

SERIES: II CORINTHIANS: THE HEART AND HUMILITY OF A  
MAN OF GOD, WEEK 4

TITLE: A CLEAR CONSCIENCE

TEXT: II CORINTHIANS 1:12-14

INTRODUCTION: (1) JOHN MACARTHUR IN HIS COMMENTARY ON II CORINTHIANS TELLS OF A CHILLING TRUE STORY THAT ILLUSTRATES THE TRUTH THAT OUR CONSCIENCE IS A WARNING SYSTEM THAT SHOULD NOT BE IGNORED:

\* ON THE NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 27, 1983, AVIANCA FLIGHT 011, EN ROUTE FROM PARIS TO BOGOTA VIA MADRID, APPROACHED MADRID'S BARAJAS AIRPORT. THE WEATHER WAS GOOD, AND THERE WERE NO MECHANICAL PROBLEMS WITH THE 747 JET. THE CREW WAS EXPERIENCED; THE PILOT HAD MORE THAN 20,000 HOURS OF FLYING TIME AND HAD MADE THIS SAME APPROACH TWENTY-FIVE TIMES BEFORE.

\*\* YET, WITH ITS FLAPS EXTENDED AND ITS LANDING GEAR DOWN, THE JUMBO JET SMASHED INTO A SERIES OF LOW HILLS ABOUT SEVEN MILES SHORT OF THE

RUNWAY. THE PLAN CARTWHEELED, BROKE INTO PIECES, AND CAME TO REST UPSIDE DOWN. TRAGICALLY, 181 OF THE 192 PEOPLE ON BOARD LOST THEIR LIVES.

\*\*\* INVESTIGATORS DETERMINED THAT A SERIES OF ERRORS BY THE CREW CAUSED THE CRASH. THE CREW MISUNDERSTOOD THE REALITY OF THEIR LOCATION. THEY THOUGHT THEY KNEW THE TRUTH ABOUT THE PLANE'S POSITION, BUT THEY DID NOT.

\*\*\*\* SHOCKINGLY, THE FINAL AND FATAL ERROR CAME WHEN THE PILOT, SO SURE HE KNEW WHERE HE WAS HEADING, IGNORED THE COMPUTERIZED VOICE OF THE PLANE'S GPWS (GROUND PROXIMITY WARNING SYSTEM), WHICH REPEATEDLY WARNED HIM, "PULL UP! PULL UP! PULL UP!" THE COCKPIT RECORDER HAD HIS STRANGE REPLY TO THE WARNING. HE SAID, "SHUT UP, GRINGO" AND SWITCHED OFF THE WARNING DEVICE. THE NEXT MOMENT, HE WAS DEAD WITH THE REST OF THE VICTIMS.

(2) NOW MACARTHUR WENT ON TO SAY AND I QUOTE: "THAT TRAGIC STORY IS A COMPELLING ILLUSTRATION OF THE WAY PEOPLE OFTEN IGNORE THE TRUTH OF THEIR LIFE'S DIRECTION AND THE WARNING MESSAGES FROM THEIR CONSCIENCES. THE CONSCIENCE IS A WARNING SYSTEM PLACED BY GOD INTO THE VERY FRAMEWORK

OF THE HUMAN SOUL. LIKE PHYSICAL PAIN, WHICH WARNS OF DAMAGE TO THE BODY, THE CONSCIENCE WARNS OF DAMAGE TO THE SOUL. IT REACTS TO THE PROXIMITY OF SIN, WARNING THE SOUL TO “PULL UP!” BEFORE IT SUFFERS THE TERRIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN.”

