



I Have Not A Cake (1 Kings 17:12)



Introduction

Although the meaning of cake in the Bible is not the same as a chocolate cake, that simple statement is fitting for our title. Substitute in that statement any sin in your life, even the so-called little ones. "I have not murder in my life", you may say. "I have not a foul mouth", you may say. "I have not a desire to steal", you may say. Would it not be great if you could say, "I have not anger in my life"? Or to be able to say, "I have not lust in my life"? "I have not gluttony in my life"? How about, "I have not sin in my life"?

Yes, it is possible to have complete victory over sin. Do not be confused with the fact that we are never to declare that *"we have no sin,"* for *"we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us"* (1 John 1:8) because *"all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23) but we do not need to continue in sin.

If we do have sin, we are never, never to do what most ministers do today. We are never to state in writing or in the pulpit our imperfections. That sends a comfort in sin message to the reader and/or listener. Yet, for the excuse of sympathizing, there is this necessity by many today to testify of sins they are currently struggling with. Naming a sin when one gives a testimony in overcoming is different. But stating that they need to overcome a certain sin sends the wrong message.

Take for example, if a minister were to admit that he was a practicing glutton on chocolate cake struggling to overcome but not being able to just yet. The practicing sinner may also be a glutton on chocolate cake and would feel less convicted on the truth to give up chocolate cake despite, as they say, being "real". They may even think that since the minister is still struggling, it must be an illusion to think one can give up chocolate cake. They may even come up with theories that explain the status of perfection as being simply credited to us. Or they may use any excuse to not be serious about giving up chocolate cake simply because the minister has not yet done it.

While a minister should not sympathize with sin, he should sympathize with the sinner. When one is overcome and he will do what he can to help lift the willing soul out of the muck of sin, but to state, "Hey, I understand. I too am still eating chocolate cake", simply confirms a practicing sinner in their sins.

Now when we listen to a preacher, speak regarding sin and he does not publicly admit his sins, Satan may work on our minds. "Oh, don't listen to him. He thinks he's better than everyone and is telling everyone else what they need to do. He's haughty. He's bragging. He's a hypocrite." Though uncomfortable, preachers must still rebuke and exhort. The congregation must be careful not to shut down listening to the message for it is Satan putting those jealous thoughts in their head.

So, let us be willing to give up the spiritual chocolate cake as we must *"lift up a standard for the people"* (Isaiah 62:10) *"perfecting holiness in the fear of God"* (2 Corinthians 7:1) keeping in mind that we should set no earthly standard for *"he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth"* (John 3:31). If in the process we also give up the physical chocolate cake, all the better.

Why Chocolate Cake?

In this issue we are not going to discuss the mere theory of overcoming sin. It is time to get our hands dirty and work on real application. We have chosen chocolate cake for two reasons. Chocolate cake is a popular desert and it is addictive to many. If it is not your favorite, choose another. In any case, the message is not specifically against chocolate cake but from the example of struggling to give it up, we shall portray the struggle with sin. Certain sins that are besetting follow the same pattern. As many have struggled in giving up chocolate cake only to gorge themselves from time to time, many have struggled also in laying off those besetting sins.

We have gotten to a place where we as Christians have convinced ourselves of a false gospel. We may be experiencing *"a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof"* (2 Timothy 3:5). We may not believe that Jesus *"is*

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Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

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able to keep you from falling, and to present [you] faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy" (Jude 1:24). We may even go as far as having "changed the truth of God into a lie" (Romans 1:25). Do we really want to become part of the group that believes in "strong delusion, that they should believe a lie" (2 Thessalonians 2:11)? Do we really want to misunderstand the true meaning of the fact that "no [man] is able to pluck [them] out of my Father's hand" (John 10:29).

