

SG

Your *group* matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

If you were asked to pen a "fortune" for a fortune cookie, what would you write?

1. **Romans 2:15** says that even those without God have God's law "written on their hearts". What do you think that means and how have you seen it at work in the lives of unbelieving friends and/or relatives?
2. Pastor Tom says that our conscience can be a gift to help us in times of decision making. Tell of a time when your conscience challenged and changed your mind when faced with a decision.
3. Read **1 Timothy 4:2**. Pastor Tom said that it is possible to "sear" our conscience by ignoring or even violating it over time, rendering it ineffective as a signal or warning from God that something is wrong. What would your decision-making be like with a compromised conscience? Where might it lead you?
4. Pastor Tom declared that "only God can give us a good conscience", and He does this when we say 'YES!' to Jesus (**Hebrews 9:14**). If you are a Christ-follower, what kind of change did you experience in your conscience after you said 'YES!' to Jesus; is it still changing?
5. Pastor Tom indicated that we need to maintain the good conscience given to us by Christ, first, by keeping "short accounts" with God (see **1 John 1:9**). How does practicing what the passage teaches help you keep a clear conscience?
6. In what ways are you implementing Pastor Tom's second step to maintain a good conscience by being a self-feeding follower of Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit? (**Galatians 3:2-3**; **Ephesians 5:18b**)

Day One: [John 7](#); [Psalm 75](#)

Day Four: [1 Timothy 2](#); [Jeremiah 9](#)

Day Two: [Exodus 25](#); [Proverbs 13](#)

Day Five: [Job 13](#); [Acts 19](#)

Day Three: [Hebrews 10](#); [1 Samuel 26](#)

PERSONAL GUIDE

This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.



RIVERSIDE CHURCH



NOW WHAT?

"ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS"

Part 2

May 5, 2024



Pastor Tom Lundeen

MYRC.CHURCH





"ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS" - Part 2

May 5, 2024
Pastor Tom Lundeen

Our series is all about how all of us have to navigate important moments in our lives where we aren't sure what we should do...these are *Now What?* moments, and depending on what we _____ or don't _____, these times will have significant impact in our lives and futures.

Last Sunday we asked the questions,

1. Will this choice/action be helpful?

And we saw 2 tests the Apostle Paul offers to us to guide our decisions:

- A. Will This Decision/Action Make Me a Better Person?
- B. Does This Decision/Action _____ Me, or Do I Control It?

The 2nd important question to ask ourselves is:

2. Does This Decision/Action Bother My _____? (Note [1 Peter 2:16](#))

Conscience is the capability and power of mind to _____ between right and wrong (note [Romans 2:12-16](#)).

Conscience is God's indestructible gift that acts as an independent _____ within us.

Conscience acts at times as both a prosecuting attorney and a _____.

Conscience is our _____ sense organ. (Mathew).

Scriptures tell us that all human beings know there's a God from 2 sources:

- God's _____ ([Psalm 19:1-6](#); [Romans 1:20](#)).
- Human being's _____ ([Romans 2:15](#)).

Conscience = _____ together with.

God uses our consciences in _____ main ways in our lives:

- A. It puts in _____ what we should do - even when we're seemingly all alone, conscience shouts within us, _____ and _____.
- B. It acts as a _____ - although our human conscience isn't perfect...it still helps us understand how close or how far off is the _____ of our conduct with God's truth and standards.
- C. It acts as an _____ - whenever you or I _____ the dictates of our conscience, there's an almost automatic response...(note [Genesis 3:7-8](#); [42:21](#); [Psalm 32:3-5](#)). Drugs, therapy, or just trying to _____ our conscience doesn't work. Only _____ can give us a good conscience.

Problem is, our conscience can be rendered _____ (seared, note [1 Timothy 4:2](#)).

If we continuously ignore/reject the promptings of our conscience, it will _____ in its ability to signal/warn us that something is wrong.

- D. What is a _____ conscience (note [Acts 24:16](#); [Hebrews 13:18](#))? - we receive a clear conscience when we say 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord (note [Hebrews 9:14, 22](#)). It's the blood of Jesus that can cleanse our _____-filled consciences from sin, shame, and guilt (note [Romans 5:1](#); [8:1](#)).
- E. _____ a good conscience (note [1 Timothy 1:5](#)) - first, make sure to keep short _____ with God (note [1 John 1:9](#)). Next, give the Holy Spirit something to work with (be a _____ follower of Jesus)...And also be _____ with the Holy Spirit (note [Galatians 3:3](#)).

So now what?

- _____ is a great time to let God do some work on our consciences.
- Note [1 Corinthians 11:28](#); [2 Corinthians 13:5](#)

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital* or hard copy). *MYRC.LINK/CONNECT or text **riverside** to **94000**



SMALL GROUP
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"ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS" - Part 2

May 5, 2024
Pastor Tom Lundeen



Our series is all about how all of us have to navigate important moments in our lives where we aren't sure what we should do...these are *Now What?* moments, and depending on what we do or don't do, these times will have significant impact in our lives and futures.

Last Sunday we asked the questions,

1. Will this choice/action be helpful?

And we saw 2 tests the Apostle Paul offers to us to guide our decisions:

- A. Will This Decision/Action Make Me a Better Person?
- B. Does This Decision/Action Control Me, or Do I Control It?

The 2nd important question to ask ourselves is:

2. Does This Decision/Action Bother My Conscience? (Note [1 Peter 2:16](#))

Conscience is the capability and power of mind to distinguish between right and wrong (note [Romans 2:12-16](#)).

Conscience is God's indestructible gift that acts as an independent witness within us.

Conscience acts at times as both a prosecuting attorney and a judge. Conscience is our ethical sense organ. (Mathew).

Scriptures tell us that all human beings know there's a God from 2 sources:

- God's creation ([Psalm 19:1-6](#); [Romans 1:20](#)).
- Human being's conscience ([Romans 2:15](#)).

Conscience = knowing together with.

God uses our consciences in 3 main ways in our lives:

- A. It puts in CAPS what we should do - even when we're seemingly all alone, conscience shouts within us, YES and NO.
- B. It acts as a judge - although our human conscience isn't perfect...it still helps us understand how close or how far off is the alignment of our conduct with God's truth and standards.
- C. It acts as an enforcer - whenever you or I violate the dictates of our conscience, there's an almost automatic response...(note [Genesis 3:7-8](#); [42:21](#); [Psalm 32:3-5](#)). Drugs, therapy, or just trying to ignore our conscience doesn't work. Only God can give us a good conscience.

Problem is, our conscience can be rendered impotent (seared, note [1 Timothy 4:2](#)).

If we continuously ignore/reject the promptings of our conscience, it will wane in its ability to signal/warn us that something is wrong.

- D. What is a clear conscience (note [Acts 24:16](#); [Hebrews 13:18](#))? - we receive a clear conscience when we say 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord (note [Hebrews 9:14, 22](#)). It's the blood of Jesus that can cleanse our stain-filled consciences from sin, shame, and guilt (note [Romans 5:1](#); [8:1](#)).
- E. Maintaining a good conscience (note [1 Timothy 1:5](#)) - first, make sure to keep short accounts with God (note [1 John 1:9](#)). Next, give the Holy Spirit something to work with (be a self-feeding follower of Jesus)...And also be filled with the Holy Spirit (note [Galatians 3:3](#)).

So now what?

- Communion is a great time to let God do some work on our consciences.
- Notes [1 Corinthians 11:28](#); [2 Corinthians 13:5](#)

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