\* JOHN WENT ON TO SAY: “BUT TODAY’S CULTURE AGGRESSIVELY AND SYSTEMATICALLY TRIES TO SILENCE THE CONSCIENCE. PEOPLE HAVE BEEN TAUGHT TO IGNORE ANY AND ALL GUILT FEELINGS CONSCIENCE PRODUCES, VIEWING THEM AS HARMFUL TO THEIR SELF-ESTEEM. THEY BELIEVE THEIR PROBLEMS STEM NOT FROM THEIR SIN BUT FROM EXTERNAL FACTORS BEYOND THEIR CONTROL. SIN AND GUILT ARE VIEWED AS PSYCHOLOGICAL ISSUES, NOT MORAL AND SPIRITUAL ONES. THUS, PEOPLE IMAGINE THAT THEIR GUILT FEELINGS ARE ERRONEOUS AND HARMFUL ATTACKS ON THEIR SELF-ESTEEM. BUT THE VOICE OF CONSCIENCE CANNOT BE SAFELY REJECTED; THOSE WHO ATTEMPT TO DO SO FACE SPIRITUAL RUIN.” (CF. I TIMOTHY 1:19; 4:2; TITUS 1:15). (END QUOTE)

\*\* NOW MACARTHUR HERE AT THE END MADE REFERENCE TO 3 SCRIPTURES THAT COMMUNICATE SPIRITUAL RUIN IF WE DON’T MAINTAIN A GOOD CONSCIENCE.

**\*\*\* THE FIRST ONE IS I TIMOTHY 1:19 WHICH SAYS:  
“KEEPING FAITH AND A GOOD CONSCIENCE, WHICH  
SOME HAVE REJECTED AND SUFFERED SHIPWRECK IN  
REGARD TO THEIR FAITH.”**

**\*\*\*THE 2'D SCRIPTURE IS I TIMOTHY 4:2 WHICH SAYS:  
(QUOTE IT).**

**\*\*\*\* AND THEN THE THIRD SCRIPTURE IS TITUS 1:15  
WHICH SAYS: “TO THE PURE, ALL THINGS ARE PURE;  
BUT TO THOSE WHO ARE DEFILED AND UNBELIEVING,  
NOTHING IS PURE, BUT BOTH THEIR MIND AND THEIR  
CONSCIENCE ARE DEFILED.”**

**(3) NOW, CLEARLY FROM SCRIPTURE HAVING A GOOD  
CONSCIENCE, A CLEAR CONSCIENCE, ONE THAT IS NOT  
DEFILED IS ESSENTIAL FOR A MAN OR WOMAN OF GOD.**

**\* AND TO VIOLATE OR REJECT THE VOICE OF  
CONSCIENCE IS TO OPEN THE DOOR TO SPIRITUAL  
DISEASE AND SPIRITUAL INSENSITIVITY. TRULY  
CONSCIENCE IS THE SOUL'S EARLY WARNING SYSTEM.**

**\*\* NOW WITH THAT SAID, THE APOSTLE PAUL HAD A  
CLEAR CONSCIENCE, IT WAS A SPIRITUAL PRIORITY FOR  
HIM TO HAVE A GOOD CONSCIENCE THAT WAS NOT  
DEFILED.**

**\*\*\* AND PAUL TALKS ABOUT THE CONSCIENCE MORE THAN THE REST OF THE N.T. BOOKS COMBINED.**

**\*\*\*\* AND BY GOD'S GRACE HE WILL TELL THE CORINTHIANS IN OUR TEXT TODAY THAT IN HIS DEALINGS WITH THEM HE IS CONFIDENT THAT HE HAS A CLEAR CONSCIENCE THAT HIS CONSCIENCE IS CLEAR CONCERNING HIS BEHAVIOR TOWARD THEM.**

**(4) AND IN PROVING HIS INTEGRITY, PAUL'S CLEAR AND GOOD CONSCIENCE WAS A SOURCE OF PEACE AND JOY TO HIM.**

**\* AND THOUGH FALSE TEACHERS, FALSE APOSTLES WERE ATTACKING HIM ON DIFFERENT LEVELS, HE HAD A CLEAR CONSCIENCE THAT WHAT THEY WERE SAYING WAS NOT TRUE.**

**\*\* PAUL'S CONSCIENCE DID NOT ACCUSE HIM, IT ACTUALLY CLEARED HIM OF THEIR CHARGES AND PROTECTED HIM FROM FALSE GUILT AND DISCOURAGEMENT.**

