

Conviction of the Conscience

Genesis 42

"Conviction of sin is one of the rarest things that ever strikes a man. It is the threshold of an understanding of God. Jesus Christ said that when the Holy Spirit came He would convict of sin, and when the Holy Spirit rouses the conscience and brings him into the presence of God, it is not his relationship with men that bothers him, but his relationship with God." Oswald Chambers

- I. The patriarchs, fathers of the nation of Israel, desperately needed a work of God's grace in their hearts to prepare them for fulfillment of his promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The power of grace was the means God used to bring sin hardened consciences to an awareness of their need for repentance and forgiveness before **Elohim**, God almighty.

Gen. 42:1-28

- A. As an instrument of his grace, God used a severe famine to bring despair and hopelessness into the hearts of Joseph's brothers. The despair they felt moved them unknowingly into the midst of God's will.

Gen. 42:1-5

- B. As an instrument of his grace, God used Joseph's words and actions to prick the hard hearts and seared consciences of the patriarchs who desperately needed a rude awakening of their sin before their covenant God, **Jehovah**.

Gen. 42:6-22

2 Cor. 7:10 *Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.*

- C. The effect of the instruments of God's grace awakened the consciences of Joseph's brothers to fear, regret and despair over what their sinful actions had done to their family. God moved the hearts of Jacob's sons to an awareness of their guilt and depravity before him.

Gen. 42:23-28

- II. God's grace was forcing the patriarchs to face accountability for their sin like the godly men he called them to be. He was making them deal with the effect that their sin had on the man whom they were to respect and honor, their father Jacob. God's purpose was to bring an acute godly sorrow into their hearts that would move them to repentance and integrity before himself and others

Gen. 42:29-38