

## **RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH #5** **DISPENSATION OF CONSCIENCE**

Romans 2:14, 15

- Last week, we read how Adam and Eve started out in a state of innocence, but that changed once they \_\_\_\_\_.
- Now, man has a **conscience** - an inward \_\_\_\_\_ that he did not have before sin entered. Break “conscience” into 2 words:
  - CON = \_\_\_\_\_ SCIENCE = \_\_\_\_\_
- **cf. 1 Timothy 4:2** - A “seared conscience” results in having no \_\_\_\_\_. The conscience can tell you what’s wrong, but it has no power to make you do the \_\_\_\_\_ thing to avoid the wrong.

### **DISPENSATION OF CONSCIENCE (Cain & Abel - The Flood)**

#### **1. Begins:** Genesis 3:22

- Through their disobedience to God, Adam and Eve came to know the difference between good and evil by \_\_\_\_\_. In the aftermath of sin, their conscience entered.
- Cain and Abel (Genesis 4:1-7) - In being ruled by the conscience, Cain demonstrates that the conscience cannot be trusted as our only \_\_\_\_\_. We also need the \_\_\_\_\_!

#### **2. God’s Attribute Revealed:** \_\_\_\_\_

- This dispensation lasted approximately \_\_\_\_\_ years. The wickedness of man became great due to man’s \_\_\_\_\_ (see Genesis 5 for an idea of lifespans).
- **cf. 1 Peter 3:18-20** - “the **longsuffering** of God waited in the days of \_\_\_\_\_” - also, **LONGSUFFERING** is listed in the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22, 23

#### **3. Man’s Responsibility:** Genesis 4:6, 7

- During this dispensation, man was to simply follow his \_\_\_\_\_. When a man went against his conscience (“the knowledge of good and evil”), God required a \_\_\_\_\_.

- God revealed Himself through 3 witnesses during this dispensation:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ witness - the conscience (Rom. 2:14, 15)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ witness - the creation (Rom. 1:19, 20)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ witness - the criteria - there had to be a \_\_\_\_\_ for sin

#### **4. Man's Test and Failure:** Genesis 6:5

- When given the choice to follow the conscience or not, men chose to do \_\_\_\_\_.
- **cf. Genesis 6:11-13** - Notice how the earth was \_\_\_\_\_ and filled with \_\_\_\_\_ (not much has changed!).

#### **5. God's Judgment:** Genesis 6:6-8, 13-18

- The evil heart of man grieved the Lord, and He sent judgment upon the \_\_\_\_\_. God used \_\_\_\_\_ to bring judgment (think about how there is a connection with the picture seen in believer's baptism). In the future, God will use \_\_\_\_\_ to bring judgment (cf. 2 Thessalonians 1:7, 8).
- In every dispensation, God provides a means of \_\_\_\_\_ from His judgment.
  - **cf. Hebrews 11:7** - God dispensed the means of deliverance to \_\_\_\_\_ in this dispensation.
  - For an additional exception, see Genesis 5:23, 24 - \_\_\_\_\_

#### **6. Types of Christ:** Genesis 7:1, 16-23

- The ark was the \_\_\_\_\_ from God's judgment, but Noah and his family were only safe once they were \_\_\_\_\_ the ark.

#### **7. Lessons for Today:**

- Even though man has a conscience, it will **not** keep him from doing \_\_\_\_\_. Man's heart is deceitful and desperately \_\_\_\_\_ according to Jeremiah 17:9.
- **cf. Matthew 24:37, 38** - Jesus Christ referred to "the days of Noe" as a comparison to the moral condition of the earth just prior to His \_\_\_\_\_.