

# The Floral Heights Informer

www.floralheightschurchofchrist.org

08 October 2006  
Volume 6; Issue 42

Floral Heights  
Church of Christ  
1814 Buchanan  
Wichita Falls, Texas  
76309  
(940) 322 - 1650

## In This Issue:

When Should my  
Conscience be my Guide?  
..... 1-2  
Local News ..... 2  
Sermon Outline ..... 3  
Elder's Corner – Back  
Cover

## Our Elders:

Mike Chancellor  
(322 – 6374)

Tom Witherspoon  
(766 – 5368)

## Our Deacons:

Joe Cronin

Jim Hall

David Witherspoon

## When should my Conscience be my Guide?

Attending public schools in Houston during the 1970s and 80s generally meant that somewhere down the line of education you were going to be introduced to Jiminy Cricket. The Cricket would always end a cartoon by saying, “Remember, let your conscience be your guide.” The general idea was that one should practice what is deemed right and avoid what is deemed wrong. The Cricket never told us what standards should be used to train our conscience in order to make wise decisions, but the Word of God does. The word “*conscience*” (Greek / *suneidesis*) = “persisting notion, impression of reality... as an inward moral impression of one’s actions and principles... as the inward faculty of moral judgment” (Moulton 391). Let us examine the basis or foundation for man’s intellectual decisions and judgment process.

### Consider these Standards that Mold one’s Conscience of Right and Wrong:

Many, even Christians, believe that one’s conscience alone determines right from wrong. The **conscience of the individual** is elevated to the standard by which I judge myself and make decisions. If I deem an activity for me to be wrong, then I should not participate in it. If I deem an activity OK, then I can participate in it. There are no written instructions as the basis of said conclusions, but rather I am dependant upon what is right for me.

Others consider various denominational **creeds** to be that which shapes the conscience. Some have concluded that Calvinism is to be their set of instructions that determine their

## Local News:

**Welcome to all our visitors.** We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please come back at your every opportunity.

**Ronnie Cribbs** is already home recovering from his recent surgery in Okalahoma City. Mom said that he was back to his playful self very quickly. Keep him in your prayers.

**Rita York** continues at home recovering from her recent shoulder surgery. She is getting better but the healing is a slow process.

Check out our **live chat line on Monday evenings at 8:00 PM!**  
<http://www.floralheightschurchofchrist.org/chat/>

Although the chat line is designed to preach to the lost members of the church are encouraged to log on and participate in Bible discussion too.

**Continue to pray for our shut-ins:**

**Stella Davidson**  
696-1030 (Home)

**Verlon Powell**  
Rolling Meadows Health Care Room 31

**Calvin York:**  
692-0489 (Home).

**Bessie Murphy**  
4600 Taft Blvd, Apt. 538

religious and spiritual stand. Others turn to the Methodist Book of Discipline, Catholic Catechism, The Baptist Faith and Message, The Lutheran's Augsburg Confession, Church of Christ Scientist's Manuel, and the list goes on.

Still yet others believe that humanism is the guide for this life. "Free inquiry" of the mind is the basis for finding truth for each individual. Human behavior is the standard for morality to the humanist. The humanist rejects the idea of heaven, hell, the eternity of the soul, and the divinity of Jesus (cf. The Secular Humanist Declaration; pt. 6, Religious Skepticism). The humanist view is to enjoy life in the here and now. "Secular humanism places trust in **human intelligence** rather than in divine guidance" (ibid.).

### **God's Word Reveals a Standard by which the Conscience is to be Trained:**

Jesus said, "*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven*" (Matt. 7:21). Jesus makes the "**will of my Father in heaven**" the standard whereby man's words and actions are to be judged (cf. Jn. 12:48). God's will for man has been delivered throughout time and history. The apostle Peter wrote, "*For no prophecy ever came by the will of man: but men spake from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit*" (II Pet. 1:21). The apostles and prophets therefore spoke what God wanted the people to know. The Holy Spirit "*fell upon*" (Ezek. 11:5), "*entered into*" (Ezek. 2:1) and "*moved*" them (II Pet. 1:21) to speak the mind of God. Speaking of the full gospel message the apostle Paul wrote, "*which in other generations was not made known unto the sons of men, as it hath now been revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;*" (Eph. 3:5). The Bible reveals the mind of God. Each individual must determine, by process of observation and reason, what represents truth. The Bible tells us that an honest observation of creation (Ps. 33:6ff; Rom. 1:19-20) and revelation (see passages above) proves the existence of God and His word. There is no doubt that my conscience is to be my guide in this life when trained by the Word of God. What standard will you set your conscience by?

John C. Robertson

# How does the Gospel Message Draw Men to God?

## Introduction:

Jesus said, “no man can come to me, except the Father that sent me draw him: and I will raise him up in the last day” (Jn. 6:44). God draws mankind to the gospel in a variety of ways. First, man was created with a nature that distinguishes between good and evil. The gospel message confirms man’s inner reason of right and wrong. Secondly, the gospel has the power to save man from the consequences of sin (i.e., hell) (Rom. 1:16). Lastly, heaven is a place that all right thinking people would want to spend their eternity at. The gospel message reveals all these things to man and thereby draws one to God.

## I. Man is drawn to God through the gospel message because it confirms what one knows is right and wrong:

- A. There are things about a man, that God has blessed us with. We are able to naturally determine right ways from the wrong. The NT refers to this as “**nature**” (see Rom. 1:26; 2:14; I Cor. 11:14; Gal. 4:8; Eph. 2:3).
- B. The savage on the infamous deserted island knows that if he takes another savages hard fought for steak that is cooking over the open fire, there will be consequences.

## II. Man is drawn to God through the gospel message because it provides the instructions whereby man may be saved (Rom. 1:16):

- A. The more I read and study God’s word the more I find that its instructions fit my very being. Man was created to follow a law of right as opposed to doing wrong.
- B. The gospel message instructs man in the ways of salvation (Jn. 6:44-45; Gal. 3:1-2; Eph. 4:17-24).
- C. That which we are saved from is an eternity in hell where there is punishment (II Thess. 1:7-9), darkness (Matt. 8:12; II Pet. 2:4, 17; Jude 13; Rev. 16:10), gnashing of teeth in anguish and pain (Matt. 13:42-50; Rom. 2:8-9), burning of the flesh (Lk. 13:28; 16:24; Rev. 19:20; 20:10), and everlasting torment (Lk. 16:23)

## III. Man is drawn to God through the gospel message because it promises a better eternity than the current suffering, sorrow, and death.

- A. This world is filled with poverty, hunger, murderers, death, sorrows, filth, sexual immorality, and so forth (Friday’s Paper). Our nature tells us that these things are not pleasant nor right and so the gospel confirms.
- B. Heaven will be a place where these things do not exist and so God draws us with such a promise (cf. Lk. 16:25; Rev. 20:4).

## Conclusion:

God draws man to Him by appealing to his nature in the gospel message. The gospel message reveals the information needful so that I may be saved from the awful consequences of sin. When I contemplate heaven, I see a marvelous eternal place of promise. Heaven will be a place where I do not have to worry about someone stealing, injuring, or hurting my feelings. The inhabitants of heaven will never again experience the pain, agony, and emotional sorrow of death. The inhabitants of heaven will eat of the tree of life and drink of the life giving waters and so such people will be eternally sustained by the heavenly Father. He will be their light for sunshine and provide all necessary sustenance. These things draw me to God.