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Doctrinal Studies Bible Church
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I Timothy Book Study (#20)

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A CLEANSED CONSCIENCE

The Greek word conscience (suneidesis) is used four times in Book of First Timothy (1 Tim.1:5, 19; 3:9; 4:2).

Conscience consists of a perfect tense word with a present meaning (sunoida) [presence of perceptive knowledge] plus the suffix of action (sis) [function of perceptive knowledge].

Vine' defines **suneidesis**: "Co-knowledge (with oneself), the witness borne to one's conduct by conscience, that faculty by which we apprehend the will of God, as that which is designed to govern our lives." (pg.122)

(1 Cor.4:4) "I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted: but the One who examines me is the Lord."

<p>This lesson will study <u>four aspects</u> of Cleansed Conscience.</p>
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In order to get a good conscience, it must be cleansed by the blood of Christ.

(Heb.9:14) "How much more will the **blood of Christ**, who through the eternal spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, **cleanse your conscience** from dead works, to serve a living God." [Judicial guilt]

1. The Omniscience of God is greater than our conscience.

God created mankind after the image according to the likeness (tselem demuth) of Godhead (Gen.1:26-27; 1 Cor.11:7; James 3:9).

The Omniscience (wisdom) of God works with the conscience of the believer by means of the Word of God (2 Cor.1:12; 1 John 3:19-21).

(Ps.33:15) "He who fashions the hearts of them all, He who understands all their works."

(Ps.119:11) "Your word I have treasured in my heart that I may not sin against You."

(Ps.44:1) "God knows the secrets of the heart."

2. Under the Old Covenant, there was not a Hebrew word for conscience.

You have to pay attention to the context and the use of the Hebrew word for heart (leb) to find the concept of conscience (1Sam.24:5-7; 2 Sam.24:10).

It was the same way in Hebrew with the theology of the trichotomy of mankind (body, soul, and human spirit).

(1 Thess.5:23) "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your **spirit and soul and body** be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

(Gen.2:7) "Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being (soul)."

3. Therefore some Bible scholars place the conscience in the tablets of the heart. However, under the New Covenant, we place the conscience as one of the five apparatuses of the soul.

- Self-consciousness Awareness of self and God
- Conscience Awareness of right from wrong and good from evil based on the word of God
- Mentality Perceptive and comprehension of knowledge of God's will
- Volition Freedom of choice – positive and negative volition to truth
- Emotion Appreciator – gratitude and thankfulness of the grace of God

4. For an unbeliever to get a divinely good conscience, his conscience must be cleansed by the blood of Christ through faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16).

New Covenant Blood of Christ (1 Cor.11:25):

(1 Pet.1:19) “How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God (2 Cor.5:21)

Cleanse your conscience from dead works (ritual without reality) to serve a living God.” (Heb.9:14; 10:1-2) (Judicial guilt) (Rom.8:1-4)

Old Covenant Shadow Christology: The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) [Sept. 23rd]

The high priest took two male goats for a sin offering and one ram for a burnt offering (Lev.16:5). He cast lots on the two goats, one for the sacrifice and the other for the scapegoat (Azazel) [released to the wilderness] (Lev.16:20-22, 26 and 1 John 1:7-9). Modern psychology uses this biblical term ‘scapegoat’ to describe placing blame on some object to satisfy guilt.

- One goat – sacrificial death – propitiation blood – Christ paid all our sin debt in full.
- Other goat – sacrificial life – forgiveness – God forgave all our sins, past, present, and future.

(Ps.103:10-12) “He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness towards those who fear Him. **As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.**”

(Col.1:13-14) “Let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, **having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil (poneros) conscience** and our bodies washed with pure water.” (Heb.10:22; 4:14-16)