**\*\*\* NOW WHAT WERE THE CHARGES AGAINST PAUL BY THESE FALSE APOSTLES?**

**\*\*\*\* WELL IT APPEARS WITH AN OVERVIEW OF II CORINTHIANS THERE WERE BASICALLY 3.**

**(5) NO. 1 BECAUSE OF PAUL'S MANY SUFFERINGS AND TRIALS, HE CERTAINLY COULD NOT BE AN APOSTLE AND HAVE THE BLESSINGS OF GOD ON HIS LIFE. THERE HAD TO BE SIN HE WAS BEING CHASTISED FOR, MUCH LIKE THE ASSUMPTION OF JOB'S FRIENDS.**

**\* NO. 2 HE WAS NOT A MAN OF HIS WORD AND A MAN OF INTEGRITY THAT HE WAS NOT WHAT HE APPEARED TO BE ON THE SURFACE.**

**\*\* AND NO. 3 THAT PAUL MISREPRESENTED GOD'S WORD AND THAT HE WAS A FALSE TEACHER.**

**\*\*\* NOW WITH THOSE ACCUSATIONS BEFORE US, STARTING TODAY IN OUR TEXT AND CONTINUING INTO OUR STUDY, LORD WILLING, NEXT WEEK, PAUL APPEALS TO THE SUPREME HUMAN COURT, HIS CLEAR CONSCIENCE TO OVERTURN THE FALSE ACCUSATIONS OF SATAN'S MESSENGERS, THE FALSE APOSTLES.**

**\*\*\*\* THEREFORE I'VE TITLED OUR STUDY TODAY: "A CLEAR CONSCIENCE" AS WE WORK OUR WAY THROUGH II CORINTHIANS 1:12-14.**

**(6) AND WE'LL LOOK AT 4 MAIN POINTS IN WORKING THROUGH THIS PASSAGE. NO. 1 PAUL'S CONSCIENCE, V.**

**12A; NO. 2 PAUL'S CONDUCT, V. 12B; NO. 3 PAUL'S CONSISTENCY, V. 13; AND NO. 4 PAUL'S CONCERN, V. 14.**

**\* AND WITH THAT OUTLINE AS OUR MAP TO FOLLOW, LOOK AT V. 12A PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR FIRST POINT TODAY, PAUL'S CONSCIENCE.**

**I. PAUL'S CONSCIENCE, (READ V. 12A)**

**A. NOW IN THE FIRST FEW WORDS OF V. 12 AND IN THE LAST FEW WORDS OF V. 14, IT MAY APPEAR THAT PAUL IS BRAGGING, THAT HE IS BOASTING IN HIMSELF, THAT HE IS PROUD, NOT HUMBLE.**

**\* FOR IN HIS OPENING WORDS HE SAYS: "FOR OUR PROUD CONFIDENCE IS THIS" IN THE NAS, THE NIV SAYS "NOW THIS IS OUR BOAST," THE ESV SAYS "FOR OUR BOAST IS THIS," THE NKJV SAYS "FOR OUR BOASTING IS THIS," AND THE OLD KJV SAYS "FOR OUR REJOICING IS THIS."**

**\*\* NOW WE KNOW FROM PAUL'S INSPIRED WRITINGS, HE ABHORRED PERSONAL BOASTING, BLOWING HIS OWN HORN.**

**\*\*\* FOR HE SAID IN I CORINTHIANS 1:29 (QUOTE IT). ALSO QUOTE I CORINTHIANS 1:31, I CORINTHIANS 15:10 AND II CORINTHIANS 4:5.**

**\*\*\*\* NOW PAUL WOULD BOAST IN HIS WEAKNESSES, YES, BUT BOTTOM LINE HE SAW HIMSELF AS A SLAVE OF CHRIST, AS A CLAY POT, AS AN UNDER ROWER, A THIRD LEVEL GALLEY SLAVE IN I CORINTHIANS 4:1 (QUOTE IT).**

**1. NOW WITH THAT TRUTH BEFORE US, AS WE GO BACK TO II CORINTHIANS 1:12, IF PAUL IS NOT BRAGGING, THEN WHAT IS HE DOING?**