If we believe for a moment that we cannot have the "whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:23), not only do we not believe in the gospel of perfection, but we believe Satan is more powerful than Jesus. Who is greater? Jesus or Satan? If so, then "know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" (Romans 6:16)

If you believe Jesus to be greater, then "let us go on unto perfection" (Hebrews 6:1). And let us remember the job description for ministers, which we are all called to be (2 Cor. 6:4). The position is "for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Eph. 4:12). So let us desire sermons that teach how to be perfect rather than teaching that Jesus did it all. Sure He did it all, but it was not so we can enjoy sin. He did it all so that we may "walk, even as he walked" (1 John 2:6). He did it all so that we may believe that we can be part of Revelation 3:21, "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne." We "being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Romans 6:18). Besides, the purpose of Jesus coming was to "save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21), not in their sins.

Which is a more powerful gospel. Jesus saves you to go to heaven or Jesus has freed you from sin and saved you to go to heaven?

What a breath of fresh air for those that look for a better life here and now. Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have [it] more abundantly" (John 10:10). Give sinners that life by revealing more of what Jesus has to offer.

How Do We Overcome?

Step 1: Prayer is the first step in order to prepare the heart, or clean out the temple. It includes the following four items:

Realize that God wants to save us. "The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin." Exodus 34:6-7. And that includes you, no matter what your past has been.

uity and transgression and sin." Exodus 34:6-7. And that includes you, no matter what your past has been.

Recognize our need of Christ, without whom not one sin can be resisted. "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." (1 Cor. 2:14). "In him was life; and the life was the light of men" the only "name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (John 1:4; Acts 4:12).

Confess our sins. "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit." (Ps. 34:18).

Consecration "Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous" (1 Jn 3:7).

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (Jm 4:7).

Overall, pray that God will "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me" (Psalms 51:10). We need to become aware of what sin really is and without the right spirit, we will excuse just about anything. If we truly have a right spirit, we will not stand for watching movies or television that uses God's name in vain even if good morals are taught. We will not stand for people using foul language even if it has become the norm. But we will become open to whatever God wants to change in our lives.

Another reason for prayer is that even though we become aware of what sin is, we may not hate the sin. We need to pray for the clean heart. A clean heart will hate to smoke to the destruction of our bodies; it will hate to feed the body poisons; it will hate to get unrighteously angry because it hurts another's soul; it will hate to leave a soul in darkness so long as one remains our friend, it will hate lusting after the flesh of another despite the skimpy amount of coverage; it will hate lying and showing oneself to be better than another for it is prideful; and so on.

So like the chocolate cake example, pray that you recognize the destruction sin has upon you and to have no desire for it.

Now substitute a real sin. Do you love what alcohol does for you? Pray that you will hate that feeling, especially the losses associated with it. You cannot function properly for a while. You may get sick afterwards. People think less of a drunk. You may even forget all that happened.

Do you love attention, which is pride? Pray to be uncomfortable in receiving the attention. Besides, do you know that you are building unnecessary pressure upon yourself? You

now have to perform at that level or higher. You cannot fail even once. The light is upon you, and whatever you do, you are now being watched.

Step 2: Avoid the situation. *“Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it”* (1 Peter 3:11). To eschew evil is to get far away from it.

Let us try it with the chocolate cake. Let us say that a cake is sitting on the table soon to be served to the rest of the family or guests in the house. You have no control over the fact that the cake is present. But you do have control of how close you get to it. Seeing there is plenty of time between now and serving time, one who does not eschew evil may decide to sit down at the table and write a letter to someone. Of all days to decide to do this you may think. Anyways, while writing the letter, oops, the pen slipped out of your hand and rolled to settle next to the chocolate cake. Well, of course you are going to reach for the pen and retrieve it. Oh, look at that. You accidentally rubbed the back of your hand along the chocolate cake. Well, no use of going over to the sink and washing off good icing. You might as well lick it off and continue your letter writing. That is clearly not eschewing evil.

No one is fooling God when they play with sin in this manner. *“Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart”* (Psalms 44:21).

The proper way to handle the situation is to have walked into the kitchen, notice the cake, and leave. Do not worry what people will think. You may even have to go as far as telling someone in the kitchen that you cannot come in and if they want to talk to you, they have to come out to meet you.

Again, substitute a real sin. Are you trying to avoid smoking? Do not go in the bar.

