

## ***SYLVIA'S CORNER***

### **WHY AREN'T MORMON BISHOPS FULL TIME PASTORS?**

When I first became a Mormon, I thought it strange that the bishops had regular jobs and conducted their church responsibilities on the side. Why didn't they need to spend all those years at seminary to study the Bible, learn Greek, etc. like other Christian pastors did, I asked.

I was told that the Christian pastors were studying the Bible which was only accurate when translated correctly, that it was not the complete truth, and that the pastors took certain parts out of context and elaborated on them only. In contrast, the Mormons claimed to have current revelations from a living prophet and more books to clarify the scriptures.

How I wish I had known my Bible well enough to know what God says about this. I confess that I was not yet familiar with 2 Timothy 3:16, where it says, "All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." The ultimate writer of the Bible according to this passage in Timothy was not man, but God.

*I don't know about you, but I will look for a teacher or pastor who has been devoted to the word of God as revealed in the Bible, studies it regularly, and doesn't look toward man to translate it correctly, but looks to God to do so.*

### **WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR AUTHORITY?**



One of the questions Mormons often ask is "Where did you get your authority?" (By the way, the chief priests and elders asked Jesus the same question. "By what authority doest thou these things? And who gave thee this authority? MATT. 21:23)

Mormons believe they hold the priesthood and are the only ones that have the power or authority to administer or perform the ordinances of salvation so that they will be binding on earth and in heaven. They, therefore, believe that the LDS Church is the only church that can pass on this authority.

However, in the Bible, Jesus said *all* authority in heaven and earth are His so, in reality, the only authority any of us have must come from the One who has it all.

In Matt 28:18 Jesus gave every true believer the full power of attorney to carry on the work He started. All Christians have full, legal, redemptive, gospel, blood bought, promised and family rights to use the Name of Jesus. Therefore, the disciples of today have the same authority as the original disciples had, the authority to use His Name. It belongs to every born-again believer.

**Where did we get our authority? We got it from none other than Jesus Christ Himself.**