protect the heart, we lose the ability to discern. **(2 Thess 2:10-12)**

II. We face an enormous battle to keep a good conscience.

- A. Many want an easy form of Christianity. What did Jesus offer? **(Lk 9:23-24)**
 - 1. Consider the heart of the struggle in the daily life of Paul. **(Acts 24:15-16)**
 - 2. If Paul had to “strive” then how about us? Without strife there will be failure.
- B. What is a conscience?
conscience - συνείδησις 1) the consciousness of anything 2) the soul as distinguishing between what is morally good and bad, prompting to do the former and shun the latter, commending one, condemning the other.
 - 1. The conscience is a judge based upon previous training. **(Rom 2:14-15)**
 - 2. A conscience can be trained in a wrong way. You may do bad and feel good or do that which is not sin and feel bad! **(Acts 23:1, 26:9; 1 Cor 8:7)**
 - 3. A weak conscience is one that has been improperly trained.
 - 4. Those with worldly standards will be ashamed of Christians! **(2 Tim 1:7-8)**
 - 5. One can destroy their conscience. **(1 Tim 4:2; 1 Cor 8:7-13; Rom 14:23)**
 - 6. The conscience is a great gift from God that we must carefully protect! Postmodern movements try to deny and destroy the conscience by denying all standards.
- C. God’s word is the basis of right and wrong. **(1 Pt 2:9-12; 1 Tim 1:18-19)**

1. If associations and practice do not change you may eventually not care.
2. When a church is committed to teach as to promote a “good conscience,” God’s standards will be plainly taught. (2 Cor 4:1-2)

II. Make God the focus of your conscience

- A. The first step in building faith in your children is found here. (Psa 19:9-14)
 1. You come to study God’s word because you want to. (Jer 9:23-24)
 2. Teaching your child to learn how to deal with the guilt of sin, the hurts of life and the uncertainty of the future starts with a consciousness of God.
 3. The first step in this is a daily thankfulness to God. (Rom 1:21; Col 3:15)
- B. Make forgiveness the foundation of your conscience.
 1. How do I know I am right with God? Receiving God’s conditional promise of salvation by faith can give a “good conscience.” (1 Pt 3:21 – NASV)
 2. Repenting and confessing all sin gives a “good conscience.” (1 Jn 1:6-9; Rom 8:15-16)
 3. A good conscience is the foundation of a joyful life and an uncompromising faith. Many fear this and end up in misery. (1 Tim 1:5; 1 Pt 3:16)
 4. True repentance comes from a genuine consciousness of God. (2 Cor 7:10)

III. Learn the value of God’s provisions (past and present)

- A. We should remember all truth that you have been taught! Our parents’ voices will always be in our heads! (Prov 1:8; 4:1-2)
 1. You have been greatly blessed to have godly parents.
 2. While parents are not in the place of God, you should carefully examine God’s word before you discard their teaching.
- B. The disciples found a stronger faith in the Lord from what they remembered. (Lk 24:6-8; Jn 2:22; 12:16)
 1. We do not always remember at first. Events may stir us to remember.
 2. It would have been better to have so strongly believed that it was always there.
- C. Peter was convicted of sin because he remembered. (Mt 26:74-75)
 1. He was blessed to have a guilty conscience. This would later make him strong.
 2. Be careful about scoffers who always ridicule what they call “traditional.”
- D. Make the local church the center of your associations. (Heb 10:23-25)
 1. God provided local churches to teach you and help you to remember!
 2. You need friends who have a living faith. Where will you find people like that?
 3. Your conscience and your future will be determined by who you choose to surround yourself with. (Ex. “I do not like what I see in the mirror.”)
- E. Build a conscience that is “proven” rather than one who lives in doubt.
 1. When one is careful to avoid that which is questionable, they are protecting the conscience. (Rom 12:2; Ps 26:2; 1 Thess 5:21)
 2. It makes a difference in which local church you choose! What are you seeking?

Conclusion: What will be our reaction to the 2nd coming of the Lord? (2 Pt 3:10-11)