**\* WELL, PAUL'S BOAST DENOTES A LEGITIMATE CONFIDENCE BASED UPON WHAT GOD HAS DONE AND ENABLED ONE TO DO. IT IS A CONFIDENCE IN WHAT GOD IS DOING IN ONE'S LIFE.**

**\*\* PAUL'S BOAST IS THAT GOD ENABLED HIM TO LIVE AN EXEMPLARY LIFE BY HIS GRACE, WE WILL SEE LATER IN V. 12 PAUL'S CONFIDENCE WAS IN THE LORD, HIS GLORYING WAS IN THE LORD, WHICH WOULD BRING GLORY TO THE LORD RATHER THAN SELF.**

**\*\*\* SO PAUL'S BOAST WAS THAT GOD GAVE HIM A CLEAR CONSCIENCE, "THE TESTIMONY OF OUR CONSCIENCE" IS THE PHRASE HERE IN V. 12.**



**\*\*\*\* AND THE PLURAL PRONOUN “OUR” HERE IS PROBABLY MAKING REFERENCE TO TIMOTHY AND PAUL. AND THESE FAITHFUL MEN COULD GLORY AS THEY DID BECAUSE THEIR CONSCIENCE TESTIFIED THAT THE LORD HAD APPROVED THEIR CONDUCT.**

**2. THEIR CLEAR CONSCIENCE WAS A SOURCE OF PEACE, COMFORT AND JOY. AND EVEN THOUGH FALSE APOSTLES WERE WRONGLY ACCUSING PAUL, PAUL WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE LORD GAVE HIM A CLEAR CONSCIENCE. BECAUSE OF THAT PAUL’S CONSCIENCE DID NOT ACCUSE HIM, IT EXONERATED HIM OF THE FALSE APOSTLE’S CHARGES AND PROTECTED HIM FROM FALSE GUILT. AND PAUL GLORIED IN THAT BY GOD’S GRACE.**

**\* NOW WHAT IS THE CONSCIENCE? WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT HERE?**

**\*\* WELL, FOR PAUL, CONSCIENCE MEANT THE FACULTY THAT GIVES A PERSON “THE SENSE OF MORAL JUDGMENT,” A PERSON’S CONSCIENCE IS EITHER CLEAR OR GUILTY AND THUS, CAN EITHER ACQUIT OR CONDEMN.**

**\*\*\* THE CONSCIENCE IS THE SOUL REFLECTING ON ITSELF, FOR THE GREEK WORD FOR CONSCIENCE IS A COMBINATION OF TWO WORDS THAT MEANS “WITH” AND “TO KNOW.” PUT TOGETHER IT LIT. MEANS “TO KNOW WITH.”**

**\*\*\*\* AND GOD HAS PLACED SOMETHING WITHIN US AS HUMAN BEINGS THAT CARRIES THE IDEA OF KNOWING ONESELF. SOMETHING THAT DISTINGUISHES BETWEEN GOOD AND BAD, PROMPTING US TO DO WHAT IS MORALLY GOOD AND TO SHOW WHAT IS MORALLY BAD.**

**3. THE CONSCIENCE EITHER AFFIRMS RIGHT BEHAVIOR OR CONDEMNS SINFUL BEHAVIOR.**

**\* AND THE CONSCIENCE FUNCTIONS LIKE A WINDOW THAT LETS LIGHT IN, IT FUNCTIONS LIKE A SKYLIGHT, NOT LIKE A LAMP, FOR THE CONSCIENCE DOES NOT PRODUCT IT'S OWN LIGHT, BUT LETS MORE LIGHT IN. AND WHEN WE HAVE A CLEAR OR A GOOD CONSCIENCE AS A BELIEVER, THE LIGHT OF GOD'S WORD SHINES INSIDE OF US TO HELP COMMEND AND CONDEMN.**

**\*\* HOWEVER, THE CONSCIENCE IS NOT INFALLIBLE LIKE THE WORD OF GOD. IT IS NOT THE VOICE OF GOD'S SPIRIT, NOR IS IT THE MORAL LAW OF GOD.**

