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



FROM CHAR'S DESK

I was thinking the other day, why people (especially Christians), convert to Mormonism. I am sure there are many reasons but I am going to share what I believe are the ten main ones:

- 1) Fall in love with someone from the Mormon church
- 2) Hungry for more than what their particular church gives
- 3) They enjoy being a religious "sampler"
- 4) They don't believe salvation could possibly be free so they like the idea if earning it
- 5) They get what their heart really wants
- 6) Boosts their ego
- 7) Hear doctrines that "tickle their ears" (2Tim.4:3)
- 8) They don't know how to "try the spirits" (1John 4:1)
- 9) Seduction (1Tim.4:1)
- 10) Ignorance of God's Word (Ps.119:105, 2Tim.3:16)

No wonder the Bible says, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." (Hos.4:6) Let's try to be diligent to educate our family and friends with the truths of God's Word so they won't fall into one or more of these traps. You know the old saying, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!"

Jenell's Jots & Tittles

JOSEPH SMITH CONTRADICTS THE BOOK OF MORMON

It is recorded in Mormon scripture that the Book of Mormon contains the "fullness" of the gospel (D&C 20:8-9, 27:5, 42:12). However, with just a little

research, one can see that the Book of Mormon not only lacks Mormon doctrine and theology, but it also often **contradicts Joseph Smith's own teachings.** Following are a few examples:

BOM: "For I know that God is not a partial God, neither a changeable being; but he is unchangeable from all eternity to all eternity." (Moroni 8:18)

SMITH: "...for I am going to tell you how God came to be God. We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea, and take away the veil, so that you may see." ("Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith", p.345)

BOM: "And this I know, because the Lord hath said he dwelleth not in unholy temples, but in the hearts of the righteous doth he dwell..." (Alma 34:36)

SMITH: "John 14:23 - The appearing of the Father and the Son, in that verse, is a personal appearance; and the idea that the Father and the Son dwell in a man's heart is an old sectarian notion, and is false." (D&C 130:3)

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BOM: “...And now, behold, this is the doctrine of Christ, and the only and true doctrine of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, which is **one God**, without end. Amen.” (2 Nephi 31:21, my emphasis)

SMITH: “Many men say there is one God; the Father, the son and Holy Ghost are only one God...all are to be crammed into one God, according to sectarianism. It would make the biggest God in all the world. He would be a wonderfully big God—he would be a giant or a monster.” (“Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith”, p.372)

BOM: “For behold, by the power of his word man came upon the face of the earth, which earth was created by the power of his word.” (Jacob 4:9)

SMITH: “Now I ask all who will hear me, why the learned men who are preaching salvation, say that God created the heavens and earth out of nothing? The reason is, that they are unlearned in the things of God...But I am learned, and know more than all the world put together...Now, the word create came from the word baurau, which does not mean to create out of nothing; it means to organize; the same as a man would organize materials and build a ship.” (“Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith”, p.350)

BOM: “Behold, David and Solomon truly had many wives and concubines, which thing was **abominable before me**, saith the Lord.” (Jacob 2:24, also see Jacob 3:5, my emphasis)

SMITH: “David also received many wives and concubines, and also Solomon and Moses my servants...and in **nothing did they sin** save in those things which they received not of me.” (D&C 132:38, also see 132:1 where it says the Lord “**justified**” David and Solomon for “having many wives and concubines”, my emphasis)

BOM: “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 32:32-33, my emphasis)

SMITH: “And now, my dearly beloved brethren and sisters, let me assure you that these are principles in relation to the dead and their living that cannot be

lightly passed over, as pertaining to our salvation. For their salvation is necessary and essential to our salvation...and behold what is that subject? It is the baptism for the dead. For we without them cannot be made perfect; neither can they without us be made perfect...” (D&C 128:15, 18)

To find that Mormonism’s doctrine and theology is absent from the pages of the BOM is bad enough, but then to find that its founder and leader denies much of the BOM teachings should be sufficient for Mormons to want to dispose of it. Yet the LDS church goes to great lengths and expense to promote it. That this book serves mainly as a proselytizing tool aimed at the uninformed seems quite obvious.

