

Content produces results (whatever the content)

- **Foregoing the God-given teaching process**
We need to be taught (and reminded over and over)!
- **Ignoring God-provided teaching**
Immersion, not listening & forgetting (meditating on)
- **Pursuing empty or false teaching**

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves whether you are in **the faith**

1 Timothy 4:1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from **the faith**, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons.

1 Timothy 6:20-21 O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, turning aside from godless and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called knowledge—²¹ which some, while professing, have gone astray from the faith.

2 Timothy 2:16-18 But avoid godless and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, ¹⁷ and their word will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, ¹⁸ who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset **the faith** of some. [*eschatology is important!*]

2 Timothy 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, ⁴ and will turn away their ears from **the truth** and will turn aside to myths. [*truth = what we need to hear, not what we want to hear*]

Galatians 1:6 I marvel that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ for a different gospel,

Hebrews 3:12-13 See to it brothers, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. ¹³ But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

2) By rejecting the aligning _____ of belief

Content produces conduct (whatever the content)

2 Timothy 2:16 But avoid godless and empty chatter, for **it will lead to further ungodliness**,

1 Timothy 6:9 But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 But know this, that in the last days difficult times will come. ² For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, without gentleness, without love for good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ **holding to a form of godliness, but having denied its power**. Keep away from such men as these.

Colossians 3:1-4 Therefore, if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. ³ For you died and your life has been hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is our life, is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory. [*Ephesians "Walk"*]

3) By rejecting the _____ of a Biblically-informed conscience

• **Seared Conscience**

1 Timothy 4:2 by the hypocrisy of liars, who have been seared in their own **conscience**,

• **Defiled Conscience**

Titus 1:15 To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their **conscience** are defiled.

• **Evil Conscience**

Hebrews 10:22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil **conscience** and our bodies washed with pure water.

Paul Talks Much About Having a Good Conscience!

Acts 23:1 Now Paul, looking intently at the Sanhedrin, said, "Brothers, I have lived my life in all **good conscience** before God up to this day."

Acts 24:14-16 "But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets; ¹⁵ having a hope in God, for which these men are waiting, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous. ¹⁶ "In view of this, I also do my best to maintain always a **conscience without fault both** before God and before men.

Rom 13:3-6 For rulers are not *a cause of fear* for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of that authority? Do what is

good, and you will have praise from the same; ⁴ for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword in vain, for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil. ⁵ Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of that wrath, but also because of **conscience**. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for *rulers* are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing.

2 Cor 1:12 For our boasting is this: the testimony of our **conscience**, that in holiness and godly sincerity, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially toward you.

1 Cor 4:1-2 Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart, ² but we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's **conscience** in the sight of God.

1 Timothy 1:5 But the goal of our command is love from a pure heart and a **good conscience** and an unhypocritical faith.

1 Timothy 3:9 but holding to the mystery of the faith with a **clear conscience**.

2 Timothy 1:3 I am grateful to God, whom I serve with a **clear conscience** the way my forefathers did, as I unceasingly remember you in my prayers night and day,

Hebrews 9:14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your **conscience** from dead works to serve the living God?

Hebrews 13:18 Pray for us, for we are convinced that we have a **good conscience**, desiring to conduct ourselves well in all things.

1 Peter 2:19 For this finds favor, if for the sake of **conscience** toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unrighteously.

1 Peter 3:15–16 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and fear, ¹⁶ having a **good conscience** so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who disparage your good conduct in Christ will be put to shame.

1 Peter 3:21 Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal of a **good conscience** to God—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

b. Result of Rejecting: Shipwrecked Concerning the Belief

Keep Fighting the Good Fight: The Wrong Path

1 Timothy 1:18-20 (Part 2)

¹⁸ This command I entrust to you, Timothy, *my child*, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may fight the good fight, ¹⁹ **keeping faith and a good conscience, which some, having rejected, suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith.** ²⁰ Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan, so that they will be taught not to blaspheme.

1. The Right Path: Faithfully Fighting the Good Fight

- a. Assignment: Clear RESPONSIBILITY** (“This command I entrust to you...”)
- b. Ability: Sufficient CAPABILITY** (“in accordance with the prophecies...”)
- c. Activation: LEVERAGED Ability** (“that by them”)
- d. Action: PURPOSED Ability** (“you may fight the good fight”)
- e. Aim: Foundational FOCUS** (¹⁹“keeping faith and a good conscience”)

Keep Fighting: The Good Fight Is a _____ Fight

- **The Tools: “that by them [spiritual gifts]”**
 - **The Task: “you may [be fighting]”**
 - **The Target: “the good fight”**
 - **The Track: “[continually] keeping faith and a good conscience”**
 - a. Keeping Faith (Belief):** resting on what God has revealed as true
 - b. Keeping a Good Conscience:** serves as the built-in moral warning system, but it must be informed and trained by accuracy revelation
- Romans 2:14-15 For when Gentiles who do not have the Law naturally do the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, ¹⁵ in that they demonstrate the work of the Law written in their hearts, their **conscience** bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them,

2. The Wrong Path: Shipwrecked Faith

a. Rejection of Belief & Good Conscience

which some, having rejected

6x in NT: to push back, to push aside, to cast away

Note: Paul only seems to present two possibilities...

HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN?

1) By rejecting the accurate _____ of belief