

# Weaving the Word

*Cleaned Up With Hyssop*

July 14, 2019

*Welcome to where we're learning how to clear our conscience!*



**What has made you feel guilty lately?**

Eat something unhealthy? Buy something unwise? Watch something unworthy? Do something unholy? Say something unloving? **Our conflicting thoughts battle like lawyers before a judge. And our conscience serves as the star witness.**



The law [is] written on their **Gentiles (i.e. everyone's)** hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them. - Romans 2:15 NIV

So, your conscience is a witness; but, **should it be your guide?**

Well, definitely **not until you've guided it into God's Word.** So often we respond to life and to others from a self-justified gut feeling that reduces the voice of God to whatever I *feel*.

But when *He*, the Spirit of *truth*, comes **He will guide you** **[so you in turn can guide your conscience]** into all truth. - John 16:13 NIV

**Only then can your conscience confirm your actions by His Spirit.**

**[Paul says]** I speak the truth in Christ ... my conscience confirms it in the Holy Spirit **[and Jesus said, "The words I have spoken ... are spirit" (Jn 6:63)]** ... - Romans 9:1 NIV



**So, we must tune our conscience to the voice of the Holy Spirit.**

**[Because, here's the problem:]** Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the hearts. – Proverbs 21:2 NKJ



Because, our heart records how we treat our God-given conscience.



Again we're returning to Jerusalem to when *Jesus* returned to Jerusalem one year before the cross. But, this'll be our last time. Lesson learned. We took an aside, opened our eyes, looked around, and went, "*Whoa!*" The skies are filled with blood-red birds tweeting a sign from the heavens of *Jesus'* current work and coming cure in one short year as our Passover Lamb.



*Jesus* and His boys just returned from a whirlwind tour, teaching and touching and healing every untouchable, incurable, leper in the land.



Matthew tells us that *in this way* Jesus *literally* “took up our infirmities and carried our diseases.” (Mt 8:16-17) In Scripture, **leprous sores symbolize sin**. It’s also called **the plague of the heart**. (1 Kings 8:38) **It won’t heal on its own**; requires a Great Physician. So Jesus stayed in *lonely places*, not to avoid, but to accommodate those plagued and forbidden from entering *any town*, let alone Jerusalem! But Jesus returns to hordes of healed lepers coming into the city and lining up in the fields, to offer their testimony of Jesus, as commanded by Moses. And, when the Pharisees attacked, Jesus said:



The very work that the Father has given me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies ... And the Father who sent me **has himself testified concerning me**. **[Not only from the rooftops, but Scripture says they nested in the Temple! [Ps 84:3]]** ... But do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses,” – John 5:36-45 NIV



Why? Because their collective warped conscience was seared against this obvious explosion of miraculous healings and the accompanying Scriptural signs!



For each leper one songbird was killed so another could be covered with its blood and set free. Also included was towla’ shaniy, a scarlet dye, that symbolizes sin; and is made from towla’ mamas that symbolize the Son of Man. (Job 25:6; Ps 22:6, Is 1:18)



And **these, along with a tiny plank of cedar, were secured to a handful of hyssop**, to be dipped in the blood and cast on each cleansed leper. (Lev 14:4-7)



1,478 Passovers earlier, **hyssop is first used at the exodus to mark the doorways with the lamb’s blood so the Destroyer would “pass over”**. (Ex 12:22)



And, hyssop, cedar, towla’ shaniy, and the ashes of a red heifer were used to create the “**Water of Purification**” that was then **cast with hyssop to purify God’s chosen from sin and death**. (Num 19:6-21)



Hyssop carries the **blood of the lamb that delivers from bondage**, the **blood of the bird that declares restored life**, and the **water of purification that cleanses from sin and its wages: death**. And, hyssop carries the **sour wine offered to Jesus just before His last breath**.



