

JESUS

NEWSLETTER ~ JULY/AUGUST 2014

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



FROM CHAR'S DESK

Mormons often tell me they are the only true church as they are the only church that has true unity. They believe that Christians have many different denominations and are thus divided. I always respond by telling them that our unity is not in any particular denomination but in Christ. None of us have all the truth, only Jesus *is* the Truth. We pool our truths about the Truth and through this we make beautiful music together.

If one claims they have the only truth, this is what causes division. But when your unity is not in any particular denomination but only in Christ, then you have wonderful unity. Thank you, Jesus, that we are not "the way" but are pointing people to Christ who IS the Way, the Truth and the Life. What marvelous unity we find in Him!

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Jenell's Jots & Tittles

THE VEIL

Because most Christians understand the purpose of the veil (or vail) in the Hebrew Temple, I will not go into a lot of detail regarding it. Basically, it separated the holy place from the holy of holies (Ex.26:33) where *only* the High Priest could enter once a year to make atonement for himself and all the people (Heb.9:2-7).

In Mormonism, their "endowment ceremony" climaxes with a "Veil Ceremony" where each patron is tested for his knowledge of the four tokens and their names by a Veil Worker who represents the Lord behind the veil. The "Lord" reaches through an opening in the Veil to take the patron's hand in the various grips (or tokens), and asks him specific questions through the Veil. His answers must be word-perfect. The culmination of this examination is the name of the Second Token of the Melchizedek Priesthood, the Patriarchal Grip, or Sure Sign of the Nail, which is given to the patron only through the Veil while embracing the "Lord" ("What's Going On In There?" pp.9-10).

Mormons speak of their temple Veil in comparison with that in Solomon's Temple. However, you can see that they have nothing in common and the LDS version is quite bizarre to say the least. The Bible tells us that when Jesus died on the cross, the veil of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom (Matt.27:50-51). The

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symbolism of this is glaring! Who other than God could accomplish this? No longer did man need the blood of an animal to be sprinkled on the mercy seat, as Jesus, the Perfect Lamb of God, shed His blood, once for all (Heb.7:27, 10:10). The price has been paid in full – “It is finished” (John 19:30).

With the tearing of the Old Covenant veil, God signified that we no longer need the Old Covenant temples, priesthood, or sacrifices since Jesus has become the “guarantee of a better covenant” (Heb.7:22) for us. How our hearts ache for the Mormons who do not understand this and are trying to hang onto the Old Covenant and combine it with the New. Christians, we suggest that you ask your Mormon acquaintances to prayerfully read the book of Hebrews, especially chapters five through ten with an open mind, it is so clear!

END NOTE: In the winter of 1989, audio tapes of the *actual* Mormon temple ceremonies were being played on several Christian radio programs. We will probably never know what impact these programs had on the leadership of the LDS Church, but during their following General Conference (April 6-8, 1990) all or most of the Mormon temples in the USA were ordered closed for major renovations. However, these “renovations” were not for the buildings themselves, but of the secret rituals performed inside of them. This resulted in some of the more offensive rituals being toned down or removed altogether (including changes in the above mentioned “Veil Ceremony”). For a more detailed explanation of these changes, you can contact us and request the tract “Mormon Temple Rituals Drastically Renovated In Secret”

NO CHANCE FOR A SECOND CHANCE

Mormons are told that it is through the rite of baptism for the dead that their deceased ancestors will have the opportunity to respond to the “restored” message of Mormonism in the spirit

world. Not only is this temple ritual essential for the salvation of the dead, but for their *own* salvation as well. President Joseph Fielding Smith said, “...if we willfully neglect the salvation of our dead, then also we shall stand rejected of the Lord, because we have neglected our dead; and just so sure their blood will be required at our hands.” (Doctrines of Salvation Vol. 2, p.145, also see D&C 128:15).

Their primary proof text for this belief is 1 Cor.15:29: “Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? Why are they then baptized for the dead?” Taking the entire chapter of 1 Cor. 15 in context, we can see that the topic the Apostle Paul is talking about is **resurrection**, in which some whom he was addressing did not believe (vs.12). Evidently there were some who were baptizing for the dead, but Paul asks why they are bothering to do this “if the dead rise not at all?”. Notice that he uses the third person and does not include himself in this practice, but says “what shall **they** do...why are **they** then baptized for the dead?”

This verse is the only place in the whole Bible where baptism for the dead is even mentioned (and the Book of Mormon makes NO mention of it at all). If Christians were supposed to practice this rite, and it was essential for their salvation, common sense tells us there would have to be detailed instructions and teachings regarding it. Instead we find that the Bible clearly teaches that there will **not** be another chance after the grave, nor can we, in any way, benefit our dead. Following is just a couple of scriptures that address this:

“None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him: (For the redemption of their souls is precious, and it ceaseth for ever)” (Ps.49:7-8).

“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.” (Eccl.9:10).

“And it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this

the judgment.” (Heb.9:27, also see 2Cor.6:2).

