

THE END OF THE COMMANDMENT

Int.

1. Aim: To show that when we look at the end of the commandment we see some wonderful blessings.
2. Text I Tim. 1:5,6 "Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and [of] a good conscience, and [of] faith unfeigned: 6 From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling;" 1Tim 1:6 (ASV) from which things some having swerved have turned aside unto vain talking;
3. In most things of life we look at the beginning rather than at the end.
 - a. When we are taking a vacation we are looking forward to the beginning of it, not the end.
 - b. When we have an appointment with the dentist we look at the beginning of it with pain and discomfort. Not the end result, the blessings of good teeth.
 - c. Most of the commandments of God are looked at in the same way. It is going to be difficult to give up certain things, or it is going to be very hard to do this.
4. Paul says "look at the end of the commandment"
 - a. What does the word End mean ?
 - i. From a word that means - To set out for a definite point or goal, the conclusion of an act or state, the ultimate purpose [Strong's # 5056]
 - ii. The purpose and end of God's law is that man may be led to do God's will out of a pure heart, a good conscience and of sincere faith.
 - iii. It is translated by the NKJV "Now the purpose of the commandment..."
 - b. We should not look at repentance because it is difficult

- c. But rather look at the end of the commandment and see how good it is to have repented of sin and to be free from the chains of darkness.

5. Notice that the end of the commandment has 3 wonderful blessings:

Discussion

I. THE END OF THE COMMANDMENT IS CHARITY OUT OF A PURE HEART

A. The Bible is the Book of God

1. There are many laws and ordinances in it
2. As you read and study you find that many of the good commandments are difficult to obey
3. But look beyond the commandments to the results they will bring to your life.
4. God says it will bring "Love"
5. Love is worth waiting to obtain.
6. Of all the great gifts of the Bible- love is proclaimed to be the greatest -
I Cor. 13:13

B. All is vain without love

1. Preaching, understanding the scripture, giving goods to the poor, and self sacrifice are all vain when one does not have love.
2. I Cor. 13:1-7
3. Love warms the Christian, sustains him, and truly helps him in all of the ugly things of life.

- C. A wonderful blessing at the end of the commandment is love out of a "pure heart"
1. "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." Mt. 5:8
 - a. Pure = clean
 - b. See God - We will be obedient to Him and He will bless us
 2. 1 Pet. 1:22 "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, [see that ye] love one another with a pure heart fervently:"
 - a. Unfeigned love of the brethren
 - (1) Purity of the soul leads to love of the brethren.
 - (2) The word in Greek is the word Philadelphia - a term that describes love of brothers in the Christian faith.
 - (3) The affection shown by Christians to one another is not mechanical or faked, but sincere.
 - b. Love One another
 - (1) The purpose of God's commands is that we learn to love one another
 - (2) If we are going to be like Jesus we must love each other
 - (3) The word here for love is Agapo - a strong word which means an intelligent love
 - (4) Christians are to be constantly developing and cultivating this love toward one another.
 - c. With a Pure Heart
 - (1) Not hypocritical, not play acting
 - (2) Genuine -

d. Fervently

- (1) The original use of this word had reference to a musical instrument that had a string which was drawn or stretched. Children of God are not to love one another indifferently, or loosely, as an unstrung instrument, but with the full tension of heartstrings drawn out fully. Such love does indeed for a symphony, the harmony of which rises to heaven, and falls pleasingly on the ears of our heavenly Father.¹
- (2) The idea suggested is that of not relaxing in effort, or acting in a right spirit.
- (3) This word fervent means we love each other eagerly, and constantly!
- (4) This is love from the heart.

D. The End of the Commandment of God is that we love with a pure heart !

II. THE END OF THE COMMANDMENT IS A GOOD CONSCIENCE

A. Very few people can claim a good conscience like Paul

1. Acts 23:1 "I have lived before God in all good conscience unto this days"
2. Most people have not lived in all good conscience toward God and they know it.
But the beauty of the end of the commandment is we can obtain a good conscience.

B. We can obtain a good conscience through the forgiveness of sins.

1. Acts 22:16 "Why tarriest thou? Arise and be baptized washing away thy sins."
2. I Pet. 1:22 "Ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth."

¹Gospel Advocate Commentary on 1 Peter p. 50 - buy Guy N. Woods

3. Every Christian who realizes that his sins have been forgiven him is thankful to God and as a result possesses a good conscience.
4. Do you have a good conscience? You should if you are in Christ Jesus!!
5. I John 5:11-13 "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He that hath the Son hath life; [and] he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." We can know that we have eternal life and this gives us a good conscience.

