

# S.O.H.L. (10/18/10)

## WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

*Pronounced "Soul"*

# Everybody Has A Conscience

**1 TIMOTHY 1:18-19 NKJV** – (18) This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, (19) having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck,

The conscience is God's early warning system for alerting us to potential danger. It monitors our emotions, thoughts life, and conduct. The way our conscience works is similar to a radar system, which notifies us of possible trouble, usually without specifically identifying the problem. The principles and standards that we hold to determine the sensitivity of our conscience, for example, if we believe lying is wrong, then an alarm will sound when we start to shade the truth. But if we think that lying is justifiable, it will be silent.

When programmed with the truth of God's Word, the conscience has great value for a Christian. It detects deviations from the Lord's standards and sends out a warning. The Holy Spirit uses that signal to get our attention. Then, He will reveal what the problem is, and give us an understanding about it, and show us the right choices to make. He will guide us to relevant Scripture verses that can shed light on our situation and point out the implications of a wrong choice.

Failure to heed to our inner alarm can bring serious consequences. Adam and Eve knew what God expected (**Gen. 2:15-17**) **however; when tempted, they ignored their conscience and sinned against Him. When your conscience sounds the alarm, do you stop and** take notice or continue on the same course? Repeatedly ignoring your internal compass can decrease its effectiveness at keeping you out of trouble. Ask God to help you program your inner alarm with His truth and sharpen your ability to hear it.

**Can We Trust Our Conscience?** - **2 Corinthians 1:12** - The conscience looks at thoughts and actions to determine if they are in line with one's principles and standards. It is important to keep our internal alarm system well maintained so it will be trustworthy. For our moral compass to sound at the right time and for the right reason, we must:

**1) Accept Scripture as our standard for behavior.** - **2 Timothy 3:16** says, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness." If we choose to adopt our culture's values, which are often at odds with the Lord's, our conscience will be unreliable. Instead, we want our radar to alert us to the possibility of going off course.

**2) Align our thinking with the Lord's.** - **Romans 12:2** says to renew our minds. It is necessary and ongoing work to combat what this unbelieving world accepts as true and right. Our alarm system should help us identify ungodly ideas.

**3) Apply God's Word to daily living.** - When our habits reflect godly values, our conscience will become more sensitive to what is right and wrong.

In addition, it is essential that we rely on the Holy Spirit for understanding. Our conscience by itself is of some value, but it becomes indispensable when accompanied by the Spirit's guidance (**John 16:13**). The Scriptures teach us how to live—in our thought life, conduct, and emotions (**Gal. 5:16-23**). As we make our standards align more closely with the Lord's, our conscience will become increasingly trustworthy because it is based on what is important to our heavenly Father.

### SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 24:6

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

A mind is a terrible thing to waste. Make that difference **now!**

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*SOHL's mission is to sow God's word into the hearts of men and women that will propel them to their God-given destiny.*