It might be of interest to note that the Book of Mormon agrees with the Bible on this point as follows: “*For behold, **this life** is the time for men to prepare to meet God; yea, behold the day of **this life** is the day for men to perform their labors...behold, if we do not improve our time while in **this life**, then cometh the night of darkness wherein there can be **no labor performed...**” (Alma 34:32-33, my emphasis).*

Finally, in Luke 16:19-31 Jesus tells the story of Lazarus and the rich man (this was not just a parable for Jesus never used names in His parables). The rich man died in his sins, and Abraham told him he could not escape his present, terrible state in the fiery flames. There was not, nor could ever be, a change in the rich man’s situation. As the above scriptures confirm, he had the opportunity during his lifetime to make his peace with God and he didn’t do it. Therefore, there was **no chance for a second chance!**

PRE-EXISTENCE

Very little of Mormonism’s main doctrine or theology can be found in the Bible. However, this does not stop them from taking verses out of context and trying to make them fit their false beliefs. We are told that we should always “...*know how you should respond to each person*” (Col.4:6), so lets examine their doctrine of pre-existence and see how to “respond”.

For those of you not familiar with Mormon theology, this is their teaching that in a pre-earth life, Jesus, Lucifer, and all the rest of us were literally born as **spirit** children to God and one of his wives (“Gospel Through the Ages”, pp.96-99; “Mormon Doctrine” 1966, p.589; “The Seer”, p.172, etc.). This is, of course, illogical to say the least. Genesis 1 (vs.11-12, 24-25, etc.), tells us that like kinds beget like kinds. Yet Mormons believe God and his wives have bodies of flesh and bones, so we might start by

asking them why these **fleshly** personages procreate **spirit** children? Not wanting to deal with this problem, Mormons will try and counter by pointing to several scriptures they believe will support their belief.

One of their favorites is found in Jer.1:5: “*Before I formed thee in the belly, I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nation*”. However, this passage is not referring to man’s pre-existence, but rather to the foreknowledge of God. As an all-knowing Being (Ps.139, 147:5, Heb.4:13), God sovereignly “knew” Jeremiah before he existed, but notice it doesn’t say anything about Jeremiah knowing God. Also, it is noteworthy that this same book teaches that God **made** (created), **not procreated** man, the same as He did the earth and beasts (Jer.27:5).

Another scripture Mormons misuse is Acts 17:28: “*For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, for we are also **his offspring**.*” But we are His “offspring” only in the sense that all of mankind was created by Him (Gen.2:7). Malachi 2:10 confirms this: “*Have we not all one **father**? Hath not one God **created** us?*”. Also notice that in Acts 17:28, Luke was merely quoting one of “your own [pagan] poets”.

One last scripture we will examine is found in Hebrews 12:9: “*Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence; shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the **Father of spirits**, and live?*” Mormons say that this proves their point. But “Father of spirits” is merely referring to a person’s spiritual rebirth, of being “born again” (John 3:3, 7), through “faith in Christ” (Gal.3:26). We become His children at conversion (John 1:12) through **adoption** (Eph.1:5, Gal.4:5).

Furthermore, the Bible tells us that **only** Christ pre-existed (John 8:23, John 3:31). There is a clear dichotomy between the ones from earth and the One from heaven: “*Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthly:*

the second man is the Lord from Heaven.” (1 Cor.15:46-47). You might also want to ask your Mormon friends for a single Bible reference for a Heavenly Mother or for God having wives that birth “spirit” children.

SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

We hold monthly support group meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Our speakers this month will be Steve Welch and Charlotte Pardee. Put on your thinking caps as we will have a question and answer time regarding Christianity, Mormonism and/or the Bible. Everyone will be asked to write down a question and the answer will be given by Steve and Char. We might not get to all the questions, but this should be a fun time for all so come prepared.

As usual, this will be followed with 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.

F.Y.I.

Mormonism’s First Presidency has given the following statistical report for their church as of December 31, 2013:

Total Membership.....15,082,028
Converts Baptized in 2013.....282,945
Full-Time Missionaries.....83,035
Church-Service Missionaries.....24,032
Temples in Operation.....141
(May 2014 “Ensign”, p.28)

Wow, 83,035 “Full-Time Missionaries” in addition to 24,032 “Church-Service Missionaries”. That is a lot of sincere (but sincerely wrong) “deceitful workers” out there (2 Cor.11:13)!

We are asking the Body of Christ to join us in our two-fold mission. The first is to win as many

Mormons to the saving grace of the Lord Jesus as He may give us increase. Our second goal is to warn and teach the uninformed how to defend against false prophets and wolves in sheep’s clothing (Matt.17:15). Cults are deceptive and well trained, and the majority of Christians are not equipped to respond to them properly. We are a mission in your “back yard” and want to help you against the deception of Mormonism.

Since 60-80% of all converts to Mormonism come from a Christian background, we take the “Watchman of Ezekiel” call very seriously (Ez.3:17-19). Ex-Mormons for Jesus is a non-profit, evangelistic and teaching fellowship, and we humbly ask that you consider supporting us. What can you do?

PRAY: Especially if you already have a strong burden for these souls lost in Mormonism, be sure to add Ex-Mormons for Jesus to your regular prayer list.

CALL UPON US: If you can avail yourself of any aspect of our ministry, we want you to! We have a great burden to minister to the Christian community to equip them to be better witnesses for Jesus Christ.

SHARE OUR BURDENS: You might be one who is called to help us carry on the defense of the faith and the winning of lost souls. Just ask the Lord if He would have you share in our outreach, and if so, let us know by filling out the form below.

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Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

___ Send me a listing of witness resources available.

___ Send me information to submit Ex-Mormons for Jesus to my local church (or any other Christian group) to be included in home missions support giving.

___ I would like to share in your financial burden. I have enclosed a gift of \$ _____ per month/quarter/one time. Thank you and may God bless!