**\*\*\* AND A MAN NAMED COLIN G. KRUSE DOES AN EXCEPTIONAL JOB OF EXPLAINING THIS, WHO HAS A COMMENTARY ON II CORINTHIANS. HE SAID AND I QUOTE:**

**\*\*\*\* “THE CONSCIENCE IS NOT TO BE EQUATED WITH THE VOICE OF GOD OR EVEN THE MORAL LAW, RATHER IT IS A HUMAN FACULTY WHICH ADJUDICATES UPON HUMAN ACTION BY THE LIGHT OF THE HIGHEST STANDARD A PERSON PERCEIVES.”**

**4. “SEEING THAT ALL OF HUMAN NATURE HAS BEEN AFFECTED BY SIN, BOTH A PERSON’S PERCEPTION OF THE STANDARD OF ACTION REQUIRED AND THE FUNCTION OF THE CONSCIENCE ITSELF (AS A CONSTITUENT PART OF HUMAN NATURE) ARE ALSO AFFECTED BY SIN.”**

**\* “FOR THIS REASON CONSCIENCE CAN NEVER BE ACCORDED THE POSITION OF ULTIMATE JUDGE OF ONE’S BEHAVIOR. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE CONSCIENCE MAY EXCUSE ONE FOR THAT WHICH GOD WILL NOT EXCUSE, AND CONVERSELY IT IS EQUALLY POSSIBLE THAT CONSCIENCE MAY CONDEMN A PERSON FOR THAT WHICH GOD ALLOWS. THE FINAL JUDGMENT THEREFORE BELONGS ONLY TO GOD (CF. I CORINTHIANS 4:2-5).”**

**\*\* “NEVERTHELESS, TO REJECT THE VOICE OF CONSCIENCE IS TO COURT SPIRITUAL DISASTER (CF I TIMOTHY 1:19). WE CANNOT REJECT THE VOICE OF CONSCIENCE WITH IMPUNITY, BUT WE CAN MODIFY THE HIGHEST STANDARD TO WHICH IT RELATES BY GAINING FOR OURSELVES A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE TRUTH.” (END QUOTE)**

**\*\*\* NOW SINCE CONSCIENCE IS FALLIBLE, WE MUST ULTIMATELY SUBMIT TO THE INFALLIBLE, THE WORD OF GOD. FOR THE LIGHT OF THE WORD MUST SHINE BRIGHTLY IN OUR CONSCIENCE SO THAT WE HAVE A GOOD OR CLEAR CONSCIENCE.**

**\*\*\*\* AND PAUL HAD THAT KIND OF CONSCIENCE, AND IT WAS CLEAR CONCERNING THE ACCUSATIONS OF THE FALSE APOSTLES AND PAUL GLORIED OR HAD CONFIDENCE IN THAT IN THE LORD BY HIS GRACE.**

**5. FOR AS WE MOVE ON IN V. 12, PAUL’S CONDUCT VERIFIED AND COMMUNICATED A CLEAR CONSCIENCE, ONE THAT WAS VOID OF OFFENCE. SO LOOK BACK AT V. 12 PLEASE, WHERE WE’LL SEE OUR 2’D POINT TODAY, PAUL’S CONDUCT.**

## **II. PAUL'S CONDUCT, (READ V. 12B)**

**A. NOW PAUL'S CONDUCT IN THE YEAR AND A HALF THAT HE SPENT AT CORINTH WAS ABOVE REPROACH, HE WAS A MAN OF INTEGRITY.**

**\* AND HIS CONSCIENCE AFFIRMED THAT HIS CONDUCT HAD BEEN IN HOLINESS AND GODLY SINCERITY.**

**\*\* PAUL LIVED A LIFE OF HOLINESS IN FRONT OF THE CORINTHIANS AND HE LIVED IN GODLY SINCERITY IN FRONT OF THEM AND WHEREVER HE WAS AT IN THE WORLD.**

**\*\*\* AND NOTE HERE BEYOND THE WORD HOLINESS, THE TWO WORDS GODLY SINCERITY ARE IMPORTANT.**

**\*\*\*\* FOR THE WORD SINCERITY IS A GREEK COMPOUND WORD, THE FIRST WORD MEANING SUNLIGHT AND THE 2<sup>D</sup> WORD MEANING TO JUDGE.**

