



E-MAIL [bill@exmormonsforjesus.org](mailto:bill@exmormonsforjesus.org)

WEB [www.exmormonsforjesus.org](http://www.exmormonsforjesus.org)

NEWSLETTER ~ May/June 2015

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



FROM CHAR'S DESK

Yesterday, I attended the National Day of Prayer in the city of Orange. What a blessing it was to gather together with all the Christians from different denominations and yet, in Christ, we were all one. What marvelous unity we have in Christ! Oh, that the Mormons could understand what real unity is. They believe we are all divided and that to have unity, you must have a leader who tells you what to believe and you obey, so that you all believe alike. That is man-made unity, not the unity Christ gives.

Help us, dear Lord, to never cease witnessing Jesus Christ to the Mormon people so they can experience unity in Him and not in a church. Everyone MUST be truly born again in order to experience this kind of unity.

Jenell's Jots & Tittles

SUBJECTIVE FEELINGS

VS.

OBJECTIVE EVIDENCE

In an attempt to get outsiders to consider their church seriously, Mormons frequently place before them a challenge to read the Book of Mormon. They usually call attention to a BOM passage that states: "And when ye shall receive these things [the BOM], I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the

*truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost. And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things.*" (Moroni 10:4, my emphasis)

Another Mormon passage shares a similar challenge, but this one is supposedly from God: "But, behold, I say unto you, that you must study it [the BOM] out in your mind; then you must ask me if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that your **bosom shall burn within you**; therefore, you shall **feel** that it is right" (Doctrine & Covenants 9:8, my emphasis)

PROBLEMS WITH THE CHALLENGE:

1. There is no provision made in case the BOM is false.
2. What if you don't get a supernatural witness of some kind? A Mormon would say it was because you didn't ask with a "sincere heart" or "real intent", or you didn't have faith in Christ". In other words, something is wrong with **you**, not the BOM.
3. What if you **do** get a burning in the bosom or a special feeling (many Mormons make this claim)? Where can these manifestation come from?

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Thank You

A. SATAN: *“...the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders.”* (2 Thess.2:9)

B. DECEITFUL SPIRITS/DEMONS: *“But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to **deceitful spirits** and doctrines of demons”* (1 Tim.4:1)

*“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but **test the spirits** to see whether they are from God.”* (1 John4:1)

C. OUR OWN HEARTS: *“Beware, lest your hearts be deceived and you turn away and serve **other gods** and worship them.* (Deut.11:16)

*“The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?”* (Jer.17:9)

*“There is a way which **seems right** to a man, but its end is the way of death.”* (Pr.14:12)

Acts 17:11 gives us a **Biblical example** of what one is to do when confronted with the possibility of whether a message is from God or not: *“...for they received the word with great eagerness, **examining the scriptures** daily, to see whether these things were so.”*

These Bereans didn't rely on mere subjective feelings because they had the objective evidence of the scriptures by which to judge Paul's words. It should be no different for us today for it is our Bible that will keep us from being *“tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming.”* (Eph.4:14)

## FINDING HAPPINESS

An “Ensign” article, entitled, “Our Search for Happiness” shared the following: *“As the Prophet Joseph Smith told, us, **Happiness is the object and design of our existence**; and will be the end thereof, if we pursue the path that leads to it; and this path is virtue, uprightness, faithfulness, holiness and keeping all the commandments of God”*. (The Ensign, Oct.2000, p.2, my emphasis)

In Mormonism, almost everything is man-centered. As this article states, happiness is found in **our** virtue, **our** uprightness, **our** faithfulness, **our** holiness and keeping all the commandments. On the other hand, Christians believe that happiness comes from being God-centered. The “object and design of our existence” is not about us or about happiness, but it is to **know** God and enjoy **Him** forever! Ps.144:15 says: *“...happy is that people, whose God is the Lord.”*

## CITATIONS OF CONCERN (From LDS Leaders)

In an article, “The Joy of Redeeming the Dead”, Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, shared: *“Do you young people want a sure way to eliminate the influence of the adversary in your life? Immerse yourself in searching for your ancestors, prepare the names for sacred vicarious ordinances available in the temple...I can think of **no greater protection** from the influence of the adversary in your life.*

*“Ancestors who have been found are no doubt anxious and thrilled when their names are cleared for ordinances. They, however, **may not be very happy** when they have to continue to wait for ordinances to be performed.”* (“The Ensign”, Nov.2014, p.94, my emphasis)

Pressure and guilt motivates many a Mormon to do their leaders' bidding, what bondage!

