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NEWSLETTER ~ MAY/JUNE 2017

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



FROM CHAR'S DESK

Mother's Day was celebrated on the 14th of this month and it caused me to remember a beautiful experience I had from a mother that supports our ministry. She sent us a check for one hundred dollars that her son gave her to give to us. She told him that instead of buying her a present for Mother's Day, she would rather have the money go to Ex-Mormons for Jesus. What a special blessing that was to us!!

It is so refreshing to see a mother think more of others than she thinks of herself. I pray that God gave this woman and her son the best Mother's Day they ever had together and may we use the money they gave us to cause another Mormon to come into the kingdom of God.

Jenell's Jots & Tittles

PROCREATE VS. ADOPTION

As most of you know, Mormonism teaches that God and His various wives procreate spirit babies in a pre-existent place. The following article is just one example of this teaching: *"The doctrine of the preexistence—revealed so plainly, particularly in latter days—pours a wonderful flood of light upon the otherwise mysterious problem of man's origin. It shows that man, as a spirit, was begotten and **born of heavenly parents** and reared to maturity in the eternal mansions of the Father, prior to coming upon the earth..."* (The Feb.2002 "Ensign", p.30, my emphasis)

However, our Bible tells us we **become** children of God at conversion: *"But as many as received Him, to them*

He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name." (John 1:12 NAS). There is nothing in the Bible to suggest a pre-life before being born on this earth. Mormons like to use Jer.1:5 - *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you..."* but this is just speaking of God being all knowing (e.g. Ps.139) and it says nothing about Jeremiah knowing God.

Once we have received Jesus as our Savior, God **adopts** us into his family: *"He predestined us to **adoption** as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will."* (John 1:5). Gal.4:4-5 says: *But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the **adoption** as sons."* (also see Rom.8:15)

Recently, I was talking to a Mormon lady on this topic. I asked her why Mother God was not mentioned in either the Bible or the Book of Mormon. She gave the same answer I have heard from other Mormons - "it is because Father God was trying to protect her from man taking her name in vain or speaking evil of her". But how ridiculous is that? Everyone who knows about Mormonism knows of their belief in a Mother God so not mentioning her in scripture (which should be a huge red flag) provides no protection at all.

Another "Ensign" article shared a song Mormons like to sing: *"In the heav'ns are parents single? No, the thought makes reason stare! Truth is reason; truth eternal, Tells me I've a mother there (Hymns, no.292).* (The June 1993 Ensign, p.10). This same article goes on to say that *"Families really can be forever...The*

stunning truth, lost to humankind before the Restoration, is that each of us is a god in embryo. We may become as our heavenly parents..."

Sadly, this teaching that "families are forever", draws many into Mormonism even though the Bible teaches no such thing. Rom.1:20-23 warns: "*For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks, but **they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man...***"

Please join us in prayer, that Mormons would come to know that God has something even better planned for them than "forever families", if they would just trust Him – "*But just as it is written, Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And **which have not entered the heart of man**, all that God has prepared for those who love Him.*" (1 Cor.2:9 NAS). It is very dangerous to try and make god into one of your own liking, but sadly that is what Mormons have done!

MORMONISM - BEAUTY & THE BEAST

The phrase "beauty is only skin deep" is a very suitable one for describing Mormonism. The beauty side (that which originally attracts a convert) are things like having close families, their charitable ways, being able to redeem dead loved ones, being a family unit for eternity, removing the unpleasant aspect of hell and offering a god made in man's image.

Author Mark J. Cares said of Mormonism: "*Underneath lurks a hideous monster that has slowly enslaved and now is steadily tormenting many Mormons. Few religions better fit Jesus' picture of false prophets as ferocious wolves wearing sheep's clothing...*" ("Speaking the Truth In Love to Mormons", p.148). As scripture warns, Satan will not show his true self, rather he "*disguises himself as an angel of light*" (2 Cor.11:14).

