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From Confusion to the Truth of Scripture

Family Life

As I look back over the years, I realize now how the grace of God was evident in my life. I'm the oldest of eleven. Although there was not much money, our daily needs were always met by loving and supportive parents. Being a close family, we often spent the evenings playing games and enjoying one another's company. There was always enough warmth and love for everyone. As a family, we believed in God and tried our best to please Him with our sincerity and good deeds. Also, praying the rosary daily was a vital part of our lives. However, Bible reading was never stressed at home or in church.

The Convent

At age fourteen, I entered the boarding school exclusively for girls. During this time, I realized I wanted to become a nun. At age seventeen, I entered the convent and one year later was teaching first grade. My first ten years in the convent were happy and exciting and I felt I could not do enough for the Lord. There was never an idle moment. My time was filled with praying, teaching, counseling, and visiting the sick. Every day of convent life was busy and challenging. Eventually, I was promoted to principal and taught seventh and eighth grade. I felt that God was very pleased with all my good deeds.

Confusion and anger

During this time, however, God used young people in my religious education class to challenge me by asking questions about the Catholic faith which I could not answer. I began to search for answers, but there was no one to help me. As a result, I began questioning some of the Catholic Church's doctrines and teachings. I had particular difficulty accepting dogmas which could change with the passing of time. I am speaking of man-made church laws that could send a person to hell (mortal sin) but that subsequently may be rescinded. The lingering question that always surfaced in my mind was what happened to all the souls that died during the dispensation of this ordinance? Was this God's justice? It did not seem fair to me. Additionally, I had serious problems confessing my sins to a priest when I believed in my heart I could go straight to the Lord. Moreover, I reasoned why pray to Mary and the saints when it was God who answers prayers.

Having no one to confide in and help me with my quest for spiritual truth, I became increasingly upset and confused. Consequently, I was very unhappy and officially asked to leave convent life.

The Church responded by insisting I see a psychiatrist and spend some time in the convent infirmary. I could not accept this. So, after eighteen years, I left the community life only after

being told I would lose my soul and go to Hell. I was disillusioned, confused, and very angry with the Church to which I had given my entire life.

New Life

In 1971, I met a man who eventually became my husband. He was the first person I had ever dated. He was a caring and understanding man who helped me through the emotional traumas I had experienced. Five years after we married, we had a beautiful baby girl. However, several months later my doctor informed me I would have to have brain surgery. The operation was a success, and once again I knew there was a wonderful God who loved and cared for me.

Things began to change in my life when I met a neighbor who was a born-again Christian. I was invited and began to attend a weekly Bible study. The lingering questions, doubts, and fears I had over the years were beginning to be answered through the Bible. During one of these visits, I realized I needed to put all of my faith and trust in Jesus Christ and in His completed work of salvation on the cross of Calvary. In John 3:16, the Scriptures states, *„For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.“* And in 1 Peter 3:18, *„For God also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God.“* That day, I believed what God’s Word says, I trusted on Jesus and Him alone and was saved! For the first time in my life, I was completely trusting Christ and not my religious works or merits for my salvation, and God revealed from His Word in Ephesians 2:8-9 that I was saved by grace through faith in Him and that it was a gift I could not earn. It says, *„For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.“*

After I was saved, problems surfaced in our marriage. My husband resented me being saved and attending a Bible-believing church. For the next three years, the situation was extremely tense and difficult. However, the Holy Spirit began dealing with my husband’s heart. While I attended church services on Sunday evenings, he began watching Gospel services on television. God revealed to him what He had made clear to me through the Scriptures - personal salvation is in Jesus Christ and not in a church. Soon thereafter my husband also called upon Jesus to save him.

Truth Replaces Confusion

Once we were both saved, God began to heal our marriage. Moreover, the roadblocks preventing true peace of mind and happiness in our marriage were eventually replaced with the things of God. Today, there is love, peace, and joy in my life with a wonderful husband and daughter. We are serving the Lord together and have a happy family life. Daily we spend time together in prayer and Bible reading. The Lord has blessed us abundantly, and I give Him all the praise, honor and glory! Since I have been saved and born again, I have claimed Jeremiah 33:3 as my life’s verse, *„Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.“*

The many questions I pondered as a nun have all been answered from the Scriptures. I pray that by my testimony, your eyes will be opened to the truth of God’s Word. As we read through the New Testament, we notice Jesus commands His disciples to preach the Gospel of salvation. All the Gospel writers affirm that Jesus stated our faith must be firmly placed in Him. He never instructed anyone to have faith in a church. No church is able to take sins

away. As a Catholic, I was spiritually lost because I was trusting in my church and good deeds to help me earn salvation and merit the favor of God. I had never trusted Christ to be my all sufficient Saviour. As Christians, our trust is grounded not in what we are doing for Jesus, but in what He has done for us. When Jesus died on Calvary, He said, „It is finished!“ [John 19:30] His redemptive work was complete. He died for us because we can do nothing to save ourselves. Once you recognize that you are a sinner and can only be saved by Jesus Christ, just do as Scripture instructs: „Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved“ (Acts 16:31). *„For he [God, the Father] hath made him [Jesus Christ] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.“* (2 Corinthians 5:21) *My friend, Jesus is willing and able to save you today!*