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NEWSLETTER ~ JULY/AUGUST 2012

OUR FAITH WILL WORK BY LOVE OR IT WILL NOT WORK AT ALL



FROM CHAR'S DESK

One of the things that often confuses a Mormon is when we claim they worship a "different" Jesus than we do. One Mormon man said to me emphatically, "We worship the same Jesus!" But do they? I'm afraid they don't. Christians don't know the Jesus that is the spirit brother of lucifer (Mormon Doctrine p.192, hereafter M.D.), that came down from heaven after His resurrection and appeared in the Americas in 34 A.D. (3 Nephi 11:8-17), that is just one of three Gods (M.D. p.317), that was begotten by an immortal Father in the same way we are begotten by a mortal father (M.D. p.546-547).

We don't know the Jesus whose great pain was endured in Gethsemane and not on the cross (M.D. p.555), that attained Godhood while yet in the pre-existence (M.D. p.323), that couldn't keep His church together like Joseph Smith did his ("History of the Church" Vol.6, pp.408-409), whose blood doesn't cleanse from certain sins ("Journal of Discourses", Vol.3, p.247), that was a polygamist ("The Seer", p.159). We could go on and on but the point is, this is NOT the Jesus of the bible, no matter how loudly they try to proclaim that it is. Joseph Smith took our Jesus and turned Him into a Jesus we do not know! May God help them.

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Probably the most important question any of us could ask is "...what must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30). Is it possible to know for sure you are going to be with God when you die? Paul said that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. Can we say the same thing, or do we have to wait until we die

to find out? The Bible says "...it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgement" (Heb.9:27). So if we are going to be judged when we die, we better not wait until then to find out!

I remember reading a wonderful story by a Bible teacher that gave a good explanation on what it meant to be saved. He said when he was a little boy his mother would send him to the store to buy a dollar's worth of sugar. Back in those days, the grocer kept the sugar in a barrel. He would place a bag on the scales, put some weights on the scales, then begin to pour sugar in the bag. When the scales balanced, the grocer would hand him his bag of sugar.

Well, you might ask, how many pounds of sugar were in the bag? Someone might say, "my father said you could get 8 pounds of sugar in those days for a dollar". Someone else might say, "no, no, I read in a book you could get 10 pounds of sugar for a dollar back then". Another person says "you are both wrong, I worked in a country store in Vermont and I personally weighed out 12 pounds of sugar for a dollar."

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ALL GIFTS DONATED TO EMFJ ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED AS WELL AS YOUR PRAYERS FOR THIS MINISTRY



So now we have three differing opinions. One based on family tradition, one based on “I read in a book” and one based on personal experience. But when I tell you that the grocer in the above story used two five-pound weights, two two-pound weights, and a one-pound weight, our personal opinions and speculations mean nothing. The **fact** is he got 15 pounds of sugar for a dollar.

So this is how some denominations get started, “I think this, I think that...”. But God has left us His word so we can go to the Bible and know **His** standard of measurement, which is 100% perfection! Jesus said, “*Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*” (Matt.5:48). Yet we are all sinners for the Bible tells us: “*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God*” (Rom.3:23).

So how in the world can any of us go to be where God is? The **fact** is, there is only one way and that is by believing that Jesus took our place on the cross, and understanding that it is all Him and none of us – “*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*” (Rom.5:8). To Him be the glory!!!

~ Jenell’s Jots & Tittles ~

“WORD OF WISDOM”

(Man’s Way or God’s?)

Christians know that there are some “grey area” beliefs in our Bible (which I like to term as non-heaven or hell issues). On the other hand, when it comes to essential doctrines like the atonement, salvation (grace versus works, the cross), the true God, the true Jesus, monotheism, etc., the Bible becomes black and white, and leaves no valid wiggle-room for man’s own interpretations.

Rather than accept and follow many clear teachings of the Bible, Mormonism (like all cults) makes a conscience choice to replace them with their own man-made doctrines. I believe, among other things, this helps them feel like their own group is elite and has superior knowledge. One example of this is Mormonism’s “Word of Wisdom” (found in D&C Sec.89) which forbids, and/or places restrictions on the

partaking of certain drinks, foods, and tobacco.

While to a Christian, this would be one of those non-heaven or hell issues I referred to earlier, it is *extremely* important to a Mormon as they can’t even get their coveted “Temple Recommend” without obeying this practice. Now there may be nothing wrong in abstaining from certain products, and one might even be healthier if they did. But what is so amazing is how clear the Bible is on this subject, yet Mormons choose to put themselves under submission to follow what their leaders tell them rather than what the word of God says.

Of course the Old Testament had many dietary regulations for a variety of reasons (which I will not go into here). However, the New Testament tells us that other than over-indulgence and gluttony, no such restrictions now exist. A couple of examples are as follows:

“there is nothing outside the man which going into him can defile him; but the things which proceed out of the man are what defile the man. And He said to them, are you so lacking in understanding also? Do you not understand that whatever goes into the man from outside cannot defile him; because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated?” (Thus He declared all foods clean.)” (Mark 7:15, 18-19, NAS)

“Therefore let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day— If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, do not handle, do not taste, do not touch! (which all refer to things destined to perish with the using)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men? These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.” (Col.2:16, 20-23 NAS)

It is hard to understand how Mormons can overlook such clear teachings of scripture in favor of believing what their own leaders tell them, but I guess this is what bondage to brain-washing is all about. There is

much wisdom in the saying, “truth can only be understood by the mind that is surrendered to it”! Please remember to keep them in prayer.