Trying to avoid pornography? Maybe you should not join those watching R-rated movies. Even PG movies are suggestive. What are we thinking? Even cartoons promote sex. And how about the lack of clothing for primetime television? If you are serious, maybe all of it should be avoided.

Trying to avoid gluttony? “All you can eat” buffets just may not be the place for you.

Step 3. Make no preparation for a fall. *“But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to [fulfil] the lusts [thereof]”* (Romans 13:14). Do not buy little chocolate cakes and stash them in the cupboard for a moment of weakness because you will then have frequent weaknesses. If

need be remove the TV until you are able to exercise better discretion. Remove any and all such content that is in your power to remove. And smokers should not be stashing cigarettes anywhere.

Step 4. Do good works, especially at the time of weakness. *“Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good”* (Romans 12:21).

If you are at a house where you have no control over the chocolate cake being there and you know that it is about time to be served, volunteer to take the dogs for a walk. If it is your home but you and your spouse do not see eye-to-eye on the chocolate cake, volunteer to go clean up the living room or something. Whatever good deed can be done, prepare ahead of time to immediately do it. Excuse yourself from the presence of the cake.

You may have to be rude as well. If your spouse expects you to sit there until after dessert, you may have to tell them that you are willing to sit through any desert with them except for the one that you are weak on – chocolate cake. You may explain that they ought not to think you to be rude, for it is insensitive of them to insist on the reverse role. Do not argue about it. Just get up and leave.

Now instead of chocolate cake, you may get into angry arguments. Consider avoiding the neighbor that stirs you up by doing yard work in an area not so visible to him. Consider avoiding the group of people gathering outside of the church who love to debate politics after church, by straightening up the hymnals inside the church. If getting together with friends usually means placing yourself into compromising places and positions, suggest other activities.

Step 5. Resistance is not futile. *“Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin”* (Hebrews 12:4). To pray to God to stop you from picking up the fork and scooping up a piece of cake is a ridicule of God. He has given you the power to resist. You must not lift the fork in the first place. You are to utter the words, “No thanks” when asked if you want some cake. You must resist staring at the cake dreaming up a scheme of how you can have some and not sin against God. The answer is, you cannot have some and not sin.

Keep in mind that even if your life is threatened, it is no excuse for eating a piece of chocolate cake. *“whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it”* (Matthew 16:25).

“Seek ye the Lord while he may be found,

THINK ON THESE THINGS

(Philippians 4:8)

I Offer Thee Three Things

Go and tell David, saying, Thus saith the LORD, I offer thee three [things]: choose thee one of them, that I may do [it] unto thee. So God came to David, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Choose thee. (1 Chronicles 21:10-11)

Those in a parenting role, teacher role, or any role that involves children, here is some advice for when they have been caught in a serious matter. Of course serious depends upon the age.

What you may do as a correction, in order for them to understand the seriousness of the sin committed, is to offer a choice of punishment. Now one must make all the choices about equal in severity or it will lose the effectiveness. The child will always search out the easiest and quickest punishment. But when equal in the level of correction, it becomes a thought provoking choice.

Also, the choices need to be considered a natural consequence for their actions. Taking away a teenager’s privilege to drive a car for the use of a vulgar word is not a natural consequence. Being out with the car later than they ought and without calling is an offense worthy of losing driving privileges.

And a severe infraction calls for a severe correction. Standing in the corner for burning down the house is a bit too easy. Standing in the corner until a new disposition comes upon a child after they threw a fit is appropriate.

Debt Reduction Progress

Over our 10 year history, \$80,000 accumulated in ministry debt both from short periods of time of not being able to cover all of the expenses and the over 4 year period (Jan. 2004 - May 2007) when we personally could not sustain this ministry.

He had lost his employment due to religious conflict. Without that income we were not able to sustain this ministry and so the debt accumulated.

Now financial blessings are occurring in his employment, but in order to recover financially it requires him to work very long hours. Can you help eliminate this ministry debt faster?

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\$11,303 Current Balance

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\$11,303 Current Balance

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call ye upon him while he is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:6-7).

Step 6. Abide in Christ is the most important step for it is not by our strength that we shall overcome. *"Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him" (1 John 3:6).* These are powerful words for victory as well as for condemnation. If we truly abide in Christ, His power will keep us from sinning. We will have victory in every situation. However, if we are still living in sin and think we are all right with God, we are deceiving ourselves. We will be part of the many that think they have been saved yet were not. *"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matt 7:22-23).*

But to abide in Christ seems to be more of a catch phrase. Many struggle with the practical application of it. True, it means to be in constant communication with God and not just a dedication of the day in the morning thinking it is sufficient for the entire day. Remember, Daniel *"kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God" (Daniel 6:10).*

But there must be more to abiding for after awhile even praying three times a day becomes ritualistic and it loses its effectiveness. For even *"the dog [is] turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire" (2 Peter 2:22).* Some can pray a sincere prayer to God and turn right back to the sin they just prayed about almost instantaneously.

Again, we must be constantly abiding in Christ. But the practical question is how? Especially when Paul used to have the same struggle. *"For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do" (Romans 7:19).* Please note that that was the struggle Paul had. He did not live that way for the rest of his life. He found that *"if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live" (Romans 8:13).*

Paul found the practical secret. Let us face it. How many times have you tried using all earthly means to overcome sin? You may have picked a particular date, with New Year's being the most popular followed by one's birthday only to fail within two weeks? Even singing a certain song over and over

can be a let down. Then there is the quitting cold turkey as they say. How about self-help books? How about the milestone method of cutting back and cutting back? In reality, it has all been a let down.

The answer may not be what you want to hear. The fact is that it will be a constant struggle. You will never gain the victory over all temptation, but you can gain the victory over every sin. We shall be tempted until our death or the second coming. We just do not have to give in to the temptation and sin. So cease from thinking you shall never be tempted and begin thinking that *"there hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God [is] faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear [it]" (1 Corinthians 10:13).*

But do not face temptations alone. As soon as you recognize the temptation, pray "Lord I don't want to do this, help me to not do this." Then move on to the remaining steps, leave the room and find a distraction such as a good deed to do instead while still praying. And when we say "still praying", we mean to say that we ought to remain in a prayerful attitude. Replay in your mind strong characters of the Bible. Having trouble with lusting after women? Think of Joseph who ran. Having trouble standing up for Jesus in public? Think of John the Baptist who was not afraid to lose his head. Having trouble with putting things into the body that is not healthful, such as junk food, alcohol, drugs, etc.? Think of Paul that said, *"But I keep under my body, and bring [it] into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (1 Cor. 9:27).*

Now if you are overcome, are you going to give up? Of course not. *"These things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1).* *"The Father himself loveth you" (John 16:27).*

Conclusion

Let us all have sympathy for those struggling with various sins, knowing that we all have our own areas of weakness. Do not press when people will not stay for the meal after services. Do not assume that they are being anti-social. Maybe they simply do not want to risk falling to their weakness of chocolate cake when it is served.

And remember, despite the support or not from family, friends and even church members, *"Enoch walked with God: and he [was] not; for God took him" (Genesis 5:24).* Enoch not only walked with God, he walked alone.

DO YOU HAVE A TSTL FOR THAT?

The purpose of these Bible studies is to help you seek for a TSTL—"Thus Saith the Lord..." for all that you believe. May you go forward in this study with that goal.



SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES (John 5:39)

Moses' Law (Hebrews 10:28) A continuation of last month's study

1. In receiving mercy from God, what shall we not do with Moses' Law? **Hebrews 10:28**
2. What does God do with Moses' Law? **Hebrews 10:30**
3. What does God use in this process? **James 2:12**
4. What law is this? **James 2:11**
5. But if we do the law, what are we not? **Romans 3:20**
6. At the same time, who does receive that part of salvation from God? **Romans 2:13**
7. How do the two verses not contradict? **1 John 2:3-4**
8. What is involved with it? **Revelation 14:12**
9. Who lives by it? **Habakkuk 2:4, Romans 1:17**

