

## **Our Conscience & Convictions**

Our conscience is only as good as our convictions. In other words, our conscience may tell us we are doing right, when, in fact, we are doing wrong. Our convictions may be in error. For example, Saul of Tarsus persecuted Christ and His disciples with a clean conscience (Acts 7:58; 8:1-3; 9:1-2; 26:9-11). He thought he was serving God (cf. Jn. 16:2). His pure conscience, however, did not assure his acceptance with God. Likewise, our clean conscience does not guarantee God's approval.

For our conscience to be a safe guide we must have the right convictions. The way to proper convictions is through the Word of God, the truth (Jn. 17:17). The truth will guide us in the path of righteousness. It will teach us to deny "ungodliness and worldly lusts" and to "live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age" (Titus 2:12). Without this training, our conscience is worthless. Additionally, once our conscience is informed by God's word, we must act consistently with it. To act contrary to our conscience is sin, in-and-of-itself (Rom. 14:23).

How is your conscience? How are your convictions?

Steven F. Deaton