**1. AND PUT TOGETHER, THESE WORDS PICTURE SOMETHING HELD UP TO THE LIGHT FOR INSPECTION.**

**\* AND IN THE FIRST CENTURY, DECEITFUL POTTERS WOULD FILL THE CRACKS IN THEIR POTS WITH WAX BEFORE SELLING THEM.**

**\*\* SO KNOWING THIS, CAREFUL BUYERS OF POTS WOULD HOLD THEM UP TO THE LIGHT OF THE SUN BY WHICH WAX FILLED CRACKS WOULD BE EXPOSED.**

**\*\*\* WELL, AS YOU HELD UP PAUL'S LIFE TO THE S.O.N. SON, HE WAS ABOVE REPROACH, NOT PERFECT, YES, BUT ABOVE REPROACH, NOTHING YOU COULD POINT THE FINGER AT.**

**\*\*\*\* AND PAUL COMMUNICATES GODLY SINCERITY HERE AND HIS FOCUS WAS ON THE LORD, AND HE LIVED IN A GOD-LIKE SINCERE WAY. PAUL WAS A MAN OF INTEGRITY.**

**2. BUT UNDERSTAND PAUL'S CONDUCT OF HOLINESS AND GODLY SINCERITY WERE NOT PULLED OFF WITH FLESHLY WISDOM, BUT BY GOD'S GRACE.**

**\* IT WAS THE POWER OF GOD WORKING THROUGH HIM THROUGH GOD'S STRENGTHENING GRACE THAT ENABLED HIM TO BE HOLY AND ABOVE REPROACH, NOT THROUGH MAN'S WISDOMS, THE ARM OF THE FLESH. IT WASN'T THROUGH MAN-MADE RELIGIOUS TECHNIQUES, RITUALS OR PRACTICES, BUT BY GOD'S STRENGTHENING GRACE RESULTING FROM GOD'S SAVING GRACE.**

**\*\* BELOVED, PAUL HAD NOTHING TO HIDE. HIS CONDUCT WAS GODLY.**

**\*\*\* AND A GODLY LIFE, GODLY CONDUCT BRINGS ABOUT A CONSISTENCY OF LIFE THAT NO ONE CAN POINT THE FINGER AT, WHICH LEADS US TO OUR THIRD POINT TODAY, PAUL'S CONSISTENCY. LOOK AT V. 13 PLEASE.**

**III. PAUL'S CONSISTENCY, (READ V. 13)**

**A. NOW WHAT PAUL WROTE IN HIS LETTERS TO THE CORINTHIANS WAS STRAIGHT FORWARD, GENUINE, CONSISTENT, CLEAR, TRANSPARENT AND WITHOUT AMBIGUITY.**

**\* THERE WAS NO HIDDEN MEANINGS, NO HIDDEN AGENDA IN WHAT HE WROTE TO THEM. THERE WAS NO DECEPTION, PAUL MEANT WHAT HE WROTE AND WROTE WHAT HE MEANT.**

**\*\* THERE WERE NO LIES, NO DOUBLE MEANINGS, NO HIDDEN MESSAGES.**

**\*\*\* THUS HE WROTE AT THE BEGINNING OF V. 13, "FOR WE WRITE NOTHING ELSE TO YOU THAN WHAT YOU READ AND UNDERSTAND."**

**\*\*\*\* AND THAT MEANS THOSE READING HIS LETTERS COULD TAKE HIS WORDS AT FACE VALUE, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO READ BETWEEN THE LINES, HE MEANT WHAT**

**HE SAID. THE MEANING IS ON THE SURFACE, SIMPLE AND OBVIOUS.**

**1. AND THEN HE CLOSES V. 13 WITH THE WORDS: “AND I HOPE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND UNTIL THE END.”**

