

...Polycarp was martyred.
Too old to flee, and too sincere a man to allow another to hide him and then suffer a penalty for doing so, he gave himself up to death. But before he did, he asked for and was granted permission to pray two hours for his brethren in the Lord, for the governor, for his enemies and his captors. Like the great saints of all ages, and desiring a better resurrection, he stood firm, refusing to deny the Lord, and died with a free conscience.



*“This hand
hath offended.”*

Thomas Cranmer



A man is bound to act according to his conscience, even when it is in error, because the judgment of conscience is the judgment of what he knows to be God's will.

Thomas Aquinas

If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.

James 4:17

Conscience is an act, not a power. It is an act of applying knowledge to something done, as when one says, 'I have a clear conscience,' that is, because I know that I have not done anything wrong.

Thomas Aquinas

HEBREWS 13:17

- Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.
- Pray for us: for we trust we have **a good conscience**, in all things **willing to live honestly**.

- Obey and submit to your spiritual leaders, who are accountable to God for watching over the souls of their congregation.
Christians should make their leaders' task a joyful one, not a burdensome one.
- Pray for their spiritual leaders, who strive to maintain a clear conscience and conduct themselves honorably in all aspects of life and ministry.



What is Conscience?

54-0321 WHAT.THINK.YE.OF.CHRIST_ CHICAGO.IL SUNDAY_

- See? **Then you wade over that**, and next thing you know, you pass by the church. You hear the hymns; you hear the preaching. **Every red light God flashes before you, you just break the barriers down and go right on**; don't pay any attention to conscience or nothing else.
- **Then did God send a person to hell?**
No, you sent yourself.
- That's right. You went on your own accord. God throws every red light in front of you He could, and you just kept moving right on, headlong. You determined to do it.



What is Conscience?

- Now, there's a red light hanging down here in the city.
- If you run through that red light, the city's not responsible for you.
- You did it on your own will. That's right.
- **So then God has done everything that He can to keep people and to bring them to Him and love them.**



What is Conscience?

- Then, **the soul, the conscience that once condemns you**, isn't there any more, and you've gone altogether into intellectual.
- **The soul, that inside conscience** that told her she was wrong, that may be telling you same thing tonight, she'd went to her intellectual parts, and believing with her--with her mind, and had grieved away that Holy Spirit. It didn't speak to her no more.
- **Your soul will come up** and recognize that's the truth, and you'll be lost. **Your own conscience will haunt you through eternity**, when you're having a form of godliness and denying God's Word.

What is Conscience?

60-0709 GOD'S.PROVIDED.WAY.OF.APPROACH.TO.FELLOWSHIP_
KLAMATH.FALLS.OR SATURDAY_

- Your **inner conscience speaks** louder than your mouth does. You see?
- **It's your subconscious on the inside**, what you really think, that's what the Holy Spirit catches and reveals.

“Don't do this, little boy. That's wrong. Don't do that.”



...my wife said to me,
"Why, those people go to
church, and I've often
wondered why it didn't
condemn their
conscience."

I said, "My dear wife, let
me tell you. They are
Americans."