F.Y.I.

Mormonism’s First Presidency has given the following statistical report for their church as of December 31, 2011:

Total Church Membership.....	14,441,346
New Children of Record.....	119,917
Converts Baptized in 2011.....	281,312
Full-Time Missionaries.....	55,410
Temples in Operation.....	136

(May 2012 “Ensign”)

We pray for the day when the new convert rate is zero and these “Full-Time Missionaries” become missionaries to convert people to Jesus, rather than to a church!

CITATIONS OF CONCERN (From LDS Leaders)

*“There are keys of the priesthood. While the word key has other meanings, like keys of wisdom or keys of knowledge, the keys of the priesthood are the **right** to preside and direct the affairs of the Church within a jurisdiction. All priesthood keys are within The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and **no keys exist outside the Church on earth.**”* (The Feb.1993 “Ensign”, p.8, my emphasis)

More recently, in speaking of their priesthood, the current LDS president, Thomas S. Monson, quoted several of their past presidents as follows:

*“From the words of President Wilford Woodruff, we learn: ‘**The Holy Priesthood is the channel** through which God communicates and deals with man upon the earth...and **everything** that God has caused to be done **for the salvation of man...has been and will be by virtue of the everlasting priesthood.**”*

“President Joseph F. Smith further clarified: ‘The

*priesthood...is...the power of God delegated to man by which **man** can act in the earth **for the salvation of the human family...**”*

*“And finally from President John Taylor: ‘What is priesthood?...It is the government of God, whether on the earth or in the heavens, for it is by **that power, agency, or principle** that all things are governed on the earth and in the heavens, and by **that power that all things are upheld and sustained. It governs all things—it directs all things**—and has to do with all things that God and truth are associated with.”* (the May 2012 “Ensign”, p.66, all emphasis mine)

However, the Bible tells us that the Old Testament priesthood was replaced by Jesus, the Great Eternal High Priest (Heb.4:14; 7:11-18; 10:8-21). He is now the only Mediator (Priest) between mankind and God (1 Tim.2:5; Heb.7:24-25; John 14:6). President John Taylor (above) said that it was by **priesthood power** that “all things are upheld and sustained”, yet Colossians 1:17 tells us “...in Him [Jesus] all things hold together” (NAS).

All true Christians are of a “royal priesthood” (1 Pet.2:9) because we belong to King Jesus. However, the New Testament references to a priesthood holds no similarity to what Mormonism is making a claim for. What blasphemy to replace the Person and Power of the Lord Jesus with a non-existent priesthood! Just one more clear biblical teaching that Mormons choose to ignore.

“MARRIAGE” DETERMINES OUR ETERNAL DESTINY?

In the “Introduction” of an official LDS Church manual we read the following: *“There is probably no decision in all of life, and perhaps in eternity, that has a more profound effect on our eternal destiny than that concerning marriage. In the relationships of husband and wife and parent and child we begin to approach the diving calling of godhood. Our Heavenly Father and mother live in an exalted state because they achieved a celestial marriage. As we achieve a like marriage we shall become as they are and begin the creation of worlds for our own spirit children.”* (“Achieving a Celestial Marriage”, Student Manual, p.1).

To imply that achieving a celestial marriage is the most important decision we can make “in all of life” and has the most “profound effect on our eternal destiny” is saying quite a mouthful! To a Christian, the most important decisions we make in this life, and that which has the most important effect on our eternal destiny are those concerning Jesus, not marriage. In fact, what does “marriage” have to do with our spiritual well being in **any** sense?

It appears that many leaders in the New Testament church were not married nor were they concerned with the prospect of it. And surely the great Apostle Paul would not have advocated a preference for being single (e.g. 1 Cor.7:25-40) if it would be a detriment to one’s eternal destiny! While the institution of marriage can be a blessing for many in this life, and should be held in honor (Heb.13:4), it bears no reflection on the next life. In fact the Bible tells us there shall be no marriage in the resurrection (Matt.22:24-30 & Luke 20:28-35).

It seems to me that only in Mormonism can they be so sincere yet so sincerely wrong. If any of you have opportunity to speak to these dear people, be sure and keep Jesus, and what He did for us on the cross, at the forefront of every conversation.

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

HOW CAN THAT BE?

In the Bible, the name “Jesus” was *first* announced by Iangel to Mary (Luke 1:31). This was in 1 B.C. However, Alma 19:29, dated in the Book of Mormon at 90 B.C., has a woman speaking to the Lord and calling him “Jesus”. It seems like the Book of Mormon problems have no end.

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Only two words are needed to describe the main difference between all false religions and Christianity. They are “do” verses “done”, thank You Lord!

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SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

We hold monthly support group meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. These gatherings include a mini-lesson, testimony of an ex-Mormon, a question and answer time, and refreshments. All are welcome - those who have a burden to reach the Mormons, those who want to learn more, those who need support, and the Mormons themselves. The address is 240 W. Chapman Avenue in Orange and we look forward to seeing you there.