**\* AND THE PHRASE “UNTIL THE END” LIT. MEANS FULLY, COMPLETELY.**

**\*\* AND BELOVED PAUL’S HOPE WAS THAT THE CORINTHIANS WOULD COME TO UNDERSTAND HIM FULLY, NOT PARTIALLY, THAT THEY WOULD UNDERSTAND HIM FULLY, COMPLETELY.**

**\*\*\* PAUL’S HEART WAS HE WOULD NO LONGER BE MISUNDERSTOOD BY SOME OF THEM INFLUENCED BY FALSE APOSTLES. HE WANTED THEM TO SEE HIS SINCERITY, HIS HOLINESS BY GOD’S GRACE. IT WAS AND IS DIFFICULT TO BE MISUNDERSTOOD WHEN YOU ARE SINCERELY SERVING THE LORD.**

**\*\*\*\* BUT REMEMBER, WHAT GOT PAUL THROUGH ALL THIS WAS HIS GOOD AND CLEAR CONSCIENCE AS HE WAS BEING ATTACKED, LIED ABOUT AND MISUNDERSTOOD.**

**2. AND PAUL IN HIS LOVE FOR THE CORINTHIANS DID HAVE THIS CONCERN, FOR THEY DID NOT FULLY**



**UNDERSTAND PAUL. LOOK AT V. 14 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR LAST POINT TODAY, PAUL'S CONCERN.**

**IV. PAUL'S CONCERN, (READ V. 14)**

**A. NOW PAUL'S CONCERN WAS THAT HE WANTED THE CORINTHIANS TO UNDERSTAND HIM COMPLETELY, NOT JUST PARTIALLY AS THEY DID, AS HE ACKNOWLEDGES HERE AT THE BEGINNING OF V. 14.**

**\* BELOVED, HE WANTED THE CORINTHIANS TO GAIN AN EVER-DEEPENING UNDERSTANDING OF HIMSELF AND HIS MOTIVES WITH THE RESULT THAT THEY WOULD TRUST PAUL AND NOT BE SWAYED BY DECEPTION AND LIES OF FALSE APOSTLES WHO WERE QUESTIONING HIS APOSTLESHIP AND CREDIBILITY.**

**\*\* AND PAUL'S HOPE IS THAT WHEN THEY FULLY UNDERSTAND HIS SINCERITY, INTEGRITY AND HOLINESS, THAT THEY IN A GODLY WAY WILL BE PROUD OF PAUL, WILL BOAST TO GOD'S GLORY THAT HE IS A TRUE APOSTLE USED BY GOD IN HIS SOVEREIGNTY AND PROVIDENCE TO SAVE THEM.**

**\*\*\* AND IF PAUL SEES THEM UNDERSTAND THIS IT WILL SHOW THAT THEY ARE LEGITIMATE CHILDREN OF THE LORD AND WHAT JOY THAT WILL BRING AS THEY STAND BEFORE THE LORD ONE DAY.**

**\*\*\*\* TO SAY IT ANOTHER WAY, PAUL BELIEVES THAT IF THE TRUTH OF WHAT HE SAYS IS FULLY UNDERSTOOD IT WILL EVENTUATE IN THEIR MUTUAL BOASTING IN EACH OTHER IN THE DAY THEY STAND BEFORE CHRIST.**

**1. FOR THEY WILL BOAST BY GOD'S GRACE OF PAUL BEING A SLAVE USED BY THE LORD TO SAVE AND EQUIP THEM AND PAUL WILL BOAST IN GOD'S GRACE IN SAVING THEM AND BEING USED BY GOD THROUGH HIS LIFE, AGAIN BY GOD'S GRACE.**

**\* FOR WHEN PAUL LOOKED FORWARD TO THE END – THE DAY OF OUR LORD JESUS, WHEN BELIEVERS ARE GLORIFIED AND STAND AT THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST AT THE BEMA AND ARE JUDGED AND REWARDED AT THIS HONOR STAND, AND PAUL SEES THE FACES OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN SAVED BY GRACE, WITH PAUL BEING A BLESSED PART IN THAT PLAN, THESE BELIEVERS WILL BE PAUL'S JOY AND CROWN AND THEY IN TURN WILL REJOICE THAT HE HAD BEEN GOD'S INSTRUMENT IN GOD'S SOVEREIGN PLAN OF SAVING THEM.**

