

Blowing in the Wind

1. What Old Testament book speaks of life as a “chasing after the wind”?
2. Where were the disciples when they heard a noise that sounded like a mighty wind filling the house they had gathered in? Acts 2:2
3. Who had a dream of seven heads of grain being scorched by a hot east wind? Genesis 41:6
4. What loathsome creatures did God drive into Egypt with an east wind? Exodus 10:13
5. What prophet was told to cut off his hair and scatter a third of it in the wind?
6. How long did the wind that parted the Red Sea blow? Exodus 14:21
7. According to James, what sort of person is like a wave tossed by the wind? James 1:6
8. What prophet experienced a furious wind that split the hills and shattered the rocks? 1 Kings 19:11
9. What children were destroyed when a strong wind struck the house they were banqueting in?
10. According to the book of Job, what directional wind will inevitably strike down the wicked? Job 27:21

Answers: 1. Ecclesiastes (chapter 1 & 2); 2. Jerusalem; 3. Pharaoh; 4. Locusts; 5. Ezekiel (5:2); 6. All night; 7. A doubter; 8. Elijah; 9. Job’s (Job 1:19); 10. East

The Sick:

Burton Brown, Bettye’s brother, had a recent brain scan which shows the cancer has spread to his brain stem. He is receiving hospice care.


Susie Kaiser is recovering from pneumonia. She is also suffering with chronic back pain and knee pain.

Mildred Gammill is recovering from surgery and also being treated for acid reflux.

Continue to remember those who are recovering from surgery & illness and who struggle with physical infirmity, including: **Xenna Gooch, Katherine See, Ronald Miller**, Larry’s father, **James Tanksley, Pansy Hensley** and **Lucille Hall**, Ethel Wohlrabe’s mother.

News & Notes: **Group 2** will meet today in the Library after the morning service.

ELDERS: Doug Driver
Johnny Felker
DEACONS: Ralph Brown
Mark Claypool



Service Times

SUNDAY
Bible Study—9:00 am
Worship—9:55 am & 6:00 pm

WEDNESDAY
Bible Study 7:00 pm

Perry Heights Weekly Bulletin

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“...let us consider how we may encourage one another”
Heb. 10:24

September 27, 2009

The Value of a Clean Conscience

“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was turned into the drought of summer” (Psalm 32:1-4).

The Indians applied the principle of “moisture turning into the drought of summer” in detecting the guilty person among their tribesmen. When a crime was committed, they would line up all the suspects and would heat a knife in the fire. Each suspect was told to stick out his tongue, and the flat side of the knife was touched to the tongue for an instant. If the Indian was innocent, the hot knife would not burn him because his tongue would be moist. But if he was guilty, the knife would burn his tongue. The principle was that a guilty person’s mouth becomes dry because of his nervous state; therefore, the heat against a dry tongue would burn it. Truly, there is value in having a clean conscience.

The word “conscience” literally means “a knowing with”. W. E. Vine adds to that definition: “the witness borne to one’s conduct by conscience, that faculty by which we apprehend the will of God as that which is designed to govern our lives; hence (a) the sense of guiltiness before God; (b) that process of thought which distinguishes what it considers morally good or bad, commending the good, condemning the bad, and so prompting to do the former, and avoid the latter.”

The conscience is defiled because of sin. Everyone who has committed a deed contrary to the training of his conscience has experienced the feeling of a guilty conscience. But if one stays in his guilt - not repenting and seeking forgiveness - it will become more and more difficult for him to escape, and his conscience becomes less and less sensitive to sin (see 1 Timothy 4:2). The “*defiled conscience*” becomes more than a condition. It becomes the nature of that person (Titus 1:15).

The conscience must be cleansed. God knows that about us, and He has made it possible through the blood of Jesus (Hebrews 9:13-14). His blood can be applied to our sins as we obey Him in baptism (1 Peter 3:21); or when we as Christians repent, pray (Acts 8:22-23),

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Preacher's Pen points

Taming the Storms of Life (Guilt)



Manifestations of the Storm

- Lingering _____ about sins of the past
- Unanswered _____ about whether these sins are forgivable
- Lingering _____ about one's relationship with the Lord
- Continued _____ about one's eternal hope
- Participation in wrong _____ precipitated by the guilt

Managing the Storm

Earnestly determine God's _____ about your conduct.

So then do not be foolish, but _____ what the will of the Lord is. (Eph. 5:17)

Appreciate God's ability to _____.

And yet for this reason I found mercy, in order that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience, as an _____ for those who would _____ in Him for eternal life. (1 Tim. 1:15-16)

Honestly _____ of and _____ past mistakes.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to _____ us our sins and to _____ us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

_____ the voices of non-forgiveness.

For judgment will be _____ to one who has shown no _____; mercy triumphs over judgment. (Js. 2:13)

Forgive _____.

But by the _____ of God I am what I am...(1 Cor. 15:10)

Conclusion: When we accept God's forgiveness of our sins, a wonderful thing happens. The peace of Christ comes to our lives. Let him speak His peace into your heart and calm the storm of guilt.

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and confess our sins (1 John 1: 8-10). When we are honest with ourselves and with God, He is ready to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

There are several benefits in having a clean conscience. First of all, a sensitive conscience is a mark of a mature Christian (Hebrews 5:13-14). *"For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."*

Secondly, a clean conscience gives confidence to teach others. The converse is also true. If one knows he is guilty of some sin, but has failed to correct it and obtain forgiveness, talking to others about their need for Christ is about the last thing he feels comfortable doing. But one who has experienced the joy of being forgiven will have the confidence to try to help others with the gospel (see 1 Peter 3:14-16).

Another benefit of a clean conscience is the power to overcome temptations. You see, once you have been through the misery of guilt and have come out of that, you are in no hurry to go back. Using that as a motivation, you are well equipped to overcome temptations.

Then, finally, a value of having your conscience clean is the ability to build the right kind of friendships. The most basic quality needed for friendships is sincere humility. This is the one quality which is sure to result from gaining a clear conscience. Jesus says in Matthew 5:23-24, *"Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."* It takes humility to admit our own mistakes without also placing at least 50% of the blame on the other person. Instead, one who has had his conscience cleansed from sin has come to understand that it is only through this humility and honest admission of guilt that the guilt is lifted from the conscience. Therefore, it is to your advantage both with God and your friend just to go ahead and admit your mistakes and ask for forgiveness. *"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper, but who confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy"* (Proverbs 26:13).

-Dan Binkley, *Christianity Magazine*

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:19