IS CONSCIENCE, ALONE, A SAFE GUIDE TO SALVATION?

Paul and his conscience.
Making his defence before the council, Ac.23,1 And paul earnestly beholding the council, said, Menahd brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God unto this day. Ac.24,16 And herein do I exercise myself, to have a conscience void of offence toward God and towrd men. Ac.26,9 I verily thought within myself that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazereth, which things I did in Jerusalem: And many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. 11 And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceeding mad against them I persecuted them unto strange cities. Whereunto as I went to Damascas with authority and commission from the chief priests. At midnight, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun,-- Read to verse 19. The fact is that Paul was persecuting the church Gods' people, with a good conscience.

Ro.9,1 After his conversion--I say the truth in Christ I lie not, that I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart 3 For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ, for my brethren, my kinsmen in the flesh: who are Israelites--.2 Tim.1,3 I thank God, whom I serve with my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day. Greatly desiring to see thee.

Zeal of the Jews Ac.22,3 I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in tarsas, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up at In this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the Fathers, and was zealous toward God as ye all are this day. And I persecuted this way unto death, binding and delivering into prison both men and women, as also the high priest doth bear me witness. Ph.3,6 Relating his past-Concerning zeal, persecuting the church, touching the righteousness of the Law, blameless.-(the Law of Moses.)

Ro.10,2 The zeal of the Jews.--I bear them record, they have the zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves to the righteousness of God.

Prov.14,19 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. Isaiah 55,8 For my thoughts a are not your thoughts, neither are your ways, my ways saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher t than your ways, and my thoughts higher than your thoughts. 10 For as t the rain cometh down from heaven, and the snow, and returneth not hither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater. So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth; it shall not return to me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereunto I have sent it. Jer.10,23 O Lord I know that the way of man is not in himself, it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. Ps.37,23 A good mans steps are ordered of the Lord.-Ps.119 105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my pathway. verse 130 The entrance of thy word giveth light, it giveth understanding unto the simple.

1 Pe.3,21 Illustrating the saving of Noah by water, the like figure whereunto baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God.)

The answer of a good conscience--He.9,9 Referring to the sacrifices offered under the law of Moses-which was a figure for thr time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; verse 10 Which stood only in meats and drinks, and diverse washings, and carnal ordinances, Imposed upon them until thetime of reformation. 13 For if the blood of bulls andof goats and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh, 14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, Purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?. He.10,22 And having an high priest (Jesus Christ) over the house of God; let us draw near with a true heart, in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without waivering. For He is faithful that promised.

How does our conscience become evil?

2 Ths.2,10 Because they received not a love of the truth that they might be saved. 11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusions, that they should believe a lie. 12 That they all might be damned who believe not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteous ness. 2 Cor.4,3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the God of this world hath blinded the eyes minds of them that believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God should shine in upon them.

Turn to page 2.

 Is conscience alone a safe guide to salvation.?

Tit.1,15 Unto the pure all things are pure:but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure;but even their mind and conse science is defiled. 1 Tim.4,1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly,that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith,giving heed to s seducing spirits,and doctrines of devils 2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats,which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.4 For every creature of God is good ~~for=food~~ ,and nothing to be refused if it bre received with thanksgiving.5For it is sanctified by the word of God and with prayer.1 Tim.1,5 Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart,and of good Conscience ,and of faith unfeigned 6From which some have turned aside unto vain jangling;desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say,nor whereof they affirm.

WARNINGS!

2 Pe.2,1 But there ~~shall=be~~ were false prophets among the people even as there shall be false teachers among you,who privily shall bring damnable heresies,even denying the Lord that bought them,and bring upon themselves swift destruction.and many shall follow their pernicious ways;by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil ~~spo~~ spoken of.1 Pe.5,8 Be sober,be vigilant,because your adversary the devil,as a roaring Lion walketh about seeking whom he may devour:9 Whom resist in the faith.

Ac.20,28 Paul adressing the elders at Ephesus.Take ~~heed=unto~~ heed therefore unto thyself,and unto all the flock,over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers,to feed the church of God which He hath ~~made=you=overseers~~ purchased with His own ~~blood~~ blood.29 For I know after my departing,shall grievous wolves enter in among you,not sparing the flock.30 Also of your own selves shall men arise,speaking pervers things to draw away disciples after themselves.31 Therefore watch and remember,that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn you night and day with tears.

1 Tim.4,16 Take heed unto thyself and unto the doctrine ,continue in them,for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee. SHOULD NOT WE GIVE HEED TO THESE WARNINGS AND DEPEND ON FOLLOWING GOD'S WORD?ALSO TO EDUCATE OUR CONSCIENCE SO THAT WE AS PAUL,CAN SAY,I HAVE LIVED IN ALL GOOD CONSCIENCE UNTO THIS DAY?

He.2,1 Therefore we ought give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard lest at any time we should let them slip.For if the ~~we~~ word spoken by angels (the law of Moses)was steadfast,and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward,how ~~sh~~ shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation,which at the first was spoken by the Lord,and was confirmed unto us by them that heardit-(the apostles)4 God also bearing them witness,both with signs and wonders,and with divers miracles,and gifts of the Holy Ghost,accordinh to His owh will.

We read in 2 Tim.3,16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God,and is profitable for doctrine,for reproof,for correction,for instruction in righteousness,that the man of God may be perfect thoroughly furnished unto all good works. Also read 1 Tim.2,15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God,a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,rightly dividing the word of truth.

Should we not heed these warnings and facts?

J.H.Lackey, Church of Christ.