

ACTS



LOVING



GROWING



SENDING

Acts 23



1. Paul's Bold Statement

- “I have lived my life” = more than the last few weeks
- “before God...up to this day” = long time
 - ↳ *implication*: a Jew can follow Jesus with a clear conscience
 - ↳ *implication*: a Jew can persecute the church with a clear conscience(!)

ACTS



2. From Conscience to Righteousness

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more:⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee;⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

(Philippians 3:4-6)

ACTS



2. From Conscience to Righteousness

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more:⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a **Hebrew of Hebrews**; as to the law, a Pharisee;⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

(Philippians 3:4-6)

ACTS



2. From Conscience to Righteousness

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more:⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee;⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; **as to righteousness under the law, blameless.**

(Philippians 3:4-6)

ACTS



2. From Conscience to Righteousness

I count everything loss...that I may gain
Christ...not having a righteousness of my
own...

(Philippians 3:8-9)

ACTS

A decorative graphic of a flame or fire, rendered in shades of orange, yellow, and red, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

2. From Conscience to Righteousness

- there is a difference between a clear conscience & righteousness
- all Paul's actions came from what he believed were right motives
- God considering me righteous is not the same as me having a clear conscience

ACTS



2. From Conscience to Righteousness

- God considering me righteous is not the same as me having a clear conscience
 - ↳ popular hope: do more good than bad

ACTS



2. From Conscience to Righteousness

- God considering me righteous is not the same as me having a clear conscience
 - ↳ religion is an insufficient guide for the the conscience

ACTS



2. From Conscience to Righteousness

- God considering me righteous is not the same as me having a clear conscience
 - ↳ even the mature believer cannot rest on a clear conscience
 - ❖ 1 Corinthians 4:4

ACTS



2. From Conscience to Righteousness

“Fallen human nature is fertile ground for fleshly religiosity that is impressively ‘spiritual’ but ultimately rooted in self-love”

ACTS

