

College and Conscience
www.aubeacon.com

Introduction: Going away from home to college is a huge step in life.

- A. As a parent it is difficult to see a child move to adulthood.
 - 1. Parents are very concerned about “the way he should go.” **(Prov 22:6)**
 - 2. You are who you are today because of choices you have made and the choices your parents have made. You are entering a new phase of your life.
 - 3. The ultimate test of parents is to prepare their child to meet God. They cannot achieve this goal by themselves.
- B. Just as Paul could not save his countrymen by himself; parents can only prepare their children and pray they choose the Lord. **(Rom 9:1-3)**
 - 1. Ultimately the path to eternity with God is a series of crucial choices.
 - 2. Choosing where to go to college is one of many important choices!

I. Win the battle of the conscience

- A. What is a conscience?
 - 1. "συνείδησις {soon-i'-day-sis} conscience 1) the consciousness of anything 2) the soul as distinguishing between what is morally good and bad, prompting to do the former and shun the latter, commending one, condemning the other.
 - 2. The conscience is a judge based upon previous training and experience. **(Rom 2:14-15)**
 - a. Often a good conscience will make you feel bad by just thinking of doing something!
 - b. A conscience can be trained in a wrong way. You may do bad and feel good or do that which is not sin and feel bad! **(Acts 23:1, 26:9; 1 Cor 8:7)**
 - c. A weak conscience is one that has been improperly trained.
 - 3. The conscience is a great gift from God that we must carefully protect!
- B. A living faith will seek to make God’s word the basis of determining right and wrong. **(1 Pt 2:9-12)**
 - 1. College is a time where you find out where your heart is. You will be tested.
 - 2. One may have worldly standards. One may be greatly ashamed of Christians and their stand! **(2 Tim 1:7-8)**
- C. One can destroy their conscience. **(1 Tim 4:2; 1 Cor 8:7-13; Rom 14:23)**
 - 1. When “freedom” comes some think they can live like the world and still be a Christian. Often there is great shame and tears in what they have done.
 - 2. If associations and practice do not change you may eventually not care.
 - 3. This church is committed to teach as to promote a “good conscience.” God’s standards are to be plainly taught. **(2 Cor 4:1-2)**
 - 4. There is power in committing to follow all of God’s will! **(1 Tim 1:18-19)**

II. Make God the focus of your conscience

- A. The first step in building faith in your children is found here. **(Psa 19:9-14)**

1. It is a great step when you study God's word because you want to.
 2. Teaching your child learn how to deal with the guilt of sin, the hurts of life and the uncertainty of the future starts with a consciousness of God.
 3. The first step in this is a daily thankfulness to God. **(Rom 1:21; Col 3:15)**
- B. Make forgiveness the foundation of your conscience.
1. How do I know I am right with God? Receiving God's conditional promise of salvation by faith can give a "good conscience." **(1 Pt 3:21 – NASV)**
 2. Repenting and confessing all sin gives a "good conscience."
(1 Jn 1:6-9; Rom 8:15-16)
 3. A good conscience is the foundation of a joyful life and an uncompromising faith. Many fear this and end up in misery. **(1 Tim 1:5; 1 Pt 3:16)**
 4. True repentance comes from a genuine consciousness of God. **(2 Cor 7:10)**

III. Learn the value of God's provisions (past and present)

- A. You should remember what your parents have taught you. Their voices will always be in your head! **(Prov 1:8; 4:1-2)**
1. You have been *greatly blessed* to have godly parents.
 2. While parents are not in the place of God, you should carefully examine God's word before you discard their teaching.
- B. The disciples found a stronger faith in the Lord from *what they remembered*.
(Lk 24:6-8; Jn 2:22; 12:16)
1. We do not always remember at first. Events may stir us to remember. (Parents take heart!)
 2. It would have been better to have so strongly believed that it was always there.
- C. Peter was convicted of sin because *he remembered*. **(Mt 26:74-75)**
1. He was blessed to have a guilty conscience. This would later make him strong.
 2. Be careful about scoffers who always ridicule what they call "traditional."
- D. Make the local church the center of your associations. **(Heb 10:23-25)**
1. God provided local churches to teach you and help you to remember!
 2. You need to make friends with those who have a living faith. Where will you find people like that?
 3. Your conscience and your future will be determined by who you choose to surround yourself with. (Ex. "I do not like what I see in the mirror.")
- E. Build a conscience that is "proven" rather than one who lives in doubt.
1. When one is careful to avoid that which is questionable, they are protecting the conscience. **(Rom 12:2; Ps 26:2; 1 Thess 5:21)**
 2. It makes a difference in which local church you choose! What are you looking for?

Conclusion: What will be your reaction to the 2nd coming of the Lord? **(2 Pt 3:10-11)**