10. How do we show it? **James 2:18**

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S STUDY:

Have Mercy Upon Me (Psalms 4:1)

1. What have all of us done? **Romans 3:23**
"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."
2. What do we deserve? **Ezekiel 18:4**
"Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die."
3. If we get what we deserve, what shall we not have (the example uses one particular sin of murder, but substitute any sin)? **1 John 3:15**
"Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him."
4. What does God offer to us? **Matthew 9:13**
"But go ye and learn what [that] meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."
5. What is our response to be? **Psalms 13:5**
"But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation."
6. What will the proper response lead to? **Jude 1:21**
"Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."
7. How long shall God's offer last? **Psalms 136:26**
"O give thanks unto the God of heaven: for his mercy [endureth] for ever."
8. How long are we to have a proper response to God's offer? **Jude 1:21**
"Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life." [We are to have a constant, positive response.]
9. But what shall we not despise? **Hebrews 10:26-28**
"For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:" [Just in case you are wondering what that means, see this month's Bible study.]

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**WHO HATH BELIEVED OUR REPORT?
AND TO WHOM IS THE ARM OF THE LORD REVEALED?**

(Isaiah 53:1)



▶▶Mail Online

September 2, 2009

Britain's longest-lasting marriage ends after 81 years

Frank Milford, 101, held the hand of his wife Anita, also 101, as he passed away at the residential home where they lived.

COMMENT:

Proverbs 18:22 [Whoso] findeth a wife findeth a good [thing], and obtaineth favour of the LORD.

In this age of divorces being at a rate of 50%, more among Christians according to some statistics, nevertheless, Frank and Anita show that there is people blessed of God with a long marriage.

But keep in mind, blessings of God are not all one-sided. It takes effort upon husband and wife as well. In fact, it takes a lot of effort, especially as people divorce over the silliest things.

▶▶Fiji Times

August 18, 2009

Church rules no pants on Sunday

THE strict observance of Sunday worship has resulted in men on a Bua island not being allowed to wear pants on Sunday.

The Sunday ban also forbids travel and the hanging of clothes on lines. Galoa Village headman Josefa Baleinasiga said the ban was enforced so that the islanders could learn to respect the significance of Sunday as a holy day.

Mr Baleinasiga said the Methodist Church and the vanua also decided to impose the ban as a means of bringing good fortune to the people. "The ban is meant to bring good luck to the island as we respect the day of the Lord," he said. "You can see that often misfortune befalls us because we don't respect His commandments that there be no work performed on Sunday

except worship.

Mr Baleinasiga said anybody who breached the ban would be chastised by the vanua.

COMMENT:

One of the reasons for enacting such a restrictive Sunday law is that Sunday is believed to be a holy day. Could someone show us where Sunday is a holy day in the Bible?

There is only one day that God made holy. According to Genesis 2:3, the Bible says, *"And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made."*

Another reason is to bring "good luck" by respecting the day of the Lord. God is not into "Luck".

But let us focus on the use of the phrase "Day of the Lord", which appears in the Bible 23 times, all of them referring to the second coming and as a day of vengeance. Many use this phrase to be synonymous with "The Lord's Day". However, it appears only once in the entire Bible, *"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet"* (Revelation 1:10). As you see, no day of the week is specified. So how can this refer to the first day as the Lord's day?

Now if you really want to know which day is the Lord's Day, the Bible does say that *"For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day"* (Matthew 12:8).

According to the article, misfortune comes when not respecting the day referred to in the Commandments as another reason for Sunday restrictions. The problem with that statement is that according to the commandment, it states, *"But the seventh day [is] the sabbath of the LORD thy God. For [in] six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them [is], and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it."* (Exodus 20:10-11). Sunday is the first day, not seventh.

ART THOU IN HEALTH (2 Samuel 20:9)



Air (Job 41:16)

In Job 41:16, the Bible says, *“One is so near to another, that no air can come between them.”*

The context of the verse here is not as important as the single word “air”.

We all know that air is important. Without it, we would die in a matter of moments. But with air, are we in health?

