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NEWSLETTER ~ MARCH/APRIL 2016

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



FROM CHAR'S DESK

As I was looking over the e-mails we have received these last few months, I decided I would like to share portions of them with our readers:

I AM QUESTIONING MY LDS FAITH. PLEASE SEND ME INFO TO HELP ME FIND THE TRUTH. (From Oregon)

I AM NOW AN EX-MORMON AND THANK YOU FOR MAKING US AWARE OF THE MORMON CHURCH AND BEING DECEIVED. (From g-mail)

TEACHING BIBLE CLASS NOW (LUTHERAN)...PEOPLE ARE ASKING ABOUT MORMONS AND WHY THEY ARE NOT IN OUR CHRISTIAN HISTORY... (From Tennessee)

I WAS ON THE RETURNED MISSIONARY EX-MORMON RECOVERY SITE...I CAME ACROSS YOURS FROM DOING AN ONLINE SEARCH...IT WOULD BE NICE TO SEE WHAT YOU HAVE IN RESOURCES. (From New York)

I WENT TO MY FIRST LDS FUNERAL TODAY - THE WHOLE SERVICE LEFT ME SAD AND CONFUSED...I DON'T WANT TO JUDGE THE LDS BUT I WANT TO KNOW WHAT THEY TRULY BELIEVE. (From Idaho)

THANK YOU - PLEASE KEEP YOUR NEWSLETTERS COMING - THEY ARE VERY HELPFUL. I HAVE A FRIEND WHO IS MORMON AND I AM CONCERNED ABOUT HER NOW AND FOR ETERNITY... (From California)

ALL THE INFORMATION ON FACEBOOK AND ON THIS WEBSITE IS SO WONDERFUL. JUST GRADUATED FROM BYU AND IT IS SO HURTFUL TO REALIZE YOU HAVE BEEN LIED TO AND DECEIVED... (From Utah)

PRAY FOR ENLIGHTENMENT IN OUR COMMUNITY REGARDING THE FACT THAT MORMONISM IS NOT CHRISTIANITY. ALSO COULD YOU PLEASE INFORM US IF THERE IS A NEW ZEALAND BRANCH OF EMFJ WHO COULD CONTACT US. (From New Zealand)

I AM A DESCENDANT OF BRIGHAM YOUNG WHO FOUND JESUS AND MY WAY OUT OF MORMONISM...I FOUND OUT ABOUT YOUR MINISTRY IN SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS PAST WEEK. (From California)

This is just a sample of what we get weekly on our website. Please join us in prayer as we ask God to continue to help us answer them with His wisdom.

Jenell's Jots & Tittles

THE TRUE JESUS

When witnessing to Mormons, they often try to tell us that they are Christians because “*anyone who believes in Christ is a Christian*”. We can then ask them, which Christ? 2 Cor.11:3-4 warns about this very thing. It says: “*But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is*

*in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth **another Jesus**, who we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.”* (KJV, my emphasis)

So we are warned about deceivers who would come preaching “another Jesus”. Obviously, only belief in the true Jesus of the Bible makes one a Christian (Christ follower). Another warning is found in Matt.7:22-23: “*Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name?...and in they name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you; depart from me...*”

Although many Mormons believe that Christians and Mormons do worship the same Jesus, even their own leaders have stated otherwise. One of LDS “Seventies”, Bernard P. Brockbank, said that “*It is true that Christians worship a different Jesus Christ than is worshiped by the Mormons or the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*” (The “Ensign”, 1977 p.26).

In the June 20, 1998 “LDS Church News”, we read: “*In bearing testimony of Jesus Christ, President Hinckley spoke of those outside the church who say Latter-day Saints do not believe in the traditional Christ. No, I don’t, the traditional Christ of whom they speak is not the Christ of who I speak. For the Christ of who I speak has been revealed in this dispensation of the fulness of times.*” A few years later, President Hinckley again stated: “*As a Church we have critics, many of them. They say we do not believe in the traditional Christ of Christianity. There is some substance to what they say...*” (The “Ensign”, May 2002, p.90). So what are the differences between the Biblical Jesus and the Mormon one? Well, there are many and they are of a most serious nature. Just a few are as follows ~

The blood of the Mormon Jesus is inadequate: “*Joseph Smith taught that there were certain sins so grievous that man may commit, that they will place the transgressors beyond the power of the atonement of Christ. If these offenses are committed, then the blood of Christ will not cleanse them from their sins even*

though they repent...” (“Doctrines of Salvation”, Vol.1, p.135; also see D&C 42:18-19,79)