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Hebrews 10:2

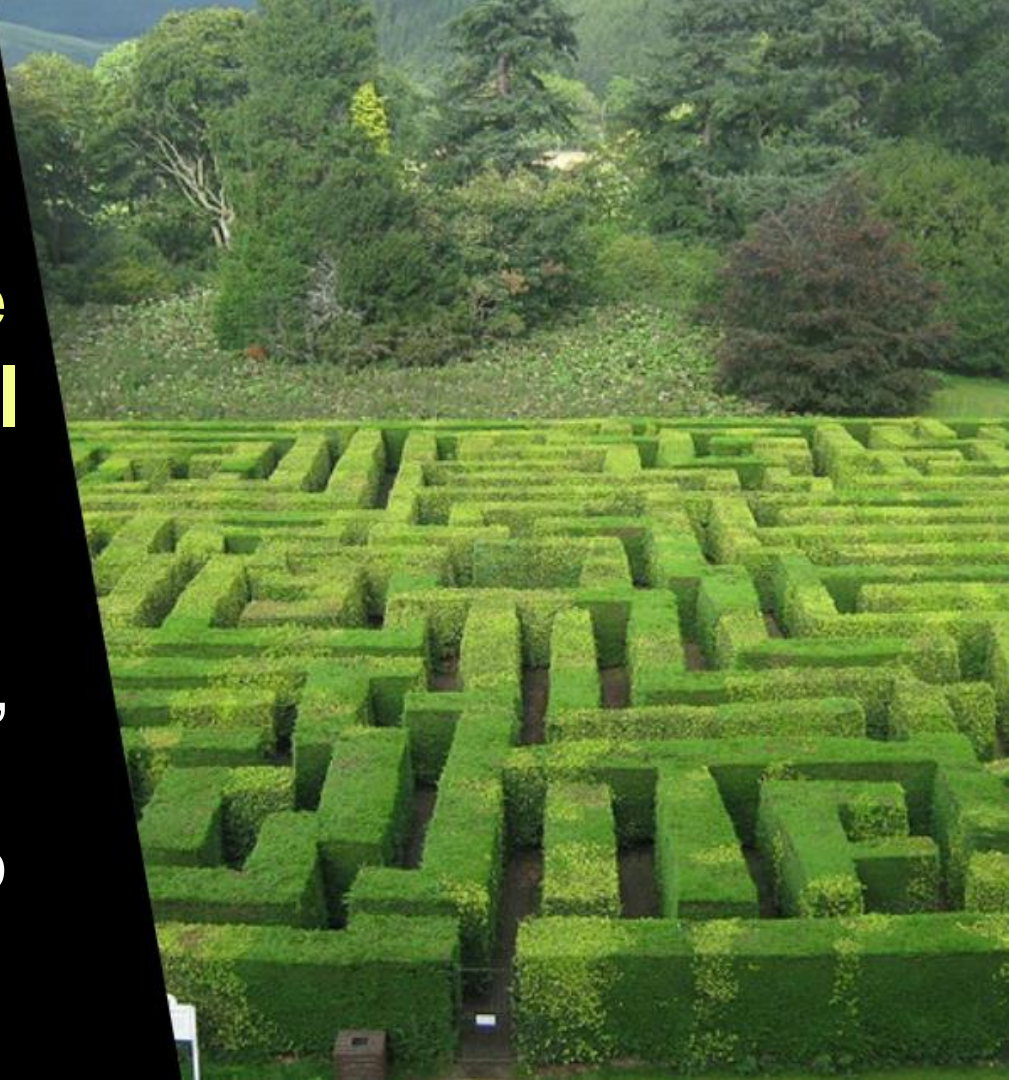
For then would they not have
ceased to be offered?

because that the
worshippers once purged
should have had no more
conscience of sins.



