

Acts 24:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

Paul's life goal - 'to have always a conscience void of offence toward God and toward men' - summarizes his ethical commitment. This 'conscience without offense' doesn't claim sinless perfection but rather integrity in pursuing known truth and quickly addressing failures. The dual focus (God and men) reflects Jesus's great commandments and shows Paul's balanced spirituality.

Historical Context

This statement echoes Paul's earlier claim before the Sanhedrin (Acts 23:1). His consistent testimony to conscientious living provides powerful defense against accusations of being a troublemaker or heretic.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do you maintain clear conscience both toward God and toward other people in your daily decisions?

2. What does Paul's example teach about the power of consistent integrity as a defense against false accusations?

Interlinear Text

ἐν	τούτῳ	δὲ	αὐτὸς	ἄσκῶ	ἄπρόσκοπον	συνείδησιν	
herein	G5129	And	myself	do I exercise	void of offence	a conscience	
G1722		G1161	G846	G778	G677	G4893	
ἔχειν	πρὸς	τὸν	θεὸν	καὶ	τοὺς	ἄνθρωπους	διαπαντός
to have	toward	G3588	God	and	G3588	toward men	always
G2192	G4314		G2316	G2532		G444	G1275

Additional Cross-References

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

1 Timothy 1:5 (Parallel theme): Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

2 Corinthians 4:2 (References God): But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

Hebrews 10:22 (Parallel theme): Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Romans 2:15 (Parallel theme): Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

1 Corinthians 4:4 (Parallel theme): For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.

2 Corinthians 1:12 (References God): For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but

by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.

1 Peter 3:21 (References God): The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

Titus 1:15 (Parallel theme): Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.

Hebrews 9:14 (References God): How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

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