One very basic Mormon teaching is that their Jesus was born in the “pre-existence” (before coming to this earth) to heavenly father (who once was a man) and one of his wives, a heavenly mother, and is literally the brother of Lucifer – “*The appointment of Jesus to be Savior of the world was contested by one of the other sons of God. He was called Lucifer...this spirit-brother of Jesus desperately tried to become the Savior of mankind.*” (“The Gospel Through the Ages”, 1945, p.15)

The Mormon Jesus was a polygamist – “*The grand reason of the burst of public sentiment in anathemas upon Christ and his disciples, causing his crucifixion, was evidently based on polygamy...A belief in the doctrine of a plurality of wives caused the persecution of Jesus, and his followers...*” (“Journal of Discourses”, Vol.1, p.346). “*...Jesus Christ was married at Cana of Galilee, that Mary, Martha, and others were his wives, and that he begat children.*” (“Journal of Discourses”, Vol.2, p.210)

Another teaching which separates the Christian Jesus from the Mormon one is their view concerning the virgin birth – “*The birth of the Savior was as natural as are the births of our children, it was the result of **natural action**. He partook of flesh and blood – was begotten of his Father, **as we were of our fathers.***” (Brigham young, “Journal of Discourses”, Vol.8, p.115, also see “Mormon Doctrine” 1979 edition, p.547, the “Seer”, p.158, etc., my emphasis)

There are many other differences that could be sited and if you would like a more complete list, just contact us and ask for the tract “The Jesus of Mormonism”. If the **only** way to the Father is through His Son (and it is - John 14:6), then Mormons are in serious trouble for believing in “another Jesus”. Please take every opportunity to witness to them, and prayer for our ministry will also be much appreciated.

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*The **true church** is a society of those who are in Christ ~*

CITATION OF CONCERN (From an official LDS publication)

“Celestial Marriage—Key to Man’s Destiny: God was once a man who, by obedience, advanced to his present state of perfection; through obedience and celestial marriage we may progress to the point where we become like God.”

“PRAISE TO THE MAN”

I was saddened to read an old “Ensign” article entitled, “A Season for Gratitude” by the late Mormon President, Gordon B. Hinckley. Referring to the season of Christmas, President Hinckley started this article with praise for Joseph Smith as follows:

“This is a season for giving and a time for gratitude. We remember with appreciation the birth of the Prophet Joseph Smith, which is celebrated this same month of December, two days before Christmas. How great indeed is our debt to him....It was he who brought us a true knowledge of God, the Eternal Father, and His Risen Son, the Lord Jesus Christ...To him, from those who held it anciently, came the priesthood, the power, the gift, the authority, the keys to speak and act in the name of God...Through him were restored the keys of the holy temples, that men and women might enter into eternal covenants with God and that the great work for the dead might be accomplished to open the way for eternal blessings.

*Great is his glory and endless his priesthood.
Ever and ever the keys he will hold.
Faithful and true, he will enter his kingdom,
Crowned in the midst of the prophets of old.
 (“Praise to the Man,” Hymns, no.27)...*

*We stand in reverence before him. He is the great prophet of this dispensation. He stands at the head of this great and mighty work which is spreading across the earth. He is our prophet, our revelator, our seer, our friend. Let us not forget him. **Let not his memory be forgotten in the celebration of Christmas. God be thanked for the Prophet Joseph...**” (The Ensign/December 1997, p.2, my emphasis)*

The article continued on to honor the Lord Jesus Christ, but how they could include the celebration of Joseph Smith’s birth with that of the Savior is beyond me. For Mormons to “reverence” Joseph Smith is not something new. Brigham Young said, *“I feel like shouting hallelujah, all the time, when I think that I ever knew Joseph the Prophet.”* (Journal of Discourses, Vol.3, p.51). He also said, *“I honor and revere the name of Joseph Smith. I delight to hear it; I love it. I love his doctrine.”* (Journal of Discourses Vol.13, p.216). And Mormons have continued on with these same sentiments ever since.

I think real Christians would be uncomfortable with giving this kind of reverence and praise to anyone other than the Father, Son or Holy Spirit who alone is worthy of such admiration! We pray that they will come to realize this.