CRITICAL DOCTRINES MISSING FROM THE BOOK OF MORMON

As mentioned in the above article, Mormon scriptures tells us that the BOM contains the “fullness” of the gospel (D&C 20:8-9, 27:5, 42:12). And Joseph Smith himself stated: “I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book.” (History of the Church, Vol.4, p.461).

So how is it possible that many of Mormonism’s most critical doctrines are not to be found in the BOM, which is the “keystone” of their religion? Following is a sample of some of these missing doctrines:

- Necessity of Temples (for baptizing the dead, sealings for eternal marriage, etc.)
- The everlasting covenant of plural marriage (D&C 132)
- Three degrees of glory (heaven)
- Heavenly “Mother”
- A Melchizedek and an Aaronic Priesthood
- The plurality of gods and men can become gods
- Pre-existent spirits
- God is an exalted man of flesh and bones

Common sense tells a rational person that it is impossible to believe that, on the one hand, the BOM

contains the fullness of the gospel, and then on the other hand see that Mormonism's main beliefs are missing from it. Christians, lets lovingly share how irrational this type of thinking is with the Mormons we know.

CITATIONS OF CONCERN (From LDS Leaders)

*“Only begotten Son” is a well-accepted term relating to Jesus Christ...The real meaning of the term, however, is clouded unless one has an understanding of the true nature of God the Father and his Son, Jesus Christ. The Prophet Joseph’s First Vision and later revelations taught us these essential facts: that the Father and Son are separate beings and that **the Father has a body of flesh and bones**. With this understanding provided by modern revelation, it is possible to grasp the truth that God the Father is indeed the Father of Jesus Christ’s mortal body.*

*“Elder James E. Talmage of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles explained: ‘That Child to be born of Mary was begotten of Elohim, the Eternal Father, **not in violation of natural law**...President Ezra Taft Benson added his witness in f Latter-day Saints proclaims that Jesus Christ is the Son of God in the **most literal sense**. The body in which He performed His mission in the flesh was **sired** by that same Holy Being we worship as God, our eternal Father...’” (“The Ensign”/April 1997, p.15, my emphasis)*

JOSEPH SMITH – A BLESSING OR A BLASPHEMER?

Mormons put great emphasis on their Prophet and founder Joseph Smith. After all, if it wasn't for him, there would be no LDS Church. However, is it just plain gratitude or something far more? I will let you decide after reading the following. The first section deals with what some of his followers have said about him and the second section shares some claims he has made of himself.

WHAT HIS FOLLOWERS HAVE SAID ABOUT

HIM:

“Well, now, examine the character of the Savior, and examine the characters of those who have written the Old and New Testaments; and then compare them with the character of Joseph Smith, the founder of this work...and you will find that his character stands as fair as that of any man’s mentioned in the Bible...” (Brigham Young, JOURNAL OF DISCOURSES, Vol.14, p.203)

*“You call us fools: but the day will be, gentlemen and ladies, whether you belong to this church or not, when you will prize brother Joseph Smith as the Prophet of the Living God, and **look upon him as a God**, and also upon Brigham Young, our Governor in the Territory of Deseret.”* (Herber C. Kimball, JOURNAL OF DISCOURSES, Vol.5, p.88, emphasis added).

*“Joseph Smith holds the keys of this last dispensation, and is now engaged behind the veil (sic) in the great work of the last days...**no man or woman in this dispensation will ever enter into the celestial kingdom of God without the consent of Joseph Smith...every man and woman must have the certificate of Joseph Smith, junior, as a passport to their entrance into the mansion where God and Christ are—I with you and you with me. I cannot go there without his consent...He reigns there as supreme a being in his sphere, capacity, and calling, as God does in heaven...**”* (Brigham Young, JOURNAL OF DISCOURSES, Vol.7, p.289, emphasis added).

