

A GOOD CONSCIENCE

ACTS 22:22-23:11

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: A good conscience is your witness between God and yourself. It helps to keep you experiencing your right relationship with the Lord.

IS CONVICTION. “Conscience is the testimony of the Spirit in man’s heart concerning his obligation to God.” Spiros Zodhiates, The Complete Word Study Dictionary, New Testament, p. 1340. Even though Paul was a murderer before knowing Christ, he now experienced freedom from guilt and a clear conscience to fulfill his responsibility before God and before man. (**Acts 23:1, Hebrews 10:19-22, fn 10:22-25, I Timothy 4:2, Ezekiel 36:25, Acts 24:14-16, II Corinthians 5:6-11, fn 5:9, 10**) *Why is a personal relationship with Christ important in establishing your convictions and a good conscience?*

IS BASED on God and His Word. Conscience is a moral awareness that springs from and is conditioned by one’s knowledge of God and his obligations to Him. Zodhiates, page 1340. Paul’s reaction and actions revealed that his conscience was based on God’s Word and was indeed good. The Sanhedrin should have taken note. (**Acts 23:2-5, Exodus 22:28, I Timothy 1:12-19, fn 1:19, I Peter 3:13-16**) *How could you help your children to develop a good conscience?*

IS CONFIRMED. Paul had a personal relationship with Christ and the Lord gave him encouragement in a vision. He had completed his work in Jerusalem and now must testify in Rome. The Holy Spirit and our conscience confirm in many ways the Lord’s satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the direction we are taking in our lives. (**Acts 23:11, Romans 9:1, Hebrews 9:9-14, fn 9:12-14, Job 27:3-6, fn 27:6, I John 1:9, fn 1:8-10**) *How did your life change after Christ came into it, and what is your life like now?*

Pray for one another’s needs.

Who in your group needs your encouragement by phone or personal attention?