**\*\* AS PAUL SAID IN PHILIPPIANS 2:16 – “HOLDING FAST THE WORD OF LIFE, SO THAT IN THE DAY OF CHRIST I WILL HAVE REASON TO GLORY BECAUSE I DID NOT RUN IN VAIN NOR TOIL IN VAIN.”**

**\*\*\* AND THEN PAUL SAID IN I THESSALONIANS 2:19 TO THE CHURCH, THE BELIEVERS AT THESSALONICA – “FOR WHO IS OUR HOPE OR JOY OR CROWN OF EXULTATION? IS IT NOT EVEN YOU, IN THE PRESENCE OF OUR LORD JESUS AT HIS COMING?”**

**\*\*\*\* BELOVED THE CONCERN OF PAUL IS THAT HE WOULD NOT BE MISUNDERSTOOD, FOR TO BE MISUNDERSTOOD WOULD AFFECT THE GLORY OF CHRIST ULTIMATELY.**

**IN WRAP UP AND IN APPLICATION: (1) PAUL HAD A CLEAR CONSCIENCE AND IT VERIFIED HE HAD NOT PERVERTED GOD’S TRUTH, SO HE WOULD ONE DAY STAND BEFORE HIS LORD WITH JOY.**

**\* AND HAVING A CLEAR CONSCIENCE IS VERY VERY IMPORTANT IN THE WALK OF A BELIEVER, FOR I TIMOTHY 1:5 SAYS: (QUOTE IT) ALSO QUOTE I PETER 3:16 AND ACTS 24:16.**

**\*\* NOW THE CLOSING QUESTION IS, HOW CAN WE HAVE A CLEAR CONSCIENCE?**

**\*\*\* WELL, JOHN MACARTHUR IN HIS COMMENTARY ON II CORINTHIANS GIVES SOME WAYS WHICH I AM GOING TO MODIFY A LITTLE AND ADD TO.**

**\*\*\*\* NO. 1 BY LEARNING GOD’S WORD, TO LET THE LIGHT SHINE IN OUR CONSCIENCES FOR PSALM 37:30 SAYS –**

**“THE MOUTH OF THE RIGHTEOUS UTTERS WISDOM,  
AND HIS TONGUE SPEAKS JUSTICE.”**

**- THEN QUOTE PSALM 37:11 AND PSALM 119:11.**

**(2) NO. 2, WE CAN HAVE A CLEAR CONSCIENCE BY  
CONTINUAL WATCHFULNESS AND PRAYER, QUOTE  
MATTHEW 26:41.**

**\* NO. 3, WE CAN HAVE A CLEAR CONSCIENCE BY  
AVOIDING SPIRITUAL PRIDE, QUOTE I CORINTHIANS 10:12  
AND PROVERBS 11:2.**

**\*\* NO. 4, WE CAN HAVE A CLEAR CONSCIENCE BY  
RECOGNIZING THE SERIOUSNESS OF SIN FOR IT WAS SIN  
THAT CAUSED THE DEATH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,  
QUOTE ROMANS 4:25 AND ISAIAH 53:5.**

**\*\*\* NO. 5, BY INSTANTLY CONFESSING AND REPENTING  
OF SIN, KEEPING YOUR ACCOUNTS SHORT WITH THE  
LORD, QUOTE I JOHN 1:9 AND PROVERBS 28:13.**

**\*\*\*\* AND NO. 6, BY MAKING THINGS RIGHT WHEN WE  
HAVE WRONGED AND SINNED AGAINST PEOPLE, TO  
CLEAR OUR CONSCIENCE WITH THEM, QUOTE ACTS 24:16  
AND MATTHEW 5:23&24.**

**(3) BELIEVER, MAY WE TAKE THE WORDS OF PROVERBS  
4:23 TO HEART, QUOTE IT.**

**\* BELOVED, MAY WE HAVE THE JOY AND SENSITIVITY OF  
A CLEAR CONSCIENCE LIKE PAUL. (LET'S PRAY)**