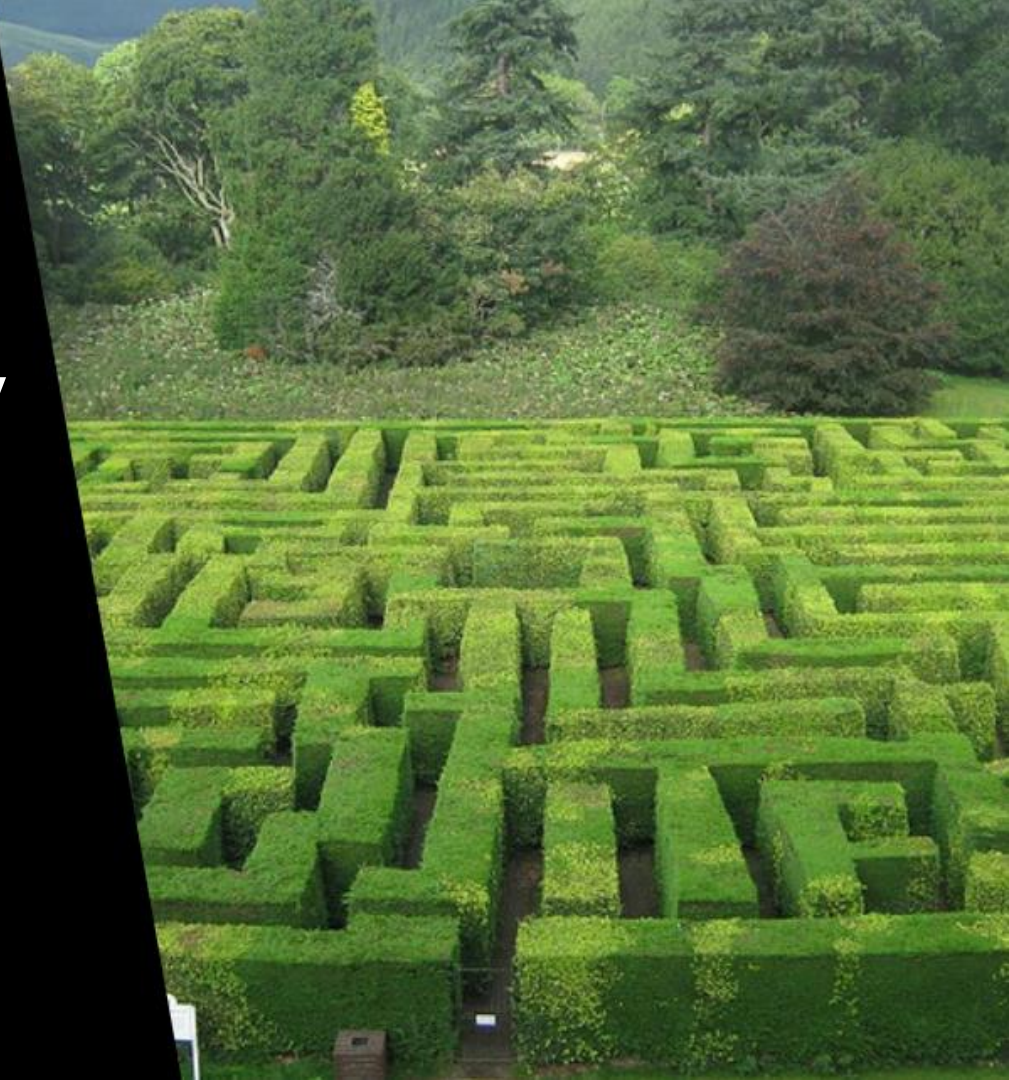
JOHN 16:13

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, **he will guide you into all truth**: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.



John 14:26

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, **he shall teach you all things**, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.



I CORINTHIANS 2:10-12

But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.



HEBREWS 13:20-22

» 20 † Now the God of peace,
that brought again from the dead our
Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the
sheep, through the blood of the
everlasting covenant,

» 21 † Make you perfect in every
good work to do his will, **working in you**
that which is wellpleasing in his sight,
through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory
for ever and ever. Amen.



EPHESIANS 4:11-15

» 11 † And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

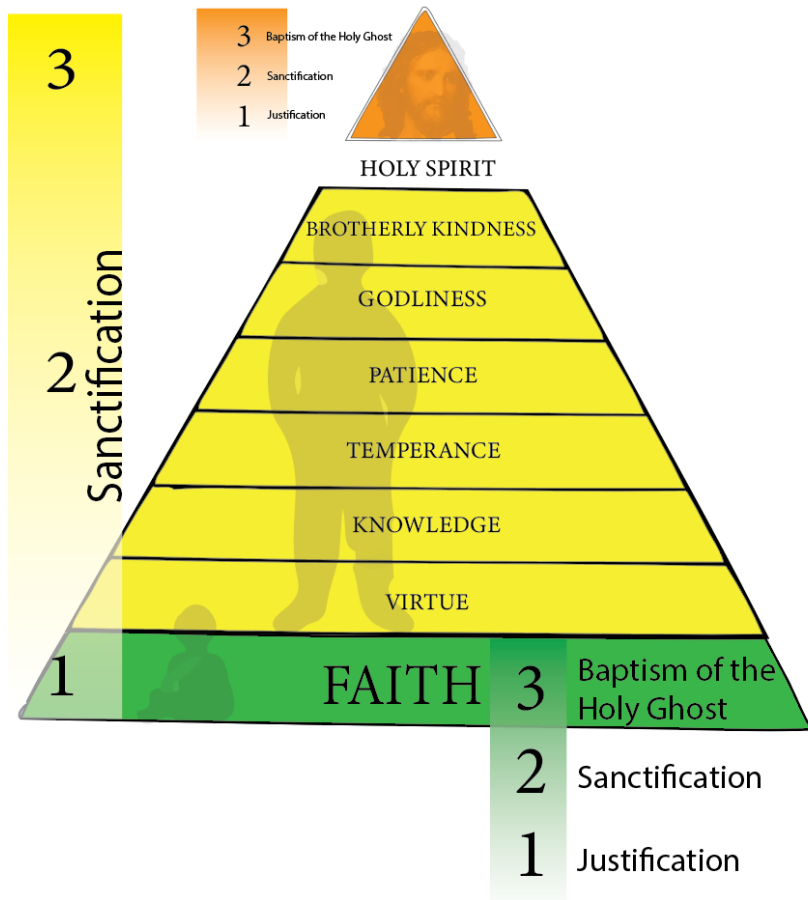
» 12 † For **the perfecting of the saints**, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

» 13 † Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **unto a perfect man**, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

» 14 † That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

» 15 † But speaking the truth in love, **may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:**





*Conscience is the application of knowledge to action...
a judgment of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act.*

Thomas Aquinas

Perfection is the condition, state, or quality of being free or as free as possible from all flaws or defects.

It implies **completeness** and a state of being without any limitations or defects.



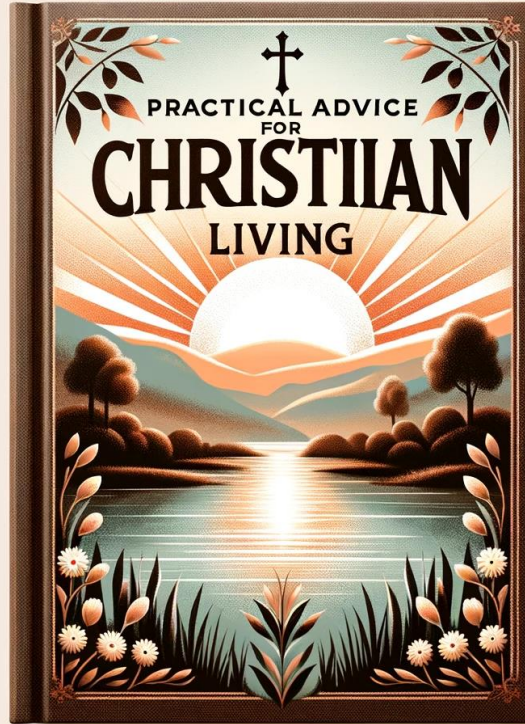
» 22 † And I beseech you, brethren, suffer the word of exhortation: for I have written a letter unto you in few words.

» 23 † Know ye that our brother Timothy is set at liberty; with whom, if he come shortly, I will see you.

» 24 † Salute all them that have the rule over you, and all the saints. They of Italy salute you.

» 25 † Grace be with you all. Amen.

Summary of Hebrews 13



Summary of Hebrews 13

- Show love and hospitality to one another and to strangers (verses 1-2).
- Remember those who are imprisoned or mistreated, to honor marriage, and to avoid sexual immorality (verses 3-4).
- We're warned against the love of money and encouraged to be content. God promised to never to leave or forsake us (verses 5-6).
- Remember and imitate the faith of our spiritual leaders, considering the outcome of their way of life (verse 7).
- Paul emphasizes the unchanging nature of Jesus Christ and warns against being carried away by strange teachings (verses 8-9).

Summary of Hebrews 13

- Christians must bear the reproach of Christ, because we're seeking a heavenly city rather than an earthly one.
(verses 10-14)
- Christians sacrifice themselves, including the sacrifice of praise to God continually, doing good and sharing with others.
(verses 15-16)
- We're called to obey and submit to our spiritual leaders, as they keep watch over our souls.
(verse 17)

Summary of the **Book of Hebrews**

- **Jesus is God**

Jesus is shown to be above all prophets, angels, Moses, and the OT Levitical priesthood. He is the ultimate revelation of God, the eternal high priest, and the perfect sacrifice for sin.

- **The New Covenant:**

Christ's death and resurrection establish a New Covenant that fulfills and replaces the Old Covenant. This New Covenant offers better promises, a better hope, and a better sacrifice.

- **Faith and perseverance:**

Paul stresses the importance of faith and perseverance in the face of trials and hardships. He shows us examples of Old Testament heroes who demonstrated faith and endured suffering.

- **Warning against apostasy:**

Paul warns against falling away from the faith and the consequences of rejecting Christ, and urges the reader to hold fast to their confession and not to turn back to their former ways.

- **The heavenly sanctuary:**

Paul compares the earthly tabernacle with the heavenly sanctuary, where Christ serves as the high priest. He emphasizes the perfection and eternal nature of Christ's sacrifice.

- **Practical Christian living:**

The final chapters of Hebrews offer practical advice for Christian living, including brotherly love, hospitality, caring for others, and submitting to spiritual leaders.

Notable Scriptures

Hebrews 1:1-3

- "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;"

Hebrews 4:12

- "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Hebrews 4:14-16

- "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

Hebrews 6:19-20

- "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec."

Notable Scriptures

Hebrews 11:1

- "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Hebrews 11:6

- "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

Hebrews 12:1-2

- "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Hebrews 12:11

- "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."

Hebrews 13:5-6

- "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

Grace be with you all.

Amen.

HEBREWS 13:25