

A Clean Conscience

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Session 11

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**Colossians 1: 22-23** "...He has brought us back to Him as friends. He has done this through His death on the cross in His own body. As a result, He has brought you into the very presence of God, now you are holy and blameless as you stand before Him without a single fault.

#### BUT YOU MUST CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THIS TRUTH AND STAND IN IT FIRMLY.

Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the GOOD NEWS."

#### This Session establishes:

- 1. How God's Word recalibrates your Conscience to a restored state as a powerful tool to follow Christ.
- 2. How to govern & maintain your clean conscience after becoming a New Creation in Christ.

# I. It is absolutely essential for us to realize the FORGIVING POWER of the BLOOD OF JESUS

**A.** To experience TRUE FREEDOM from guilt and shame of past sins, we must believe Jesus' Blood bought COMPLETE FORGIVENESS!

Isaiah 43:25 "I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for MY OWN SAKE; and I will not remember your sins."

- *Micah* 7:19 "*He has cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.*"
- **Psalm 103:12** "As far as the east is from the west, that is how far God has REMOVED our sins from us!"
- Hebrews 9:18 "Not even the first covenant was dedicated WITHOUT BLOOD. 19. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled the book itself and all the people, 20. Saying, "This is the BLOOD OF THE COVENANT which God commanded you." 21. Then likewise, he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry. 22. And according to the law most things are PURIFIED WITH BLOOD, and WITHOUT THE SHEDDING OF BLOOD, there is NO REMISSION OF SIN.
- **B.** Believers are entitled to a "GUILT FREE CLEAN CONSCIENCE" because of the Jesus' costly work of Christ upon the Cross. We were forgiven of our sin debt and the "STAIN OF GUILT" was removed.
- **C.** Guilt is a FINAL LEGAL FACT and shame is a RECURRING EMOTIONAL REACTION after the IMPUTED REMISSION.

### **II. Be Conscious of An Evil Conscience**

Hebrews 3:12 "Beware, BRETHREN, lest there be in any of you an EVIL HEART OF UNBELIEF in departing from the living God."

- A. Knowing that your conscience is CLEAN COMPLETELY is necessary because your FAITH WALK depends upon it.
  - Hebrews 10:3 "But in those sacrifices there is a REMINDER OF SINS every year. 4. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could ever TAKE AWAY SINS. 12. But his Man, after He had offered ONE SACRIFICE for sins FOREVER, sat down at the right hand of God, 14. For by ONE OFFERING He has perfected FOREVER those who are being sanctified. 22. Let us draw near with a true heart in FULL ASSURANCE OF FAITH, having our hearts sprinkled from an EVIL CONSCIENCE. 23. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope WITHOUT WAVERING, for He who promised is faithful."

#### **B. Imputed Righteousness**

- 1 John 3:20 "For if your heart condemns you, GOD IS GREATER than your own heart, and HE KNOWS ALL THINGS. 21. Beloved, if your heart does not condemn you, YOU HAVE CONFIDENCE TOWARD GOD."
- **Romans 8:33** "Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who JUSTIFIES." 34. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and further more is risen, who is even at the right hand of the God, who also makes intercession for

us. "

#### John 1:29 John the Baptist seeing Jesus coming unto him, and said, "Behold the Lamb of God who TAKES AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD."

Jesus tells us in Matthew 26 that His Blood is shed for many for the REMISSION of sins. This word "REMISSION" in Greek "APHESIS" means "pardoning as in letting the guilty go free as if no sin had ever been committed."

#### C. Remission of Sin Without Permission To Sin

- John 8:11 "And Jesus said to her, neither do I condemn you, go therefore AND SIN NO MORE."
- Romans 6:1 "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2. CERTAINLY NOT! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? 3. Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 6. For he who has died has been FREED FROM SIN."
- Romans 6:11 Likewise you also, CONSIDER yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, BUT ALIVE TO GOD in Christ Jesus our Lord." 14. For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under the law, BUT UNDER GRACE.

**Romans 8:15** "What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? CERTAINLY NOT!"

## III. Confirming Great Grace

1 John 5:17 "All unrighteousness is SIN, and there is SIN NOT LEADING TO DEATH. 18. We know that WHOEVER IS BORN OF GOD DOES NOT SIN; but he who has been born of God guards himself, and the wicked one does not touch him."

#### A. As we can see through these verses, it is only through FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS that a Holy God JUSTIFIES us

- Galatians 5:1,4 NLT "SO Christ has REALLY SET US FREE. Now make sure you STAY FREE, and don't get bound into slavery to the law; For if you are trying to make yourselves right with God by keeping the law, you have cut yourself off from Christ."
- Galatians 3:1 "O foolish Galatians! Who has so cunningly deceived you that you should not obey the truth, before your eyes Christ was crucified? 3. Are you so foolish? Having begun in the SPIRIT, are you now being made righteous by human effort?"
- Romans 14:23 "Anything NOT OF FAITH IN CHRIST is sin."
- 1 John 1:8 "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth in not in us. 10. If we

say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us."

**1 John 1:9** "If we confess our sins, He is faithful to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

### IV. Our Great Divine Exchange

**Romans 3:22** "Even the righteousness of God which by the faith of Jesus Christ comes upon all of that believe in Him."

# A. This is often referred to as the DIVINE EXCHANGE:

Christ Jesus was punished for our sins, so that we can receive forgiveness, He was given our shame so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2 Corinthians 5:21 "For He has made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."

#### **B.** Our Exchanged Life In Christ

Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the SON OF GOD, who loved me, and gave Himself for me. "After we repent of our sins, and believe upon Jesus Christ's completed work on the Cross, our lives are IDENTIFIED with HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS. This identification sets us free from guilt and condemnation. **Romans 8:1** "There is now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

# C. We are raised in new life, God considers us as NEW PERSONS without any past lives!

- 2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation, old things are passed away, behold all things become new."
- **1 Peter 1:23** "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of the incorruptible, by the word of God, which lives and abides forever."

# **Questions and Discussion Points**

- 1. When you make a search of your conscience do you find it dull and not quickly convicted? Have you noticed a difference in your Conscience since being Born Again?
- 2. Is your conscience based upon Biblical Righteousness? Do you renew your mind with regular Bible meditations & refer to the Ten Commandments & Christ's Commands for Moral choices?
- **3.** Do you seek the Holy Spirit's governing over your Conscience?

- **4.** Make a decision to instantly pray for direction when your conscience is convicting you.
- **5.** Ask the Lord to help you clear out your conscience of 'old cases'. As he reveals 'cases' you hold against others settle them with prayer for them. Forgiving them and asking His forgiveness for your part. If He leads then contact them and ask forgiveness. Repent of 'cases' where you gave permission to wrong doing.

#### THIS WEEK's BIBLE READING: Leviticus

Use the Bible Study tool as you read. Return your completed form for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment: