

Have One Mind (in Christ) - Philippians 2:5

A Monthly Magazine

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He That Doeth Truth Cometh to the Light (John 3:21)

Jerry O'Donnell

Part 3 – Tables of Stone, Written with the Finger of God (Exodus 31:18)

As we continue the true investigation of God's commandments, the origin, the intent of them, how long they are to exist, etc., we pick up the story around the time of Abraham. And God "said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land [that is] not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years" (Genesis 15:13).

It happened this way where, Joseph told his newly united family, "For these two years [hath] the famine [been] in the land: and yet [there are] five years, in the which [there shall] neither [be] earing nor harvest. And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance" (Genesis 45:6-7). "And thou shalt dwell in the land of Goshen, and thou shalt be near unto me, thou, and thy children, and thy children's children, and thy flocks, and thy herds, and all that thou hast: And there will I nourish thee; for yet [there are]

five years of famine; lest thou, and thy household, and all that thou hast, come to poverty" (Genesis 45:10-11). So, because of the famine, Israel's families, his children and their children, moved down to the land of Goshen to escape poverty, but over time "there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph" (Exodus 1:8) and "set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses" (Exodus 1:11). They were basically turned into slaves.

As slaves, and as in any captive situation, freedom to exercise one's religion is greatly hampered even to the point of not being allowed to practice it for "the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour" (Exodus 1:13). Therefore, keeping the Sabbath holy, one of God's Ten Commandments, was soon forced to be forgotten. More than likely, any homage paid to God was also forced out of the Israelites, explaining why it was so easy for them to turn to pagan worship afterwards, but more on that later. The point is that before the words were spoken, the Israel-

ites had already lived the experience in which they did not do as they would be commanded: "Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day" (Deuteronomy 8:11). They did not live by the words of "they loved not their lives unto the death" (Revelation 12:11), but rather by "whosoever will save his life shall lose it" (Matthew 16:25), meaning, instead of resisting the enslavement and giving into being forced to give up the commandments, the worship of the true God, they complied because they knew it meant that their lives were at stake, and they chose their lives over obedience.

This was not instantly done, but when one has four hundred years to increasingly suffer at the hands of the taskmasters, each generation forgets more and more about God and His ways. We currently see in a free society where prayer was removed from schools, the god of Egypt set up in the form of evolution being taught in classrooms, churches teaching the congregations that they can do what-

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For Bible Believing Christians**

ever they like and cannot lose salvation once obtained, churches leaving the standard of God's Word and relying upon councils instead as a rule of faith, pressures from society dictating various activities are legally protected while condemned in the Bible, and much more, that the result has finally arrived where people who identify as non-religious have for the first time in history exceeded more than 50% of the population (*World Atlas*, April 25, 2017). It is important to realize that the verbal process of teaching each generation about God under these conditions had lost the influence upon the people under slavery, so by the time of Moses, it would have to be written down, but let us not get too far ahead of the timeline.

As most religious people know, God sent Moses to free the Israelites from slavery. In an early confrontation, "Pharaoh said, Who [is] the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go" (Exodus 5:2), and this is where, symbolically, atheism is attached to the use of the word "Egypt", especially when one tries to understand Revelation 11:8, which says, "their dead bodies [shall lie] in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified." Sodom, Egypt, and Jerusalem have no physical single location, but spiritually they do have a connection to one location, but that is not the purpose of this article. All that we are establishing is that atheism is spiritually connected to Egypt and continues to be an issue even in our public schools today.

Through this active attack against the God of Heaven, the last generation to come out of Egypt were

not very educated towards God. "Pharaoh said" further, "Behold, the people of the land now [are] many, and ye make them rest from their burdens" (Exodus 5:5). So, clearly the day of rest was abolished. The Israelites slaved seven days a week. Further evidence of the influence of Egypt upon the Israelite slaves shows their reaction after the drowning of Pharaoh and his armies (Exodus 14:28): "Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses" (Exodus 14:31). They basically were made aware of the true God of Heaven and they feared. They may have rejoiced in the results, but they were scared of this newly revealed powerful being. They looked upon Moses as God's appointed servant, but it was more of a controlled magic act: 10 plagues, the sea opening and closing, and the pillar of fire and cloud leading them, but the "go-between person" was Moses. It might have even crossed their minds, influenced by the magicians of Egypt, that, just maybe, Moses tapped into a power that he controlled. However the Israelites were understanding the situation, God only knows exactly. What is attempted to be established here in this article is that the Israelites did not have a relationship with God. They had a distant relationship with Moses. They were completely confused. They did not know any other life than an oppressive power in Egypt, and now there is a new power in town. This relationship is brought out in Exodus 20:19, which says, "And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die."

The Israelites were now a timid people. They were still experimenting with knowing if they should trust this new power. It is like newborn babies. They are all comfortable and content inside their mommy for months. They feel well protected and provided for, but the moment they are born and before they are brought to the mother's arms, they now sense being in a different environment, vulnerable, cold, curious to know what happened, etc., but overall, in shock. All the Israelites knew was work and more work. They did not know how to handle freedom. And they certainly did not know how to act towards God. It was almost like a parent being cut off from a child only to be reunited many years later. There is an awkwardness about the situation.

So, with that said, we find the Israelites not knowing the rules of God. Keep in mind that the Bible is not a daily journal. We do not know how long between the drowning of Pharaoh and his armies until the giving of the Ten Commandments took place. We do not know all of the attempts God made to reveal Himself to the Israelites as loving God, even a Savior. What we do see is a bit of a training session going on in Exodus 16. First, He tried to establish a daily trust with Himself by providing "manna" each morning (Exodus 16:15). They were to gather only that which was necessary for the day, yet, they had a hard time with even this lesson. "Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto Moses; but some of them left of it until the morning, and it bred worms, and stank: and Moses was wroth with them" (Exodus 16:20).

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The mission of *Have One Mind (in Christ)* is to encourage the desire of “Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat” (2 Peter 3:12), “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15), and to “abideth in the doctrine of Christ” (2 John 1:9) by following the words of Jesus, “If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him” (John 14:23).

Editor and Founder

Jerry O'Donnell

About Have One Mind (in Christ) Ministry

This ministry is founded upon the necessity of raising the standard higher and higher. It is a non-profit, volunteer group of Christians who love God's Word and love people so much so that we do not want to see a single person lost.

Subscription and Donations

Although we are volunteers, the cost of this publication is challenging to provide to everyone for free. So, we are asking for a subscription of \$19 annually for 12 issues, and if the Lord impresses you with the means to be able to provide a donation, we definitely would welcome such and put it to proper use, including helping to pay for subscriptions of those who cannot afford the cost. The publication is free online in PDF format.

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The next lesson was regarding the Sabbath day. "And it came to pass, [that] on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for one [man]: and all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. And he said unto them, This [is that] which the LORD hath said, To morrow [is] the rest of the holy sabbath unto the LORD: bake [that] which ye will bake [to day], and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning. And they laid it up till the morning, as Moses bade: and it did not stink, neither was there any worm therein" (Exodus 16:22-24).

God did not create the Sabbath day in Exodus 16 nor did He declare it to be the day that only the Israelites were to keep. It was declared to be the universal day of God for it "[is] the rest of the holy sabbath unto the LORD" (Exodus 16:23). It was already established for all mankind to observe, to keep, to honor God by. The Sabbath was established for all mankind because it was established in the garden of Eden before Adam and Eve fell. "And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. 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" (Genesis 2:2-3). Therefore, anyone who claims to be a follower of the true God, the Father, the Almighty, will then respect and keep His appointed day holy. It may not look any different than the other days of the week. It may not feel different, either. But the fact that it is God's holy day should be enough to declare, "I serve the liv-

ing God" and "turn away thy foot from the sabbath, [from] doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking [thine own] words" (Isaiah 58:13).

But, "it came to pass, [that] there went out [some] of the people on the seventh day for to gather, and they found none" (Exodus 16:27). Part of it, once again, was because for four hundred years, they had completely forgotten about God and His ways. Even so, when a powerful being as that of God reveals His power in pouring out ten plagues, uses the Red Sea to defeat the enemies, and now makes manna appear, I would not care what my ignorance tells me, but if I am told to gather enough just for the day, I would. When I am told on the sixth day to gather twice as much and prep it for the next day, I would. When I am told to not to go looking for more on the seventh day, I would not go looking for it. This stubbornness shows how ingrained Egypt was upon them. To rely upon the Israelites to communicate God's rules to the next generation and the generations after, that would not be a reliable means of guaranteeing true conveyance of God's ways. The next best means to convey it would be to write it down, and so He did.

It is in this act of the writing down of the original commandments from prior to Adam and Eve's fall that so many have been taught incorrectly that the Ten Commandments were established for the first time in Exodus 20. They have been incorrectly taught that the Ten Commandments are only for

the Jews. They have been incorrectly taught even, that the Ten Commandments are Moses' laws.

Looking at the Ten Commandments, we see ten perfect rules that doing away with any of them would result in relationships being put at risk, even broken. If "not killing" was only for the Jews, then today we would not be able to even trust a Christian to respect life. If "not bearing false witness" were only for the Jews, no Christian could be trusted today. Marriage would be meaningless, even in Christian homes. It could be very concerning to invite a Christian into a person's home for fear of something going missing through stealing. Even though many Christians do lie, cheat, steal, and even kill, Christians in general believe that those six commandments are indeed necessary or society would break down, which is exactly what we are seeing today.

It is the first four commandments that actually become challenging in the minds of Christians. They command a relationship with God, who none of us has seen face to face. They are also not very tangible. Killing results in a dead body. Stealing results in missing items. Even lying results in reactions of people. Adultery involves an activity of sorts, be it watching something or having a physical body involved. But the first four commandments, for the most part, are more intangible because we cannot see God's reaction.

Like the Israelites in the desert, many turn to the use of objects to have a relationship with God, which is no different than the "molten calf", which after making it, "they said, These [be] thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out

of the land of Egypt” (Exodus 32:4). God commanded, as in the second commandment, “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness [of any thing] that [is] in heaven above, or that [is] in the earth beneath, or that [is] in the water under the earth” (Exodus 20:4).

Of course, when God ordered the first commandment, “Thou shalt have no other gods before me” (Exodus 20:3), no one considers how they easily break it today. They first disregard the Bible in one form or another despite the claims by the writers that God is the Author (1 Corinthians 14:33) and were “moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Peter 1:21) making it a holy content and not mere men’s opinions. With the standard gone, people have turned to obeying preachers instead of God by not checking their beliefs with God’s standard. People have since moved on from listening to preachers (which we do not blame them given all the greed and sexual exploitation going on) and placed themselves in the spot where God belongs by believing that whatever they personally believe is right and God is good with that. This is why people are reluctant to discuss religious things, and this explains why there are so many different beliefs among Christians, not only in different denominations, but between all of the Christians.

On top of that, the vast majority of Christians, like over ninety-nine percent, take the name of God in vain and do not even see anything wrong with it; for instance, calling oneself a Christian but not acting like Christ, “who knew no sin” (2 Corinthians 5:21). He also had one of His writers write, “Ye adulterers

and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God” (James 4:4). And what we have is the practice that drinking alcohol is permitted among many, along with smoking, using foul language, tempers running free, dressing in clothing advertising our favorite, idolized sports teams and players, worshipping the hours our sports teams are on by wasting away the time in front of the viewing device, listening to and encouraging others to enjoy the worldly music, TV, and shows. Overall, Christians so much fit in with the world that no one can tell a Christian from a worldly person. Even unbelievers hang powerful quotations around the house and conduct acts of kindness, so Christians who think they are showing their Christianity in this manner are mistaken.

And then we look at the fourth commandment. The fact that it starts with the word “remember” tells us that there must have been a period of its being forgotten. One can only forget it if it were kept prior to the forgetting period. Therefore, this is yet another pointer to the fact that those prior to moving to Egypt, Jacob, Isaac, and Abraham, as well as the lineage back to Adam, all kept the Sabbath holy without it having to be written down. The first implication that this is so, is the fact that it was established in Eden (Genesis 2:2-3). The second implication of such observance is the fact that Abraham kept God’s commandments (Genesis 26:5). And now we have the third reference through the use of the single word of “remember”.

Next, we are told, regarding “the sabbath day, to keep it holy” (Exodus 20:8). We are not to make another day holy, in fact, we are not to make a day holy at all. We are to find which day *is* holy and simply *keep* it holy, not by going to church but by all our actions during the twenty-four-hour period, which does include church attendance. In other words, we are not talking about which day to attend church, we are addressing the point of the whole day being involved. As to keeping the day holy, we are told, “Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day [is] the sabbath of the LORD thy God: [in it] thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that [is] within thy gates” (Exodus 20:9-10).

Finally, we are even told when it was established. “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 20:11). Think about it seriously. God made all things in six days. Eternity was being experienced. There was eternity prior to the formation of the earth, and the intent was to have eternity to continue on. During this period of eternity, we have the union between husband and wife, which continues even today, though a bit distorted due to Satanic attacks. But the other intent of God throughout eternity was that every seventh day was to be a day of rest, a day to be kept holy.

But eternity has been interrupted due to sin. When eternity resumes

with the redeemed of this planet, the intent of God is “as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, [that] from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD” (Isaiah 66:22-23). So, if the Sabbath was established be-

fore sin interrupted eternity and the Sabbath is going to be practiced in eternity resumed, and we see the Ten Commandments, which are a written down set of rules that were observed by the patriarchs being conveyed to mankind, even the Sabbath one, for it is said, “The sabbath was made for man” (Mark 2:27), and not just for Jews, then does it make any sense that any of God’s commandments

were really done away with? It does not make sense, that is the point. The commandments are God’s universal law established before the earth even existed and will be the guide throughout eternity.

To be continued...



Be In Health — 3 John 1:2

How Much Do You Eat?