If our Mormon friends were really sincere when talking to a prospective convert, they should ask questions like "*would you like to know how to become a god?*", instead of offering a free Book of Mormon and instructing them to read and then pray about it. The prospective convert would then have a better (and more honest) idea as to what Mormons believe, not just merely the surface image they wish to portray. Or if they would tell them that they believe God was once a man who worked His way up to godhood (as did His Father before Him, and so on), and that we can, through certain works *earn* salvation, rather than telling them about their "family home evening program", they would again have a better understanding of true Mormon doctrine.

When trying to convince someone to join their group, one might wonder why Mormonism's theology and doctrine is intentionally left out (and even often denied). After all, shouldn't doctrine be the most relevant aspect in making the decision? A Mormon would probably say (as we have often heard) that a prospective convert is only ready for milk, not meat. But the more honest answer is that they know their unscriptural, heretical teachings would scare off even the most naive. They must first put out the bait and after one is "hooked" then they will, little by little, learn some of their hidden beliefs.

Besides our own personal experiences as ex-Mormons, we have talked to numerous other former Mormons who tell us they became disillusioned once they were fully plugged into the system. Many, especially those with a Christian background, eventually find their way out but there are those who remain because they have given it their all. Denial seems to occur when people have sacrificed so much that they feel a need to see things not as they are, but as they *want* them to be. The beast is not easy to swallow, but by not seeing the whole picture, one small bite at a time is fairly easy to handle. The deceptive spirits behind Mormonism count on that!

ARE MORMONS POLYTHEISTS?

If you asked a Mormon this question, they would probably respond with a resounding no! They do not like to consider themselves such because polytheism is diametrically opposed to Christianity (which they are

trying hard to emulate). Yet anyone who is familiar with Mormonism knows that their theology embraces a belief in a multitude of gods, in fact they believe they can become one themselves.

The answer to this paradox lies with their interpretation of polytheism verses its **true** meaning. “Random House, Websters College Dictionary” describes polytheism as: “*The doctrine or belief in more than one god or in many gods.*” Mormonism, on the other hand, tries to narrow the meaning down to only those who **worship** pagan deities, not just to those who **believe** more than one god exists, as follows:

“It should be remembered that polytheism has reference to pagan deities to whom reverence, devotion, and worship are given. It is not to be confused with the gospel truth that there are ‘gods many, and lords many, But to us there is but one God, the Father,...and one Lord Jesus Christ.’ (1 Cor.8:4-7). The saints are not polytheists.” (“MORMON DOCTRINE”, Second edition, Bruce R. McConkie, p.579). In this McConkie is wrong as the dictionary, as well as common sense, clearly states that anyone who believes that more than one God exists makes them a polytheist.

To show that Mormons do, indeed, believe in the existence of many gods, one just needs to look at the teachings of their leaders. Joseph Smith stated: “*Here, then, is eternal life – to know the only wise and true God; and you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves, and to be kings and priest to God, the same as all Gods have done before you...To inherit the same power, the same glory and the same exaltation, until you arrive at the station of a God...*” (Teaching of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pp.346-347).

Orson Pratt stated: “*If we should take a million of worlds like this and number their particles, we should find that there are more Gods than there are particles of matter in those worlds.* (Journal of Discourses, Vol.2, p.345). Brigham Young said: “*How many Gods there are, I do not know. But there never was a time when there were not Gods...*” (Journal of Discourses, Vol.7, p.333).

Many areas of Mormonism’s theology separates it from Christianity and puts it into the category of a heretical cult. However, almost none is more serious or dangerous

than their polytheistic teaching in general, and that of man trying to obtain Godhood in particular. In Isaiah 14:12-15 we can read the account of Lucifer wanting to become like God but was given the sentence of hell instead.

Christianity is monotheistic in the strictest sense of the term, for the scriptures do not leave room for anything else – “*Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.*” (Isa.43:10, also see Deut.4:35, 39; 1 Sam.2:2; 1 Kings 8:60; Isa.44:6, 8; Isa.45:5, 6, 21, 22; Mark 12:29-32; James 2:19). It is our prayer that Mormons would come to understand and embrace the only True God of the Bible (John 17:3).

