



Sunday, October 3, 2021

Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Hebrews 9:11-14

Conscience, to a lot of people, is like the shoulder angel who tells you the right thing to do. Meanwhile, the opposite shoulder has a little devil who is trying to get you to do what you shouldn't. This image resonates with us because most of us have had this general experience. We're confronted with a certain set of circumstances and part of us knows the good thing we ought to do, but part of us wants to do the bad thing or the wrong thing, and so we have this internal struggle.

In one sense, that image can be a helpful one. It can clarify for us what is right and wrong—of which we all have at least some sense. It can help us see where our next move needs to take us. But that image doesn't account for looking back. All of us, because of our sin, have been alienated from God. We are guilty, and we know it. We know the good things we ought to have done and failed to do. We know the bad things we shouldn't have done and have done anyway. These all contribute to a disturbed conscience.

However, this disturbed conscience can only take us so far. At some point, our sin demands a reckoning. Otherwise, there would be no peace with God. But when Christ shed His own blood, He offered the necessary sacrifice that not only takes away the guilt of our sin, but very much takes away the burden on conscience as well so that we can once again live in unhindered relationship to God.

Context

The introduction of the tabernacle has moved us from the wilderness with Moses and Joshua (chs. 3-4) to the priesthood (chs. 6-8) and now into the tabernacle itself (chs. 9-10). In other words, we're moving closer to God throughout the book. May we be a people committed to living in grateful response to God's saving work by obeying His commands.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Hebrews 9:1-14

“A Clean Conscience”

The Earthly 1-10

- Special place

- Priestly work

- *Unable* to clear the conscience

The Heavenly 11-14

- Superior place

- Superior sacrifice

- *Able* to cleanse the conscience

Discuss

- 1) Pastor Don talked about the sensitive conscience (1 Cor. 8:7), the corrupt conscience (Titus 1:15), and the seared conscience (1 Tim. 4:2). How would you describe each of these? What are the similarities/differences?
- 2) What was the purpose of the earthly tabernacle for the people of Israel?
- 3) How is the place that Christ has entered superior to that earthly tabernacle?
- 4) How does Christ's work cleanse our conscience?
- 5) What practical difference does living with a clean conscience make?