## ATTENTION! APOLOGETIC CONFERENCE COMING

We are so excited about this one day conference which will be held on Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Calvary Chapel WestGrove Church in Garden Grove. The speakers will be Sandra Tanner, Bill McKeever, Lynn Wilder and Steve Crane (Steve is the pastor at a church in Idaho which is made up of 60% ex-Mormons).

The cost is \$20 per person and the address is: 12832 Knott Street, Garden Grove, CA 92841. For more questions, please call our Center.

## “ATTACKING” MORMONS???

Once in awhile, someone may ask us why we “attack” the Mormon people. This type of question indicates a misunderstanding (or misinformation) about our work. First of all, we do not judge, condemn, or attack the Mormons. They, like us, will be judged by Jesus Christ concerning whether they have accepted or rejected His provisions for their salvation (Rom.14:10-12).

On the other hand, we believe we have a scriptural mandate to reveal the false doctrine and lies of Mormonism. The Bible tells us to expose the errors of darkness (Eph.5:11-13), refute and silence those who contradict the truth of the scripture (Tit.1:9-11), reprove and rebuke those who do not endure sound doctrine (2 Tim.4:2-3), and contend earnestly for the faith (Jude 3). And not only does the Bible tell us to expose that which is false, but Mormon leadership agrees.

Joseph Fielding Smith said: *“Mormonism, as it is called, must stand or fall on the story of Joseph Smith. He was either a prophet of God, divinely called, properly appointed and commissioned, or he was one of the biggest frauds this world has ever seen. **There is no middle ground.** If Joseph Smith was a deceiver, who wilfully attempted to mislead the people, **then he should be exposed; his claims should be refuted, and his doctrines shown to be false...**”* (“Doctrines of Salvation”, Vol.1, p.188, my emphasis).

Another LDS leader, Orson Pratt, made this comment: *“...convince us of our errors of doctrine, if we have any, by reason, by logical arguments, or by the word of God, and we will be ever grateful for the information, and you will ever have the pleasing reflection that you have been instruments in the hands of God **of redeeming your fellow beings from the darkness which you may see enveloping their minds...**”* (“The Seer”, p.15, my emphasis).

Brigham Young, Mormonism’s second prophet, stated: *“I say to the whole world, receive the truth, no matter who presents it to you. Take up the Bible, compare the religion of the Latter-day Saints with it, and see if it will stand the test.”* (“Journal of Discourses”, Vol.16, p.46).

Eternity is a long time to be wrong. Mormons are taught that: *“With only a few exceptions, even the very wicked will ultimately go to a marvelous—though lesser—kingdom of glory”* (Jan.2011 “Ensign”, p.27). However, Christians do not have the luxury of being at peace regarding a Mormon’s eternal destiny. The Bible tells us there are only one of two places for a person to go after death (Dan.12:2, Matt.25:46, John 5:29, 2 Cor.2:15-16, Rev.20:15). Different terminology is used in these passages (i.e. “Everlasting life/everlasting contempt”, “eternal punishment/eternal life”, “saved/perishing”, etc.), but obviously they are referencing heaven and hell.

We in this ministry give of our own time (and often our own resources) to reach these people because we love them. If you believe in our ministry, we would appreciate your prayers and support. Thank you.