CITATIONS OF CONCERN may2017 (From LDS Leaders)

“...We were begotten by our Father in Heaven; the person of our Father in Heaven was begotten on a previous heavenly world by His Father; and again, He was begotten by a still more ancient Father, and so on, from generation to generation, from one heavenly world to another still more ancient, until our minds are wearied and lost in the multiplicity of generations and successive worlds, and as a last resort, we wonder in our minds, how far back the genealogy extends, and how the first world was formed and the first father was begotten...” (“The Seer” by Apostle Orson Pratt, p.132)

SAY WHAT?!!!

Brigham Young, Mormonism’s second prophet, made an incredibly shocking “boast” about the Mormon people as follows:

“Some of the Elders seem to be tripped up in a moment, if the wicked can find any fault with the members of this Church; but bless your souls, I would not yet have this people faultless, for the day of separation has not yet arrived. I have many a time, in this stand, dared the world to produce as mean devils as we can; we can beat them at anything. We have the greatest and smoothest

liars in the world, the cunningest and most adroit thieves, and any other shade of character that you can mention.

We can pick out Elders in Israel right here who can beat the world at gambling, who can handle the cards, cut and shuffle them with the smartest rogue on the face of God's foot-stool. I can produce Elders here who can shave their smartest shavers, and take their money from them. We can beat the world at any game.

We can beat them, because we have men here that live in the light of the Lord, that have the Holy Priesthood, and hold the keys of the kingdom of God. But you may go through all the sectarian world, and you cannot find a man capable of opening the door of the kingdom of God to admit others in. We can do that. We can pray the best, preach the best, and sing the best. We are the best looking and finest set of people of the face of the earth, and they may begin any game they please, and we are on hand, and can beat them at anything they have a mind to begin. They may make sharp their two-edged swords, and I will turn out the Elders of Israel with greased feathers, and whip them to death. We are not to be beat. We expect to be a stumbling block to the whole world, and a rock of offence to them.” (Journal of Discourses, Vol.4, p.77)

Evidently Brigham Young was hoping to show that the Mormon people were superior to everyone else, however, his boasting (if you can call it that) also exposed their ruthless and unchristian side. And what does the Bible have to say about boasting? *“But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, **boastful, arrogant...**”* (2 Tim.3:1-2 NAS).

At one point, the Apostle Paul seemed to boast of the sufferings he endured (2 Cor.11:16-12:6) but he ended by saying *“...there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me—to keep me from exalting myself! Concerning this, I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness’. Most gladly, therefore, I will rather **boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.**”* (2 Cor.12:7-9).

What a stark contrast! The great Apostle Paul boasted of

his weaknesses while Brigham Young boasted about his people being strong and capable of out-smarting anyone and everyone . I will close with 2 Cor.10:17: *“But he who boasts, let him boast in the Lord.”* AMEN TO THAT!

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 the June 13th meeting will be telling her story of how she almost became a Mormon, attending the LDS church for two years but then she found us on our website (which enlightened her). This will be very interesting to all. Please don't miss it!

There will be a question and answer time after the lesson followed by refreshments. All are welcome - those who want to learn more, those who need support, and the Mormons themselves. The address is 671 N. Poplar Street in Orange and we look forward to seeing you there.

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This month we have a little space left so we will share some of the books that some of you may not know we have available. All prices are suggested donations:

MORMONS~HOW GOD LOVES THEM by Charlotte Pardee \$12.00

MORMON CLAIMS ANSWERED by Marvin Cowan\$ 6.00

WHERE DOES IT SAY THAT? By Bob Witte.....\$ 6.50

WITNESS TO MORMONS by Concerned Christians Ministry.....\$ 5.00

OUT OF MORMONISM by Judy Robertson.....\$13.99

We also have many tracts that cover almost any subject on Mormonism (suggested donation of .30 each) plus some excellent DVD's for a suggested price of \$10.00 (“Bible vs. Book of Mormon,” “DNA vs. Book of Mormon”, “Lifting the Veil of Polygamy”,etc.)

