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A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ACTS

The Power of a Pure Conscience

Sunday, January 28, 2024

Acts 23:1

Paul's experience in Jerusalem was anything but pleasant. However, the difficulties never deterred Paul from being courageous in negative circumstances. In Acts 23, Paul faced the Jerusalem council with courage because his conscience was pure.

KEYTHOUGHT: A pure conscience enables you to live and speak courageously for Jesus.

God gave you a conscience! (2 Timothy 1:3; Acts 23:1; Acts 24:16; Romans 9:1)

1. The conscience defined:

The Greek word translated "conscience" in all New Testament references is *suneidēsis*, meaning "moral awareness" or "moral consciousness."

2. The conscience described:

- The defiled conscience (Titus 1:15)
- The seared conscience (1 Timothy 4:2)
- The convicted conscience (John 8:9; Isaiah 6:5)
- The pure conscience (2 Timothy 1:3)

A pure conscience enables you to live and speak courageously for Jesus!

- Acts 24:16 says that it *keeps you strong spiritually*.
- 2 Corinthians 1:12 says that a pure conscience brings *rejoicing*.
- 1 Timothy 1:18-19 says that a *pure conscience is a weapon to overcome sin*.

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- 1 Peter 3:15-16 tells us that a *pure conscience is necessary for bold witnessing*.
- Acts 23:1 reminds us that a pure conscience gives us boldness and courage.
- Acts 23:11 reveals that a pure conscience encourages us with God's presence.

How to maintain a pure conscience before God and man!

- Confession (Proverbs 28:13; James 5:16; Psalm 32:5)
- Forgiveness (Matthew 5:23-24, 6:14-15)
- Restitution (Numbers 5:6-7; Luke 19:8; Philemon 19)
- Cultivation (Romans 12:1-2)

“Learn to subject your conscience to the truth of God and the teaching of Scripture. As you do that, your conscience will be more clearly focused and better able to give you reliable feedback. With a trustworthy conscience, you have a powerful aid to spiritual growth and stability. With a clear conscience, you live in an abundance of freedom and joy.”

- John MacArthur