

September 25, 2022

Viewpoint from the **Valley Grove Church Of Christ**

Being Convicted Of Sin

By Joe R. Price

Conviction seems to be a rather “politically incorrect” thing to have these days in the religious world (unless, of course, you have conviction against having any religious convictions!!). Nevertheless, there is one subject about which every morally responsible person on the face of this earth ought to be convicted. That is his personal sin against God.

The reason everyone needs such a conviction is because all have sinned against God (Romans 3:23). To be convicted about something is just about the same thing as being convinced of it. But, I need to understand that being convicted of my sins means more than just knowing that I have sinned. It also involves being brought to shame for my sins so that I am compelled to look to God for His forgiveness.

The gospel of Jesus Christ makes it very clear that every sinner must be convicted of his sin before he can ever be saved in Christ. Without being convicted of his sin, the sinner will not be moved by godly sorrow to repent of them (2 Corinthians 7:10). Like Peter, when we are convicted (convinced) of our sins, we ought to go out and weep bitterly (Luke 22:62). If not, there will be no confession of the name of Christ and no baptism into Christ for the remission of his sins.

How has God ordained that I (and every other sinner) be convicted (convinced and brought to shame) of my sins? In John 16:8, Jesus promised that the Comforter (the Holy Spirit, v. 7, 13) would “convict the world in respect of sin” when He was sent to the apostles of Christ (John 16:8-15). When the Holy Spirit inspired the apostles to preach the word of God on the day of Pentecost, 3,000 sinners were convicted of their sins (Acts 2:37, 41). This conviction led them to repent and be baptized. God convicts sinners of their sin through the word of truth when it is preached to them.

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***Visitors — We pray that you benefit spiritually
from our worship together and hope to see you again.***

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What happens when one is convicted of his sins by the word of God? According to Acts 2:37, sinners are “pricked in their heart” by truth and their rebellion against it. This causes godly sorrow for their sin against God, which leads to repentance and obedience to the will of God (2 Corinthians 7:10; Acts 26:20). If you are convicted of your sins you need to repent of them and be baptized for forgiveness (or as a Christian, be faithful again).

When does God want us to be convicted of our sins? Although it may be a great temptation to put off obeying God and being forgiven of our sins, that is a tragic mistake. When we delay obeying God we are hardening our hearts and acting in unbelief (Hebrews 3:13). Today is the moment to be so moved by conviction over your sins that you are compelled to not put God off any longer (Hebrews 3:7-8). If you have sinned against God, you will die in your sin (Romans 6:23). Why haven’t you obeyed the gospel so your sins can be forgiven? Be convicted of your sins and start living for God today!

Would You Be Embarrassed?

By Phillip Stuckey

None of us likes the idea of being embarrassed. Many of us remember our days in school and the memories of awkward occasions where we were humiliated or embarrassed before our peers or family. Who among us likes that feeling? Today, we often take pains to make sure we don’t do something that would embarrass ourselves in all manner of situations be it work, home, or wherever we might find ourselves. While it is good sense to take such care in regard to temporal things, shouldn’t we be just as diligent about spiritual things? Are we making sure we have no reason to be embarrassed spiritually?

Would you be embarrassed if it were known what you were really thinking? The thoughts and intents of our hearts reveal who we really are. Jesus said, *“But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man”* (Matt. 15:18). This is where sin emanates from (Prov. 23:7). Make sure you’re thinking on the right things (Phil. 4:8).

Would you be embarrassed if it were known what you say about others? Words have power and we must be careful what we say (James 1:19). Gossip, backbiting, and such are not to be named among God’s people (1 Pet. 2:1). We can do good or evil with our words (James 3:9). Make sure you’re speaking things that are right and good (Matt. 7:12; Eph. 4:29).

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Would you be embarrassed if it were known what goes on at your home? Sometimes people have a double-life when it comes to their home. They have a persona in public, but it is a completely different picture in private. Parents are to be honored and obeyed by children and the father must set the proper example before his children and family, particularly in regard to spiritual matters (Eph. 6:1-4). The husband is to love and appreciate his wife, the wife is to love, appreciate, and submit to her husband (Eph. 5:22-25). Make sure your home is the kind of place God would have it to be.

Would you be embarrassed if it were known what you know of the Bible? There was a time when God said His people were destroyed for a lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6) and there was a time when there was a famine for the word of God (Amos 8:11). Do you know the word of God? Do you know the wonderful story of redemption? Do you have hope of salvation and heaven? If so, can you give an answer for the hope that lies within you (1 Pet. 3:15)? Some have been in the kingdom a long time, but have little knowledge (1 Cor. 15:34). Make sure you study diligently so that you may know what the will of the Lord is (2 Tim. 2:15; Eph. 5:17).

Would you be embarrassed if it were known what percentage you give? Paul told the brethren in Corinth and Galatia to give as they had been prospered (1 Cor. 16:1-2). He even wrote that it should be done cheerfully (2 Cor. 9:7). Are we laying up for ourselves treasures in heaven

or treasures on earth (Matt. 6:19-20)? Make sure your giving is with heaven in view (Matt. 6:33).

Would you be embarrassed when you must meet Christ? Don't be deceived, He is surely coming (Acts 17:31; 2 Cor. 5:10). No one knows the day or the hour and so the Lord said we should always be ready (Matt. 24:42-45). Make sure you're prepared (Matt. 25:11-13). Let us labor for the Master daily so we are not spiritually embarrassed.

What Would They Say?

By Johnie Edwards

Suppose that what others think and say about us would be the determining factor as to where we spend eternity? What would others say about you?

1) What would your children say? Parents have grave responsibilities in bringing their children up in the admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4). Would your children put in a good word for you at the judgment if it were needed? Would they say you spent time with them in "training them in the way they should go"? (Prov. 22:6). Do your children think you set a good example for them (Matt. 5:13-16)? Would you go to heaven or hell if what your own children say about you decided it?

2) What would your spouse say? Husbands and wives must have the proper love and respect for each other

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(Eph. 5:22-31). How husbands and wives treat each other may well determine their eternal destiny! If what your spouse thinks and says of you in judgment is considered, how would it go? Husbands and wives need to live as to be “heirs together of the grace of life. . .” (1 Pet. 3:7).

3) What would your employer say? We are commanded to work (Eph. 4:28; 1 Thess. 4:11-12). We need to put in a honest day’s work for an honest day’s pay! Many employees sleep on the job, steal from the company, and work as little as possible to get by. If your employer’s check sheet determined your eternal destiny—where would it be?

4) What would your parents say? Young people must accept responsibility for themselves. The young need to be taught to honor, respect and obey their parents (Eph. 6:1-3). What do your parents really think of you? Have you brought shame and disgrace on them? If, in judgment, the word of your parents decided your fate, what would it be?

5) What would your neighbors say? The Lord used the relationship of a neighbor to teach a lesson (Lk. 10:36). Do you treat your neighbors as you wish to be treated? Have you tried to teach them the gospel? What would they say of you in judgment?

6) What would God say? The most important thing will be, what will God say? We will be judged by the word of God (Jn. 12:48; Rom. 2:16).

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Sunday

Bible Study . . . 9:30 A.M.

Worship 10:30 A.M.

Worship 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study . . . 7:00 P.M.

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