

# *Transformed!*

## How God Renews the Lives of His People

# *Get Personal*

## Part 2: *What Your Conscience is Trying to Tell You*

### A Note from Pastor Keith...

Last time we learned the source of our spiritual struggles: Despite our knowledge of God's nature and character, we chose to worship created things instead. So God gave us over to the consequence of our decision—bondage to sin. It is *that bondage* that we experience as our spiritual struggles. And it is *from that bondage* that we must be freed. But we're getting ahead of ourselves. The fact is that most people aren't ready to admit that they even have a problem. So let's get ourselves convinced.

### *What Your Conscience is Trying to Tell You*

#### Focus Passage:

Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?

Romans 2:4 (all references are NIV)

## Four Fatal Misconceptions

### 1. "The things I do aren't all that bad, are they?"

<sup>1</sup>You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.

Romans 2:1

We do things and they're not so bad...right? Then others do the same things and we judge those people—*proving that we knew those things were wrong all along!*

### 2. "If I were *really* bad, God would punish me, right?"

<sup>2</sup>Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. <sup>3</sup>So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment?

<sup>4</sup>Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?

Romans 2:2-4

If we're such huge sinners, why haven't we been punished more severely? Is it because we're not really so bad after all? No, that's not it. It's because God is giving us every chance to repent!

### *Get Personal!*

Consider each of the misconceptions in today's study. Do they sound familiar? At one time or another, we've all told ourselves some version of each one. So make each one personal. Put each of the four in your own words.

### 3. “There’s no real harm in delay, though, is there?”

<sup>5</sup>But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. <sup>6</sup>God "will give to each person according to what he has done." <sup>7</sup>To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. <sup>8</sup>But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. <sup>9</sup>There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; <sup>10</sup>but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. <sup>11</sup>For God does not show favoritism.

Romans 2:5-11

“If God is so patient,” we reason, “then I’m OK. There’s no hurry. I have time.” True, punishment is being delayed, but the punishment you’re delaying is just getting more severe. Or you could repent now, pursue God, and get rewarded like crazy. Your call.

### 4. “I don’t really know that much about the Bible, so God won’t hold me *too* responsible, will He?”

<sup>12</sup>All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. <sup>13</sup>For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. <sup>14</sup>(Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, <sup>15</sup>since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.) <sup>16</sup>This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

Romans 2:12-16

We know a lot more than we’re prepared to admit. But how? Conscience. It’s built in—part of what it means to be human. It starts working early and it never quits. There’s no avoiding it: we’re accountable.

So now we can ask and answer our question:

Q: What is your conscience trying to tell you?

A: *It’s telling you to repent, to change your view of sin and of God, to start seeing things His way.*

Next Week: *Why Religion Doesn’t Help*

**There so much religion in our lives, yet it has so little impact. What are we missing?**

## *Get Personal!*

Continue what you began on the first page.