STRANGE CONTRADICTIONS IN THE LDS STANDARD WORKS

Mormonism has many blatant contradictions in their writings, following are just a few examples:

Joseph Smith wonders...*“In the midst of this war of words and tumult of opinions, I often said to myself: What is to be done? Who of all these parties are right; or, **are they all wrong together?** If any one of them be right, which is it, and how shall I know it?”* (Joseph Smith—History 1:10, my emphasis)

Yet just a few verses later he said: *“My object in going to inquire of the Lord was to know which of all the sects was right, that I might know which to join. No sooner, therefore, did I get possession of myself, so as to be able to speak, than I asked the Personages who stood above me in the light, which of all the sects was right **(for at this time it had never entered into my heart that all were wrong)**—and which I should join.”* (Joseph Smith—History 1:18, my emphasis)

“And I did teach my people to build buildings, and to work in all manner of wood, and of iron, and of copper, and of brass, and of steel, and of gold, and of silver, and of precious ores, which were in great abundance.” (2 Nephi 5:15, my emphasis)

Yet in the next verse we read: “*And I Nephi, did build a temple, and I did construct it after the manner of the temple of Solomon save it were not built of so many precious things; for they were not to be found on the land, wherefore, it could not be built like unto Solomon’s temple. But the manner of the construction was like unto the temple of Solomon; and the workmanship thereof was exceeding fine.*” (2 Nephi 5:16, my emphasis)

“*Then shall they (those entering into Celestial Marriage) be gods, because they have no end; therefore shall they be from everlasting to everlasting, because they continue; then shall they be above all, because all things are subject unto them. Then shall they be gods, because they have all power, and angels are subject unto them.*” (D&C 132:20, my emphasis)

“*And Amulek said: Yea, there is a true and living God. Now Zeezrom said: Is there more than one God? And he answered, No.*” (Alma 11:27-29, my emphasis)

“*David also received many wives and concubines, and also Solomon and Moses my servants, from the beginning of creation until this time; and in nothing did they sin save in those things which they received not of me. David’s wives and concubines were given unto him of me...*” (D&C 132:38, 39a, my emphasis)

“*Behold, David and Solomon truly had many wives and concubines, which thing was abominable before me, saith the Lord.*” (Jacob 2:14, my emphasis)

“*And then Ammon said: Believest thou that there is a Great Spirit? And he said, Yea. And Ammon said: This is God. And Ammon said unto him again: Believest thou that this Great Spirit who is God, created all things which are in heaven and in the earth?* (Book of Mormon, Alma 18:26-28, my emphasis)

“*The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s; the Son also, the Holy Ghost has not a body of flesh and bones, but is a personage of spirit...*” (D&C 130:22, my emphasis)

“*And I, God, said: Let there be light; and there was light. And I God saw the light and that light was good.*

“*And I, God, divided the light from the darkness.*” (Pearl of Great Price, Moses 2:3-4, etc., my emphasis)

“*And they (the Gods) said: Let there be light; and there was light. And they (The Gods comprehended the light, for it was bright; and they divided the light, or caused it to be divided, from the darkness.*” (Pearl of Great Price, Abraham 4:3-4, etc., my emphasis)

These are just a few of the *many* contradictions found in the LDS Standard works which must not be overlooked, as discord among purported Scripture must raise a red flag for all thinking people. Yet early LDS Apostle Orson Pratt said: “*If the various books that enter into the collection called the Book of Mormon be carefully compared with each other, there will be found nothing contradictory in history, in prophecy, or in doctrine. If we compare the historical, prophetic, and doctrinal parts of the Book of Mormon with the great truths of science and nature, we find no contradictions—no absurdities—nothing unreasonable. The most perfect harmony therefore exists between the great truths revealed in the Book of Mormon and all other known truths, whether religious, historical, or scientific.*” (As quoted by James E. Talmage, “The Articles of Faith”, 1982, p.505, my emphasis)

SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

We hold monthly support meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month. On April 12th we’ll be having another Movie Night with popcorn and drinks. We will be showing the movie called “Mormons ~ Missionaries to the World. It takes you clear through a missionary’s journey, from his call, to what happens on his mission, to his returning home. It is very insightful and will help you see what it is like to be an LDS missionary from his point of view.

There will be a question and answer time after the movie. All are welcome, those who want to learn more, those who need support and the Mormons themselves. The address is 240 W. Chapman Ave. in Orange. We meet in the Fellowship Center behind the church. We look forward to seeing you there.

Please bring a friend.