The air that we breathe can help or hinder our existence. Enter into a bar full of cigarette smoke and it is very clear your life will be hindered from being in full health.

But what of the not so explicit display? How about working in buildings that receive no fresh air. Is it a wonder why people pass the colds and the flu around? Is it a wonder why allergies have increased in the office? Fancy, modern buildings are not necessarily the healthiest.

This is why it is important to be in the open air at least at some point in the day. And when you are, take deep breaths as if it can be felt in your toes. Shallow breathing does not clear out the lungs.

Further, if you are able to have a choice between parking right near the entrance or a distance away, try the distance spot. Coupled with more exposure to sun, which is a necessity that seems to be lacking as well, and add onto that exercise, also a needful but neglected part of our life in most cases, the intake of air would be at a more absorbable moment than walking a short distance in the shade taking a few deep breaths.

With the blood now pumping, the fresh air is now being sent throughout the entire system.

FOR MY THOUGHTS [ARE] NOT YOUR THOUGHTS, NEITHER [ARE] YOUR WAYS MY WAYS, SAITH THE LORD.

(Isaiah 55:8)



Who Arrived At The Tomb

According to some that are bent upon creating

contradictions in people’s mind, is the stretch of the next three verses:

yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.

Matthew 28:1

In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first [day] of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

Mark 16:1

And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the [mother] of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.

John 20:1

The first [day] of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was

The question to one’s mind is, “Did Mary Magdalene bring Mary, the mother of James and Salome, to the tomb or did she come alone?”

The answer is that she brought the other Mary with her. It is just that John left out that detail. John does not state that Mary came alone. He just focused on the point he was trying to make. To John the other Mary is not necessary to mention for it is Mary Magdalene that went and told the apostles, namely Peter and John, about the fact that Jesus was no longer in the tomb.

Matthew and Mark make reference to the whole picture because Mary Magdalene did not have as much of an impact upon them as she did when she came to John.

So there is a way to read these verses, as we presented, that do not contradict.

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CHILDREN’S NEWSLETTER DISCONTINUING

- ▶ The children’s newsletter will be discontinued at the end of the year.
- ▶ After several years in prayer, we believe it to be in the best interest of the ministry to cease the children’s newsletter.
- ▶ The website will also be discontinued when the next payment is due.

OCTOBER 2009-9

**I Have Not A Cake!
What Else Do We Not
Have?**
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ANSWERS FOUND IN THE SCRIPTURE OF TRUTH

(Daniel 10:21)



QUESTION: Why is it worse to have known the truth and go back to the world than it is to have just come from the world? Is not being in the world before and after knowing the truth the same?

ANSWER: The principle you are referring to is in 2 Peter 2:20, where it states: *"For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning."*

You are correct. The world has not changed since coming to the truth and leaving it. Smoking still tastes the same. Alcohol still tastes the same. Wearing jewelry and makeup still feels the same. Sleeping around still feels the same. Eating unclean meats

such as pork and shellfish still tastes the same. Going to the movies and listening to modern worldly music may have become more intense but it is still the same. You name the worldly desires and it is mostly the same. Access to it may have become easier though.

The difference is not the world. The difference is the person. The person who knew not God or the truth was enticed by a better life. But now people argue the world to the level of that better life and have been drawn from obedience to God. It is going to take a lot more to come back to God.

You may wonder what arguments may be used to pull people from obedience to God. Well, if one had given up coffee, how many times do you hear how good coffee is according to a particular study? How often do you hear chocolate is good for you? How

often are kids told that masturbation is good for healthy growth? How often are we told to eat lots of little meals and that two or three meals a day is a bad health plan? How often is the world's way appearing so much better than God's way?

First and foremost, stop watching the news. Stop believing what you read in newspapers and magazines. Stop spending time listening to the world and more time listening to the Bible.

Sure caffeine is good for you, in one test for a particular purpose, but the other sixteen or more problems it causes is not good. But you do not hear about the problems. You just hear the positive.

So do you see how dangerous it is to know the truth, then let the world draw you away from the truth? It takes a greater convincing that God's way is the right way.