

Acts
The Gospel on the Way to Rome
Acts 23:1-25:12

[Introduction: Issue is not really whether Paul guilty of the charges, but is rather the bigger picture of how will the Jews will treat Christians]

- I. Clear Conscience, Clear Path (23:1 & 24:16; see also 19:21; 23:11; & 25:11-12)
 - “*There is no pillow so soft as a clear conscience.*” - French Proverb
 - *Conscience* = joint-knowing
 - Romans 2:14-16 (Exists in all people);
 - Hebrews 10:19-22 (Clean by/from God);
 - Job 13:23 (Dependent on God);
 - Psalm 119:165 (God’s way);
 - 1 Timothy 4:2 (Seared);
 - 2 Corinthians 1:12 (Pure, By Grace)
 - Quotes from J.I. Packer, Milton, and Christopher Ash
 - Confess to God (Psalm 32:3-5; 1 John 1:9) and others if needed (James 5:16; Romans 12:18)

- II. Keeping Alert (23:6,16-17; 24:10,25-27; 25:10)
 - Word is lamp to feet and light to path (Psalm 119)
 - Spirit guides in truth (John 14 & 16)
 - Walking by the Spirit will keep us from sinning and will produce His fruit in us (Galatians 5)

- III. Applications
 - Your conscience and your actions are connected
 - Your conscience will remain clear as you keep in step with God’s authority and God’s ways
 - Your conscience will alert you to do the right things as you keep in step with God’s authority and God’s ways
 - Your conscience will become clear as you do your part to make things right with another person

Go Forward

Know: Review the following verses:

- Clear Conscience - Romans 9:1-2; 2 Corinthians 1:12; 4:1-2; 1 Timothy 1:5; 2 Timothy 1:3-4; Hebrews 10:19-22
- Keeping Alert - Luke 12:35-40; Acts 20:29-32; 1 Corinthians 16:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; 1 Peter 5:8-11

Grow: Ask God to change your heart where needed in light of the verses you reviewed.

Show: Pray and ask God to give you one person with whom to share what you've learned from this exercise. Once you believe you know who that person is, then.....Go.....Share!

“Conscience signified a man’s knowledge of himself as standing in God’s presence (*coram Deo* in Luther’s Latin phrase), subject to God’s word and exposed to the judgment of God’s law.”

J.I. Packer, in reference to the 16th century reformers

Conscience is described as God’s “umpire” within people in Milton’s *Paradise Lost*

“[Conscience] is a self-awareness, a reflective faculty within myself that enables me to reflect upon myself. Specifically, it enables me to think about the rightness or wrongness of my words, actions and thoughts. And, because I have some sense that this awareness of right and wrong may have something to do with God, it tends to make me averse to wrong and want to do right. That is to say, it pushes or pulls my will. It is my inner voice.”

Discovering the Joy of a Clear Conscience, by Christopher Ash

When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer. I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I did not hide; I said, “ I will confess my transgressions to the Lord”; and You forgave the guilt of my sin.

Psalm 32:3-5

This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:5-9

Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed.

James 5:16

If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

Romans 12:18