

Liberty of Conscience

Till Plains 11/27/2021

Text: Acts 24:16 This *being* so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.

Join us tomorrow on Zoom for Sermon Essentials to dive deeper into today's message. You can use the link <https://zoom.us/j/285038684> or call 312.626.6799 and enter the ID 285 038 684 to be part of the discussion.

Read Ellen White's, *The Great Controversy*, chapters 35-37 for a deeper understanding of today's message.

The Gift of Free Will

1. What is the meaning of the Greek word *suneidesis* [συνείδησις]?

Reference verses: Joshua 24:15; 1 Corinthians 10:29-30; 1 Timothy 4:1-5

2. Why is free will or liberty of conscience a key foundational element of God's creative order?

Fear and Coercion

Reference verses: Revelation 13; Daniel 3

3. What does Satan's government use in getting his people to follow and obey him?

"And then the great deceiver will persuade men that those who serve God are causing these evils. The class that have provoked the displeasure of Heaven will charge all their troubles upon those whose obedience to God's commandments is a perpetual reproof to transgressors. It will be declared that men are offending God by the violation of the Sunday sabbath; that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease until Sunday observance shall be strictly enforced; and that those who present the claims of the fourth commandment, thus destroying reverence for Sunday, are troublers of the people, preventing their restoration to divine favor and temporal prosperity." – Ellen White, *The Great Controversy*, 590

“Their conscientious scruples will be pronounced obstinacy, stubbornness, and contempt of authority. They will be accused of disaffection toward the government. Ministers who deny the obligation of the divine law will present from the pulpit the duty of yielding obedience to the civil authorities as ordained of God.” – Ellen White, *The Great Controversy*, 592

“Political corruption is destroying love of justice and regard for truth; and even in free America, rulers and legislators, in order to secure public favor, will yield to the popular demand for a law enforcing Sunday observance. Liberty of conscience, which has cost so great a sacrifice, will no longer be respected. In the soon-coming conflict we shall see exemplified the prophet’s words: ‘The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.’ Revelation 12:17.” – Ellen White, *The Great Controversy*, 592

4. What are some of the other ways “cause” is translated in Revelation 13:12, 15-16?

Reference verses: 1 John 4:7-21

5. How does the foundation of God’s kingdom contradict that of Satan’s?

“God never forces the will or the conscience; but Satan’s constant resort—to gain control of those whom he cannot otherwise seduce—is compulsion by cruelty. Through fear or force he endeavors to rule the conscience and to secure homage to himself. To accomplish this, he works through both religious and secular authorities, moving them to the enforcement of human laws in defiance of the law of God.” – Ellen White, *The Great Controversy*, 591

Safety in the Word

Reference verses: John 14:26; Psalm 119:9, 11, 16; Matthew 10:17-20

6. Why is the Word of God the only place of sure safety at any time in earth’s history?

“We need to humble ourselves before the Lord, with fasting and prayer, and to meditate much upon His word, especially upon the scenes of the judgment. We should now seek a deep and living experience in the things of God. We have not a moment to lose. Events of vital importance are taking place around us; we are on Satan’s enchanted ground.” – Ellen White, *The Great Controversy*, 601