They filled a sponge with sour wine, **put it on hyssop**, and put it to His mouth. So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit. ... **[And]** one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately **blood and water** came out. – John 19:29b-30, 34 NKJ



Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled **[i.e. hyssop’ed]** from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. – Hebrews 10:22 NKJ

## We're released by His blood to be cleansed by His Word.

[Christ] loved the church and gave Himself for her, **[with His blood]** that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself ... holy and without blemish. – Ephesians 5:26-27 NKJ

You were redeemed ... with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. – 1 Peter 1:18b-19 NIV

How much more shall the blood of Christ, who ... offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience ... – Hebrews 9:14 NKJ

After a murderous, adulterous affair, David repented and wrote:

Wash me **[lit. trample me]** thoroughly from my iniquity, **[perversity]** and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions ... **[Not to rid myself of guilt; but, to reconnect with my Savior and Lord; because]** Against You, You only, have I sinned ... Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ... Create in me a clean **[unmixed]** heart, O God, and renew a steadfast **[firm; stable]** spirit within me. **[Pharisees clean the outside of the cup; but, it's the inward part that matters most]** ... Restore to me the joy of Your salvation ... For You do not desire sacrifice ... The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite **[crushed]** heart – Psalm 51:2-17 NKJ

## Why does God like a broken and crushed heart? It's the only kind He can heal.

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. – Psalm 147:3 NIV

## It's like resetting an improperly mended broken leg.

Blessed is the man whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty. For He wounds, but He also binds up; He injures, but His hands also heal. – Job 5:17-18 NIV

## A heart of stone can't be reset without breaking it a bit. *But it's all good.*



For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. – 2 Corinthians 7:10 NKJ



**Worldly sorrow just wants to feel better however it can; but, Godly sorrow seeks to heal and restore those we've hurt, including our Father and Savior and Spirit and self.**

Judas hung himself because he was more concerned with “clearing his conscience” than restoring his relationship with Jesus.

## You can't escape feelings of guilt by doing Christian things, *however extreme.*

Gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper. – Hebrews 9:9b NIV

Ever buy a gift because you felt obligated? This isn't a gift God wants. **If it's guilt, it isn't love.**

The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. – 1 Timothy 1:5 ESV

“Lord, please take away my drug habit and help me get clean.”

“Okay. Go, flush your stash and stop hanging out with your drug friends.”

“Wait. I wasn't aware this was a *cooperative effort*.”

Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, – Isaiah 1:16 NKJ



If you put food at your back door every night, the local dogs will sniff it out. And then, **if you later decide to stop doing it, they'll keep coming. In fact, they'll scratch and claw and howl.**



But when this happens with a sin we're breaking away from, **we get upset that God isn't listening and prayer isn't working.** “Lord, why won't you make those dogs go away?” “I'm not a dog catcher. I'm a heart breaker ... and healer; and I'm right here to help you resist the urge to feed 'em.” **He's all about deepening trust and strengthening faith and building character so He can eventually help others through you.** “But, first we got'a get you to just stop feeding those backdoor dogs! **Then we restore the joy.**”



It's like kids who love to play with blocks, free from concerns of wind-shear, load values, fire-stops, rafter spans, crowd flow, and zoning.

Then they grow up to become a builder. **At first the rules and codes and restrictions are overwhelming.** But, as they persevere and mature, they're not only able to *once again* joyfully create, but in ways they couldn't have fathomed. **Time to grow up and stop playing with Bible blocks.** And allow the Lord to restore the *joy* of your salvation.

Let Him create in you a clean heart and a clear conscience, which doesn't mean you don't sin. **It just means you're keenly aware when you do. And you then do what you can to make it right.**

**So, keep an eye on your conscience as it chugs away on autopilot.** And remember: if God has forgiven you, but your heart condemns you, who you gonna believe?

**Your heart didn't die on that cross; and it has *no right* to take authority over the One who did!**

This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, – 1 John 3:19-20 NIV

**Time to lay down the law ... and pick up the hyssop ... and purge.**