

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Consequences of the Seared Conscience

By (Jerry Fite)

The Holy Spirit warned Timothy through Paul of what happens when man’s conscience is seared. Searing a quality steak is a good thing, keeping flavorful juices within. But searing the conscience is a bad thing, keeping Divine Truth without.

Paul writes, “*But the Spirit saith expressly, that in later times some shall fall away from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons, through the hypocrisy of men that speak lies, branded in their own conscience as with a hot iron; forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by them that believe and know the truth*” (1 Timothy 4:1-3).

Paul describes the dysfunctional conscience as “*branded...as with a hot iron*” (v.2). Cauterizing an open wound may be a last resort to stop excessive bleeding or keep infection from spreading. But the conscience, which condemns that which one knows to be wrong, must never be branded to stop its sending of sharp pangs to the morally sensitive mind of man.

Forbidding people to marry and teaching people to abstain from meats were false doctrines that permeated widely due to the inwardly seared conscience. Satan appealed

to man’s sense of pride of looking more “spiritual” than others by abstaining from gratifying the sexual desires in marriage and satisfying the hunger pains with meats. Paul warns us that mere “*severity to the body*” is not the same thing as fighting the “*indulgences of the flesh*.” Doctrines of man often appear wise, making us look humble, but are simply devices of Satan deceiving the fleshly mind (Colossians 2:22-23).

Satan works his error through men who have allowed their consciences to be seared. Men, who no longer have a conscience that condemns their lying, are ready instruments to spread Satan’s lies. Men who no longer feel the shame of hypocrisy are easy targets to demand of others what they will not first apply to themselves. The seared conscious is not sensitive to God’s Truth that marriage should be honored by all and that meats are to be received with thanksgiving and prayer (Hebrews 13:4, 1 Timothy 4:3-4).

Men “*waxing worse and worse*” follow from seared consciences (2 Timothy 3:13). They have become evil by being deceived willingly by error, no longer having a love of truth (2 Thessalonians 2:10,12). Desensitized from being deceived, they feel no guilt in deceiving others. As “imposters,”

they are “waxing worse and worse.” It is no longer a matter of self-deception, but the seared conscience makes one “worse,” not feeling the pangs of conscience when deceiving others.

The seared desensitized conscience has raised its’ ugly head after four decades of legalized abortions in our country. While abortions in 2017 went below the yearly one million mark to 862, 320, it still documents the individual cases of the deliberate taking of innocent life. God’s revealed Word clearly condemns such action and pronounces God’s wrath on “shedding the blood of the innocent” (Gen. 9:6, Exodus 23:7). But the seared consciences of men women, lawmakers and judges have kept God’s truth from affecting the heart.

The seared conscience makes evil abortionists worse and worse. Abby Johnson who was a director in Planned Parenthood recalls the day that helped awaken her to the evils of abortion. She was assisting a doctor in the procedure which violently tears apart the baby in the womb producing body parts that can more conveniently be sucked up out of the womb. Such is normal, to the seared conscience. But Abby’s life and career changed when she heard the doctor’s “light-hearted” comment, “Beam me up, Scotty.” Worse and worse!