



The Christian Solution
for Addictions:
Jesus!

"Ten Attitudes of Victorious Living"

Lessons Developed by Pastor Rick McClung



ATTITUDE 7 ~ Reconciliation

Watch Video: <http://www.tmewcf.org/video.html>

Jesus said: "Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called the sons of God."
Matthew 5:9

I ask forgiveness from all those I have hurt
or dealt with unfairly.

RECONCILIATION - the ending of conflict or renewing of a friendly relationship between disputing people or groups, the making of peace between enemies. **SYNONYMS:** settlement, resolution, reunion, bringing together, ceasefire.

IT IS SERIOUS TO GOD: Matthew 6:14 - Jesus said: "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: ¹⁵But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

This passage of scripture is directly related to "The Lord's Prayer" where He teaches us to pray "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors" (verse 12).

In Acts 24 the Apostle Paul is brought before Felix to defend himself (one of three trials; Felix, Festus and Agrippa) concerning the accusations of a man named Ter-tul-lus, who can be described as council for the prosecutors. Tertullus wastes no time complimenting Felix who was governor of Caesarea in verses 2-4. Then he goes into the accusations of Paul in verse five.

Acts 24:5 - For we have found this man a pestilent (pest) fellow, and a mover of sedition (strife) among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes:

Paul said that he had done nothing wrong with regard to the law, and in verse 13 specifically said that there is no proof concerning the accusations. In verses 14 and 15 Paul speaks out for what he does believe.

Acts 24:14,15 - But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the

law and in the prophets: ¹⁵ And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust."

Our text verse is found in verse 16 where we see Paul giving a personal foundational and relational position that will be profitable and fruitful for anyone that wishes to model it.

Acts 24:16 - And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.

1 A PERSONAL COMMITMENT.

And herein do I exercise (take pains, labor, strive) myself...

Paul knew if he was going to reap the benefits of his commitment, no one else could or would do this for him — he had to do it himself.

There are many things in the Christian life that we need the help of other people for: prayer, encouragement, instruction, just to name a few. However there are some other things that I must do for myself. No one else can make sure that I have a right relationship with people and with God. I must maintain that effort myself. Consider the following verse that speaks to Paul's commitment to Christ.

Galatians 2:20 - I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.

For the Christian that lives a life that is pleasing to God — that life will require discipline. Many of us have been more prone to being careless than we have to being disciplined. Paul took personal responsibility for his life. He did so because he knew that he had the help of God to lead his life in such a way that would get progressively more pleasing to the Lord that he loved and served.

Commitment is something that takes time and energy. It involves devotion and dedication and the fulfilling of our obligations to God and to people. When it comes to our relationship with God and also with others, this commitment is something that demands our constant attention.

NOTES

Paul pledged to do his part, to take responsibility for keeping his conscience clear before God and others because he knew that if he would not do his part it would not get done.

Proverbs 16:3 - Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.

2. A CONSISTENT COMMITMENT: "to have always ..."

It's important to know what Paul was not talking about as well as what he was talking about. By Paul saying "to have always" does not imply that he had reached a place in his life where his conscience was no longer tainted by sin or alarmed by the act of it. We all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and after salvation we will sin again.

Ecclesiastes 7:20 - For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

1 John 1:8 - If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Paul made an effort to discipline himself to not let sin set up camp in his life. When he did sin, he dealt with it by repenting. That is the only solution for a clear conscience. The sooner the repentance the clearer the conscience.

1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

3. THE AIM OF THE COMMITMENT: "a conscience void (lacking) of offence...."

Paul's desire was to keep upon good terms with his own conscience; that it may have no cause to question the motive of his spiritual walk or to convict him of any particular action. Paul was as careful not to offend his own conscience as he was careful not to offend anyone else.

THE CONSCIENCE - The sense of what is right and wrong that governs a person's thoughts and actions, urging him or her to do right rather than wrong. It involves the ideas and feelings that we have that tell us whether something that we are doing is right or wrong.

For the believer, all of this is now governed by the Holy Spirit who is our spiritual conscience and leads us according to God's word.

For our learning: Much of the troubled mind for the believer can be resolved by a clear conscience. Many of us remember the covering up of a thing only to be troubled by our own conscience. Though the reminder of the offence might not be constant, it will always be lingering until it is made right. Consider what Paul said prior to this:

Acts 23:1 - And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, "Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."

4. THE EXTENT OF THE COMMITMENT: Toward God, and toward men ... that pretty much covers everybody.

2 Corinthians 8:2 - Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

- When there are things between me and God I need to reconcile them. (Always possible)
- When there are things between me and someone else I need to reconcile them. (When possible)

Romans 12:18 - If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

THE "HOW TO" OF A CLEAR CONSCIENCE:

- When your conscience has been alarmed (convicted) to the committing of an offence make it right with the Lord as soon as possible. If not, one sin can lead to more sin.
- When your conscience has been alarmed (convicted) to the committing of an offence against another person make it right with the Lord **and that person** as soon as possible. If not, one sin can lead to more sin.
- When your conscience has been alarmed while being tempted to sin, seek the Lord for the way of escape in order that you might not commit the sin.