C. We can have either a good conscience or a bad conscience.

1. A bad conscience prevents you from doing good and encourages you to do evil.
2. A good conscience prevents you from doing evil and encourages you to do good.
3. Conscience tells us that we ought to do right, but it does not tell us what right is-- that we are taught by God's word. H.C. - Trumbull
4. Ill. Conscience - Follow Your
5. What makes anything good?
 - a. A thing is good if it helps us to reach the goal of Heaven.
 - b. Anything that detours us from that goal is bad.
 - c. A good conscience will keep a man from evil
6. But it is possible to have a conscience that has been seared as with a hot iron.
 - a. I Tim. 4:2 "Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience **seared** with a hot iron;"
 - (1) Seared = Cauterize
 - (2) To Render insensitive

- b. A person who will not obey their conscience - that tells them what is right and wrong - will destroy a good conscience and make it a bad one.
 - c. Ill. Conscience - Man consulted a doctor.....
 - 7. In order to have a good conscience we need revelation
 - a. Everyone has a conscience - either good or bad
 - b. To have a good conscience we must be instructed by the Word of God.
- D. The end of the commandment is a good conscience.
1. Ill. Poem "Myself"
 2. How horrible it would be to go to one's grave and into eternity with a conscience that has been seared or that is troubled.
 3. A good conscience not only provides rest at night but rest in eternity.
 4. A sleeping pill will never take the place of a clear conscience. [Not saying that anyone who takes a sleeping pill is evil]
 5. II Tim. 1:3 "I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience,..."

III. THE END OF THE COMMANDMENT IS FAITH UNFEIGNED

- A. Everyone needs something in which to believe
 1. Ill. A young man committed suicide and left a note.
 2. The note said: "I have nothing else to believe in."
 3. After writing that, he leaped from a 17 story building to his death.
- B. The end of the commandment will provide us with faith unfeigned
 1. Unfeigned = means faith that is genuine, real, sincere.

2. "He that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Heb. 11:6
 - a. Before anyone will ever come to God he must have faith in Him
 - b. God rewards them that diligently seek him.
 - c. This is one of the beautiful end results of the end of the commandment of God.
 - (1) You have faith in his commands
 - (2) Faith is the reward or promise
 3. Feigned faith is being a hypocrite - A hypocrite is someone who does not intend to be what he pretends to be !!!
- C. Ill. "There were few takers for the 'free' money passed out at Wisconsin's Stevens Point State University, but this came as no surprise to Professor Dennis Tierney, who directed the experiment for his class in abnormal psychology. A member of the class, Mike Stark, set up an outside stand with a sign proclaiming 'Free Money.' It was no gag -- he had 46 one dollar bills from the department's budget to pass out. However, 166 persons passed the stand during a 20 minute period and only 46 accepted a dollar bill. That amounted to 27 percent of those who passed the stand, just about what the class predicted.
- D. God in His wonderful grace freely offers salvation and eternal life for the penitent sinner, but there are few takers. Herein is the most tragic example of man's unbelief.

Conclusion

1. The end of the commandments of God - the purpose or goal or aim of His Revealed Will is to teach us how to live so we can be in heaven.
2. If we can look at the end of the commandment, then what we do right now will be much easier.
 - a. It takes a life of living to be a Christian.
 - b. A person may be born of the water and of the spirit on any day of the week. But he is only a babe in Christ.
 - c. You must look at the end of the commandment to see the full grown man in Christ.
 - i. A man practicing Love out of a pure heart
 - ii. Living in all good conscience
 - iii. Having a genuine faith
3. Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and [of] a good conscience, and [of] faith unfeigned: 6 From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; 1Tim 1:6 (ASV) from which things some having swerved have turned aside unto vain talking;
 - a. Some have swerved from this .
 - b. Vain jangling or talking - not real - not genuine
4. You can only look at the end when you have started the beginning.
 - a. If you have not begun the Christian sojourn, then why not begin?
 - b. Then look to the end of the commandment --- "...a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." II Tim. 4:8

Bibliography

1. Sermon by C. Myron Keith # 179 Oct. 15, 72 "Look at the end of the Commandment"
2. Commentaries

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Morning Sept. 14, 2008
 Evans Church of Christ
 515 Gibbs Road
 Evans, Ga. 30809
 706-855-1249
 evanscoc@bellsouth.net
www.evansgachurchofchrist.org

Illustrations used:

CONSCIENCE- Follow Your

The trouble with the advice, "Follow your conscience" is that most people follow it like someone following a wheelbarrow--they direct it wherever they want it to go, and then follow behind.

CONSCIENCE

A man consulted a doctor, "I've been misbehaving, Doc, and my conscience is troubling me," he complained.

"And you want something that will strengthen your willpower?" asked the doctor.

"Well, no," said the fellow. "I was thinking of something that would weaken my conscience." Bits & Pieces, May 27, 1993, Page 21

Myself

I have to live with myself, and so
 I want to be fit for myself to know,
 I want to be able, as days go by,
 Always to look myself straight in the eye;
 I don't want to stand, with the setting sun,
 And hate myself for the things I've done.
 I don't want to keep on the closet shelf
 A lot of secrets about myself,
 And fool myself, as I come and go,
 Into thinking that nobody else will know
 The kind of a man I really am;
 I don't want to dress up myself in sham.
 I want to go out with my head erect,
 I want to deserve all men's respect;
 But here in the struggle for fame and pelf
 I want to be able to like myself.
 I don't want to look at myself and know

That I'm bluster and bluff and empty show.
 I can never hide myself from me;
 I see what others may never see;
 I know what others may never know,
 I never can fool myself, and so,
 Whatever happens, I want to be
 Self-respecting and conscience free.