Proverbs 23:2 tells us, “And put a knife to thy throat, if thou [be] a man given to appetite.” This action is to fight gluttony. Although it is in the context, “When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what [is] before thee” (Proverbs 23:1), that does not give us permission to continue to eat freely outside of the observance of the ruler. Besides, the ultimate ruler is God, and we are always in His presence. Yes, the verse is intended to have us not show the ruler bad manners risking never to be invited to attend such a gathering again, but the fact that the phrase “given to appetite” is used makes it appropriate to refer to the consequences of giving into appetite at any time, with eyes watching us, or without.

Eating food just because it tastes good is not necessarily good for the body. Eating food for taste is done by continuing to eat when one is sufficiently comfortable, or to eat when one is not hungry, though it be separate from meal time. People may say, “I always

have room for dessert!” But do they really evaluate if the stomach does indeed have sufficient room? Eating food for mere taste can happen easily when one has finished a meal and then goes somewhere in which the aroma is so tempting causing the person to eat again even though they are still full. It may smell good; we may even recall what it tastes like, but if the stomach is not ready to accept more food, we are only looking for problems in multiple ways.

The first problem is caused when the stomach is overfull. The stomach is unable to digest what has already been eaten. The way the stomach digests food is by the use of digestive juices. If there is no room for those juices, the process is slowed down, even nearly stopped. This, of course, causes stomach pains, let alone the additional issues, which we will mention in a moment. A second concern is the amount of digestive juices may not be sufficient to digest the extra quantity of food in a sufficient amount of time.

With a full stomach and slowed digestive processes, the food in the stomach ferments. The additional issues are now seen as more frequent belching as well as a smell in the release of gas at the other end of the body. Further, the nutrients of the food become unusable and either the body must now simply get rid of the food through the elimination process or, in most cases, it turns to fat. Fat then packs the pounds onto the body.

When food is introduced when not actually hungry, it also turns into unusable matter to the body because the body is not ready to digest the food properly causing the digestive juices not to be plentiful enough to break down the chewed-up food properly. Again, the food ferments in the stomach and that means even healthy snacks become a waste or simply made into fat, adding that extra poundage. This explains why people who eat only healthy foods, when consumed on a “whenever basis”, tend to struggle with weight still. They complain, “I

don't understand. I only eat healthy food!" It is not the quality of food that is the problem as it is the improper attitude of eating incorrectly.

The second problem caused by introducing additional food to the stomach on a frequent basis is

that the stomach is stretched beyond expectation and becomes a larger size as the new normal where future meals will now require the additional food all of the time. This is called gaining weight, a serious method of gaining weight. To shrink the stomach

back down to the original size is not as easy as enlarging it, and it takes a lot of time and discipline to return the stomach to that original size.



Healthy and Delicious Recipes

Peach and Plum Fruit Crumble

Ingredients

- ½ cup whole rolled oats
- ½ cup chopped pecans
- ¼ cup flour (any kind): spelt, oat, whole wheat, all purpose
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- pinch of salt
- 3 tablespoons vegan butter, or hardened coconut oil (plus more for the skillet)

- 4 peaches, sliced
- 4 plums, sliced

Instructions

- Preheat the oven to 350°F and brush a medium cast iron skillet (or an 8"x8" baking dish), with a little coconut oil or butter.
- Use a food processor to pulse the oats, pecans, flour, sugar, cinnamon, and salt together. Add the butter or coconut oil and give it a few short pulses

until the the crumbly mixture clumps together. If it's too dry, add a little water, a teaspoon at a time. If it's too wet, add a little more flour.

- Place the sliced peaches and plums into the skillet, sprinkle the crumble mixture on top and bake until the topping is golden brown and the fruit is soft, about 15-18 minutes.
- Let cool slightly & serve warm with Nice Cream.



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Be Ye Holy — 1 Peter 1:15

Revelation 3:2 says, “Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.” Elsewhere, Jesus said, “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed [is] willing, but the flesh [is] weak” (Matthew 26:41). And then Paul wrote, “[There is] therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit” (Romans 8:1). Therefore, if we walk after the flesh instead of the Spirit, then there is condemnation, and that is what we have to be constantly watchful against for the devil will continuously tempt us to do just that. Though the devil cannot pull us out of God’s hand, we can become careless and accept the temptation and participate in the fleshly desire, leaving God’s protection and fall. So, that means that the “watchful” part is the holy and sanctified life. Are you being watchful?

Matthew 5:17-19 states, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach [them], the same shall be called great in the kingdom of

heaven.” This is regarding the Ten Commandments. This is not regarding the law of ceremonial processes as they ended when “the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent” (Matthew 27:51). Heaven and earth did not pass away that day either, so the Ten Commandments are still to be obeyed. To nullify the commandments because Jesus fulfilled them, as so many preachers teach, is a form of destruction, which Jesus said that He did not come to do. Therefore, if the commandments are not destroyed, not in one jot or tittle, then they are still, once again, to be obeyed. So, are you obeying the Ten Commandments, or have you been convinced by some preacher that Jesus indeed destroyed them despite what He said He would not do?

Mark 7:13 says, “Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.” If Jesus was angry because people put tradition above the obedience to God’s Word, that means Jesus expects us to obey God’s Word – The Bible! Obedience to God’s Word is the expected holy and sanctified life, especially when Jesus said, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:17). So, are you allowing God’s Word to sanctify you, or have you been taught that nothing, including outright purposeful ignorance, can

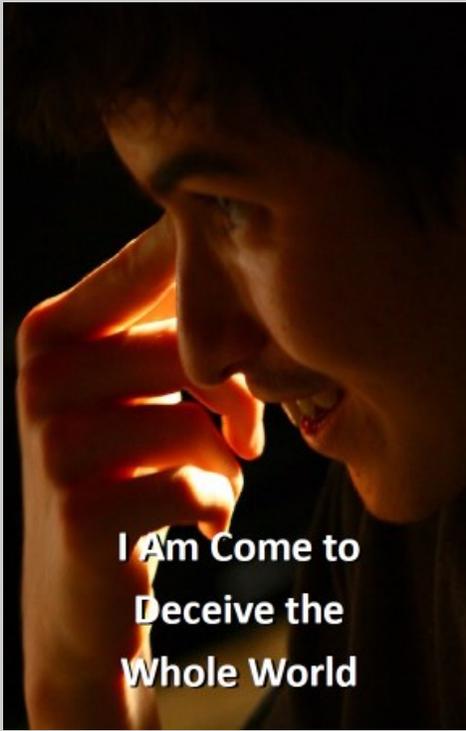
impact your salvation, causing you to be indifferent towards serious Bible study and application?

2 Corinthians 5:17 says, “Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” To be a new creature and have new things, as in desires and how we spend our time, is the holy and sanctified life. Our old life of sinning will pass away and the new life of living as a Christian will be lived, even that written on the Ten Commandments (Romans 3:31). What the world provided for interest will pass away, like sports, entertainment, jesting (Ephesians 5:4), and new interests will form, like Bible study, witnessing, using our time more productively. So, have you become a new creature and have new things desired in the life, or are you the same old person with just a new title – Christian?

Ephesians 4:11-12 reveals the purpose of going to church, which is to become holy and sanctified. “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” The word “perfect” is the key word of becoming holy and sanctified. So, are you developing a perfect character or are you still dabbling in your old life with the new title of “Christian”?

Philippians 3:16 says, “Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.” Culture, upbringing, environment, etc., all have no contribution as to how we walk and how we think. “We have the mind of Christ” (1 Corinthians 2:16). All those things mentioned simply are things we need to overcome as influencers. Some of us have harder struggles than others, but eventually, we ought to walk by the same rule and think the same thing. We ought not to walk into adultery in any form, physically or mentally. We ought not to walk into murder in any form, physically or mentally. What is wrong for one person is wrong for all. Those who excuse lusting after images or letting anger fly does not make it right. Jesus cleared that up really quickly (Matthew 5:21-22, Matthew 5:27-28). How we walk and think is the sanctified and holy living. So, do you watch your actions and thoughts?

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 clearly tells us what happens after we receive grace and that is to live the holy and sanctified life. “Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given [us] everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.” We are sent forth to do every good word and work, which means, we are not sent to do anything that tends to bad words or bad works, which is sin. We are not saved by good words and works, but if we do not produce those fruits, we shall be



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lost for “by their fruits ye shall know them” (Matthew 7:20). Good words and works flow from a saved life. Lacking such flows from a life that is still selfish, unconverted. So, is everything that comes out of your mouth proper in God’s eyes as well as every work? No, it does not have to be holy, but even in employment, there is proper and improper before God. Are you “a faithful and wise servant” (Matthew 24:45)?

Have you said, “I believe on Jesus” and then were pronounced to be eternally saved? A fruit of that declaration is revealed in 2 Timothy 2:19, which says, “Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.” So, have you departed from iniquity, which is sin, which “sin is the transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4), which means that the Ten

Commandments are still to be obeyed?

Hebrews 5:9 clearly states, “And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.” To obey is to live the holy and sanctified life. To disobey is to lose out on salvation. Salvation is not earned, but regarding salvation, “not the hearers of the law [are] just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified” (Romans 2:13), yet “by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight” (Romans 3:20). We are not saved by living in obedience and doing the law. We do the law and live in obedience because of salvation. Where we have sinned, we are “justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus” (Romans 3:24), but in no wise is justification

and forgiveness wasted on those who return to their life of sinning. So, do you obey or disobey? Do you continue in your sins or have received of the “divine power”, which God “hath given unto us all things that [pertain] unto life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3)?

James 1:25 states, “But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth [therein], he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.” The law of liberty is the Ten Commandments (James 2:10-12). The expected life of a Christian is to continue doing the commandments, which is living the holy and sanctified life. Too many Christians see this as an optional verse, where, if you want to be blessed, keep the commandments with the consequence of not keeping the commandments being not blessed, but you still have eternal life. Revelation 22:14 connects the blessing with eternal life. “Blessed [are] they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.” So, are you continuing in the com-

mandments as a result of being saved, or are you forfeiting the blessing of eternal life, claiming grace alone?

According to 1 Peter 2:2, when we say that we believe on Jesus and believe we shall be saved, we are but “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word” but it concludes with “that ye may grow thereby”. That growth is the holy and sanctified life. In other words, when we receive God’s grace, for “ye have tasted that the Lord [is] gracious” (1 Peter 2:3), we then are “laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings” (1 Peter 2:1). In short, grace received changes us into different people, where that list of things laid aside is just the beginning. We “press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14). We are called to obey a much higher standard than unbelievers. So, is there a difference between life before receiving God’s grace and after? Are you growing up into an obedient child of God?

2 Peter 2:20 takes down two false theories. “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.” First, after believing on the Lord Jesus Christ, the expectation is for the Christian to walk the holy and sanctified life for they are to escape the pollutions of the world as revealed in God’s Word, which means “whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected” (1 John 2:5). If we participate in the pollutions of the world, we shall be lost for “if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17). Which brings us to the second false theory. Evidently, they were believers. This is not a false or pretended believer as so many on the “once saved, always saved” group claim. If they escaped the pollutions of the world and stayed that way, they would stay saved, but, as Jesus warned all of us, “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed [is] willing, but the flesh [is] weak” (Matthew 26:41), so if they fall back into the pollutions, they would be lost. Even if the “once saved, always saved” claim is correct and these were false believers that never really gave up the pollutions, but pretended to, then I have yet to meet a “once saved, always saved” true Christian, for they all enjoy the pollutions of the world. “Once saved, always saved” believers make careless sinners. So, have you escaped the pollutions and are, by the “divined

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power” (2 Peter 1:3) allowing Jesus “to keep you from falling” (Jude 1:24)?

Jude 1:24-25 says, “Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present [you] faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, [be] glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.” Being kept from falling means if we trust in Jesus and dedicate our souls to Him, we will walk the holy and sanctified life. It is when we choose to go through life as an unbeliever that we sin. Oh, we may believe in Jesus and believe we may be saved,

but true belief involves believing we can live the rest of our lives without sinning, but hardly a Christian believes that such a life is possible. Regarding this type of life that seems so unbelievable, Jesus said, “With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26). So, do you justify a little sinning in your life claiming no one is perfect, or do you believe Jesus can help you to always live in obedience to His commandments?

Revelation 3:3 is addressing the believer, where we are told, “Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold

fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.” As stated before many times, we are not eternally saved by mouthing “I believe” one day, but we are to “hold fast” from that moment on. That is all day and every day. And if we find ourselves dabbling in temptation leading to sin, we must repent or face the consequence. That “watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation” (Matthew 26:41), where we “hold fast [our] profession” (Hebrews 4:14) is the expected holy and sanctified life. So, how much are you holding on to what you professed?



Study to Shew Thyself Approved Unto God—(2 Timothy 2:15)

The Justified

1. What does justification bring?
Romans 5:1

2. Using the physical representation from the Old Testament through the ceremony of a peace offering, why do we receive peace when justified? **Leviticus 4:26**

3. What does justification save us

from receiving? **Romans 5:9**

4. It cost the life of Jesus, our Savior, but how much does it cost us to receive justification?
Romans 5:16

5. What cannot justify us?
Romans 3:20, 28; Galatians 2:16

6. Who are justified? **Romans 2:13**

7. What attitude are we to have to receive justification? **Luke 18:14**

8. What does justification not permit? **Matthew 12:36-37**

9. What will we not participate in once we are justified? 1
Corinthians 6:9-11
10. What gives evidence of our faith regarding justification?
James 2:24

July 2021 Bible Questions and Answers

After Receiving Freely of God's Grace [last study that you can see in the answer section], then What?

1. How can grace be received? 2

- Corinthians 6:1 – “in vain”.
2. With purpose of heart, Who will we cleave to? Acts 11:23 – “unto the Lord”.
3. What shall we do towards Jesus because we received grace? 2 Thessalonians 1:12 – “be glorified”.
4. What are we to do with the grace of God [hint: grace is not just a moment in time]? Acts 13:43 – “continue in the grace of God”.
5. What does grace lead people to become? In other words, who receives the inheritance? Acts 20:32 – “all them which are sanctified”.
6. How shall we live? Titus 2:11-12 – “live soberly, righteously, and godly” and “denying ungodliness and worldly lusts”.

7. How are we to look, be watchful, be careful, in trying to prevent failure of grace? Hebrews 12:15 – “Looking diligently”.
8. What shall happen after we have grace? Hebrews 12:28 – “serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear”.
9. What preparation is made for the end or result of grace? 1 Peter 1:13 – “gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope”.
10. What does grace make us become? 1 Peter 5:10 – “make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle [you]”.



Questions & Answers

QUESTION: What is wrong with date setting of events, especially regarding the second coming?

ANSWER: Jesus said, “But of that day and hour knoweth no [man], no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only” (Matthew 24:36), so to think that one can go against Jesus’ words has bigger issues than simply playing with numbers and words to try to figure out a connection. We would be defying Jesus.

The second issue is the results of the numerous failures that are observed by unbelievers, especially when the date-setter comes across as saying it is an absolute, unequiv-

ocal timing. When they use lots of scriptures, history, time lines, other resources, and the event fails, further disbelief in the Bible and even in God Himself is created.

A number of date-setters who have set multiple dates over time correcting the errors of their ways in each new prediction, have eventually faded into nothingness, given up the faith even, etc.

So, it is both dangerous as a witnessing tool towards non-believers and can be detrimental to those of the faith, and even personally, too.

QUESTION: What is the millennium?

ANSWER: Although many believe it to be a thousand years of peace on earth without Satan around, that description fails both scripture and logical sense. First, where do all those that are lost, along with the devil and his angels, go? Some may say, to the pit. That is not wholly supported as the devil alone goes to the pit during this time, maybe along with his angels, but definitely not with human companionship. But even so, does it really make sense that Jesus deals with the devil, fallen angels, and the lost at His

coming, then the earth enjoys a period of one thousand years with Jesus set up as king, and then turn around to deal with those characters again, just to be able to experience eternity after that? Nothing is going to change. The lost will remain lost. We would end up following the one thousand years of peace with eternity of peace. Why would we have a hiccup between the first thousand years and eternity where Satan leads an attack against the holy city and loses? That would prove nothing. Jesus already defeated them at the second coming. It would simply be an annoyance. We know that Jesus will defeat them again, but there must be another purpose, another scenario.

The truth of the matter is, at the second coming, two out of four groups of people leave this planet. "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). This is when the dead "shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life" (John 5:29).

Now, once we are in the clouds with Jesus, He does not bring us back down to this earth. "In my Father's house are many mansions: if [it were] not [so], I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, [there] ye

may be also" (John 14:2-3). We are taken to where the mansions are. That is both the saved who died as well as the saved who were alive at the time of Jesus' coming.

Those that are lost at the time of Jesus are destroyed. "And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" (Revelation 6:14-17). "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together" (Matthew 24:27-28). "And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all [men, both] free and bond, both small and great" (Revelation 19:17-18). So, that takes care of the third group – the living lost.

"But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished" (Revelation 20:5). The fourth group being the dead lost will remain dead waiting for the time called "the resurrection of damnation" (John 5:29).

Now, with the lost being dead and left on earth and the saved in Heaven, that leaves the devil and the evil angels. "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled" (Revelation 20:1-3). "Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit" (Isaiah 14:15).

That pit is described in Isaiah as being the earth: "The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again. And it shall come to pass in that day, [that] the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones [that are] on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth. And they shall be gathered together, [as] prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited" (Isaiah 24:20-22). So, earth cannot be where Jesus reigns for a thousand years with the saved.

During the millennium in Heaven, for the saved, "I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment

was given unto them” (Revelation 20:4). “Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?” (1 Corinthians 6:2-3).

Basically, the millennium is a period of time where the saved (saints) review God’s decisions regarding who is lost and who is saved. This is to solidify in our minds that those we thought should be in Heaven and are not, definitely should not be there while those that we thought would not be in Heaven and are, should be there. Look at Stephen and Paul. I am sure that Stephen will be surprised at the allowance of Paul into Heaven.

To confirm that there is no earthly millennium, when Jesus comes the

second time, this planet is knocked back to the appearance as it was once before. “I beheld the earth, and, lo, [it was] without form, and void; and the heavens, and they [had] no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, [there was] no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place [was] a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the LORD, [and] by his fierce anger. For thus hath the LORD said, The whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end” (Jeremiah 4:23-27). Jesus does not make a “full end” because of the millennium in Heaven.