## LIVING ORACLES vs. THE BIBLE

Mormons are continually indoctrinated with the idea that their “living oracles” (their present prophet/“God’s mouthpiece”) is their only safe haven. A recent article in a Mormon publication refers to this:

*“Divine revelation adapts itself to the circumstances and conditions of men, and change upon change ensues as God’s progressive work goes on to its destiny. **There is no book big enough or good enough to preside over this church...**No man ought to contend for what is in the books, in the face of **God’s mouthpiece**, who speaks for Him and interprets His word [see D&C 1:37-38]. To so contend is to defer to the **dead letter** in preference to **the living oracle**, which is always a false position.”* (March 2015 “Ensign”, p.80, my emphasis)

How sad, for Christians know that without the Bible, Satan can (and does) reign great devastation upon the human race. Why is it that all of the cults work overtime to discredit the Bible while all of the Christian denominations use it as their **only** true and trustworthy guide? And because of this, all Christian denominations have harmony in their essential doctrine and theology where as in the cults, there is none.

Once the seed is planted regarding the Bible being an insufficient guide, where is a person to go for the truth?

Mormons are left wide open for any absurd teachings their leaders come up with. It seems as if the Apostle Paul foresaw this – “*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine but wanting to have their ears tickle, they will accumulate for themselves teachers [living oracles] in accordance to their own desire; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths.*” (2 Tim 4:3, 4)

Consider this about the Bible - It was written over a period of 1600 years, by 40 different authors on 3 continents, in 3 languages (Hebrew, Aramaic & Greek), on hundreds of controversial subjects with harmony and continuity from beginning to end. It is historically and scientifically accurate with one central theme, God’s redemption of mankind.

The Bible claims to be divinely inspired (God breathed) word of God (e.g. 2 Tim. 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20, 21); it contains over 2000 specific prophecies; the Old Testament contains approximately prophecies on the life of Christ made at least 400 years prior to His birth, all of which are meticulously fulfilled in the New Testament (e.g. Isa. 7:14, Micah 5:2). The Old Testament presents Him as the hope of mankind, the New Testament shows Him to be the fulfillment of that hope.

So much more can be said of the Bible, but these amazing facts alone should permit nothing less than our full trust in reverence for it. How grateful Christians are for God’s faithfulness, and in spite of what our Mormon friends claim, **His ability** to keep His word in tact and unpolluted by man: “*The words of the Lord are pure words; as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O Lord, thou shalt preserve them from this generation forever.*” (Ps. 12:6, 7 KJV).

### MORMONISM’S ETERNAL PROGRESSION

In an “Ensign” (an official LDS publication) article, Elder Dennis E. Simmons, Of the Seventy, shared the following:

“*His [Heavenly Father’s] work and His glory, He told us, is ‘to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.’ He has already achieved godhood. Now His only objective is to help us—to enable us to return to Him and be like Him and live His kind of life eternally.*” (The May 2004 Ensign, p.73, my emphasis). Even more plainly, Joseph Smith stated: “*God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens! That is the great secret...*” (“Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith”, p.345, my emphasis)

To a Christian this is blasphemy. The Bible tells us God has **always** been God – “*...even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God.*” (Ps.90:2). But it gets worse! As the second half of the above “Ensign” article shares, Mormons believe that not only their Heavenly Father progressed to become a god but they are taught that individual Mormons can accomplish the same goal.

Again, the Bible makes it clear that there is, was, and always will be only ONE God – (Deut.4:35, 39; 1 Kings 8:60; Isa.43:10, 44:6, 45:6, 14, 18, 21, 22, 46:9; Mark 12:29, 32; 1 Cor.8:4-6; Heb.6:13; James 2:19). How Mormons can have these unbiblical beliefs and still call themselves Christian is quite a mystery. Please join us in prayer for them to come to know the truth that will set them free from the lies and deception of Mormonism.

### SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

We hold monthly support group meetings at 7:30 pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues. of every month. Our guest speaker for June 9<sup>th</sup> is ex-Mormon Lindsay McEachern. However, our July meeting will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday instead of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues. On July 21<sup>st</sup> our guests will be Adam’s Road - a musical group of ex-Mormons featuring Micah Wilder, a former missionary who’s conversion helped lead his family to the Christian faith.

After each meeting there is time for a Q&A and refreshments. The address is 240 W. Chapman Ave., Orange, CA. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you there!