*“**NO SALVATION WITHOUT ACCEPTING JOSEPH SMITH.** If Joseph Smith was verily a prophet, and if he told the truth when he said that he stood in the presence of angels sent from the Lord...then this knowledge is of the most vital importance to the entire world. **No man can reject that testimony without incurring the most dreadful consequences, for he cannot enter the kingdom of God...**”* (Joseph Fielding Smith, DOCTRINES OF SALVATION, Vol.1, pp.189-190, emphasis added).

*“...**If it had not been for Joseph Smith and the restoration, there would be no salvation...**”* (Bruce R. McConkie, MORMON DOCTRINE, 1989 edition, p.670, emphasis added)

“So great was his [Joseph Smith’s] assigned mission, with reference to the ‘restitution of all things’ (Acts 3:21), that holy prophets spoke of him, by name, thousands of years before his mortal birth. (2 Ne. 3.) And as to the mighty work to be started by him—there are as many prophecies foretelling it as there are about any other single subject, not even excepting the host of prophetic utterances about our Lord and his redemptive sacrifice...Finally, having done all things well—as had been before ordained and appointed—he sealed his testimony with his blood; was taken home to that God who gave him breath; and now—enthroned in eternal glory—he continues his appointed labors on the Lord’s errand.’...**It is because the Lord called Joseph Smith that salvation is again available to mortal men...**” (Bruce R McConkie, MORMON DOCTRINE, 1989 edition, p.396, emphasis added).

“...Every one of us needs to find a very **personal testimony** of the following: A living Father in Heaven, The Atonement of Jesus Christ, **The Prophet Joseph Smith...**” (ENSIGN, Oct.2002, p.30, emphasis added).

WHAT JOSEPH SAID ABOUT HIMSELF:

“...All hell, boil over! Ye burning mountains, roll down your lava! for I will come out on the top at last. **I have more to boast of than ever any man had.** I am the only man that has ever been able to keep a whole church together since the days of Adam. A large majority of the whole have stood by me. Neither Paul, John, Peter, **nor Jesus ever did it. I boast that no man ever did such a work as I.** The followers of Jesus ran away from Him; but the Latter-day Saints never ran away from me yet...How I do love to hear the wolves howl! When they can get rid of me, the devil will also go...” (HISTORY OF THE CHURCH, VOL.V1, pp.408-409, emphasis added).

“...God is not willing to let me gratify you; but I must teach the Elders, and they should teach you. God made Aaron to be the mouthpiece for the children of Israel, and **He will make me be god to you in His stead, and the Elders to be mouth for me; and if you don’t like it, you must lump it...**” (TEACHING OF THE PROPHET JOSEPH SMITH, pg.363, also found in HISTORY OF THE CHURCH, Vol.V1, pp 319-320, emphasis added).

“...The whole earth shall bear me witness that I, like the towering rock in the midst of the ocean, which has withstood the mighty surges of the warring waves for centuries, am impregnable, and am a faithful friend to virtue...I combat the errors of ages; I meet the violence of mobs; I cope with illegal proceedings from executive authority; I cut the gordian knot of powers, and I solve mathematical problems of universities, with truth—diamond truth; **and God is my ‘right hand man.’**” (HISTORY OF THE CHURCH, VOL.V1, p.78, emphasis added)

A Mormon will usually insist that they don’t worship Joseph Smith, however, through the years their writings prove otherwise. Webster’s Random House Dictionary defines worship as follows: “*reverent honor and homage paid to God or a sacred personage...the object of adoring reverence or regard...to feel an adoring reverence or regard for any person or thing...*”.

It is obvious that he is viewed as one having divine credentials, a latter-day messiah. The Bible tells us that we are to worship God alone: “Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.” (Matt.4:10).

SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

We hold monthly support group meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Our guest speaker for April 14th will be Leila Hoopii. Leila was a Mormon for 34 years before coming to know Jesus as her Savior. She will be sharing her testimony, “Mormonism, Is It A Cult?”.

There will be a question and answer time after the lesson followed by 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!

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“He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said...”
(Matt.28:6)