QUESTION: Why should I believe in Christ’s resurrection?

ANSWER: “Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1:3). “Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then [is] our preaching vain, and your faith [is] also vain” (1 Corinthians 15:12-14). If Jesus did not rise from the dead, then we have no hope, no assurance that we will be resurrected, and all this talk about eternal life is made vain. So, it is very important that we believe in Christ’s Resurrection.



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Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime. (Daniel 6:10)

Let’s face it, if we are serious about getting through Babylon, we need to take Daniel’s example and also be praying at least three times a day.

To help direct one’s thoughts on a subject, this website offers three Bible references a day: morning, afternoon, and evening.

MORNING — Sequential verses from the Old Testament and a mini study.

AFTERNOON — Random biblical message without restriction to any particular part of the Bible.

EVENING — Sequential verses from the New Testament and a mini study.

News and Comments

April 7—Fox Business

Target selling book that includes prayer to 'hate white people' in 'Religion' section

Galatians 3:28 says, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." And the list is but pattern where there is no difference to God in regards to race.

May 31—USA Today

Cybersecurity attack hits world's largest meat supplier JBS' IT systems in the US and Australia

These things are just following in quick succession. It is hard to believe that there is not something more sinister pushing us to a system in which "no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name" (Revelation 13:17).

June 2—CBS News

Carcinogen found in some popular sunscreens and after-sun products including Neutrogena, tests show

If a person is sensitive to the sun, do not put cancer-causing sunscreen on. Put on light clothing, even long sleeves and pants. Also, be careful what time of day one goes out into the sun when sensitive. Otherwise, soak in the vitamin D. Those who say that such restrictions prevent developing a

good tan, we ask, since when do Christians worry about such things? That is for body-worshippers, worldly-minded people, etc.. God never intended us to be involved in such things. Tanning of the skin due to natural exposure is for protective purposes, not for attracting the attention of other people. "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth" (3 John 1:2).

June 6—NY Daily News

Cyberattacks on U.S. targets are 'here to stay,' says U.S. commerce secretary

Matthew 24:6 says, "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars." This is a cyber (Internet) war and should be considered part of the fulfillment of the words of Jesus.

June 11—The Tablet

As G7 begins, the world needs 'climate Sundays' and 'wild Christians' more than ever

All along we have been declaring, by obvious example with the vaccines and the carrying card, that the mark of the beast is not something directly related to the mark that controls buying and selling. Carrying something or having some tracker to make sure one participates in the program is all that trackers are. The mark itself can be totally unrelated, like compliance to Sunday observance. Consider, the beast, also known as

antichrist, seems to "think to change times and laws" (Daniel 7:25). The description of antichrist in the book of Daniel matches the book of Revelation except for one point. That point is that Daniel sees antichrist thinking they can change God's Ten Commandments, specifically the one on time, like the fourth commandment, while John simply connects worship and the word 'mark' together (Revelation 14:9, 11). In other words, what John calls the Mark of the Beast is what ought to be connected to their thought of authority to be able to change God's commandments as declared in Daniel. And now we have a demand to have the G7 implement "climate Sundays", which means to rest on that day, when there is no scriptural basis for it. There is no commandment declaring it. There was no pronouncement from Heaven that the day changed. Both events, a commandment and pronouncement, point to the Sabbath day, observed as sunsets between Friday and Saturday.

June 17—Tennessee Star

Joe Biden Asks Americans to Report 'Radicalized' Friends and Family to the Government

This is a set-up to fulfill Luke 12:53. And this is not just an "American thing" –

Chinese City Pays Citizens \$1,500 to Be a 'Mini Judas' and Turn in Christians" ("The Oklahoman", April 5, 2019). "The father shall be divided against the son, and the

son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law" (Luke 12:53).

June 23—Yahoo News

Local church to host Pride service on Sunday

"'Christ always gravitated towards those who were pushed aside by the rest of society, and we try to follow that example,' Neal said." Yes, but when Jesus drew close to such people, He said, "Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more" (John 8:11), "Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor,

and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me" (Luke 18:22), and "If any [man] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his

cross, and follow me" (Matthew 16:24).



Natural Remedies

Itchy, Inflamed Skin

Oatmeal soothes rashes because it's filled with phytochemicals that have anti-inflammatory properties. To quiet down that itch, create a soothing bath with plain dry oatmeal. Grind 1/2 cup oatmeal into a fine powder using your blender; pour the powder into warm bath water and stir in

evenly with your hands until the water is a milky color.

Another option for small areas: use 1/4 cup of oatmeal and enough water to make a paste that you can apply directly to the skin for 10 minutes, then rinse and pat dry.

