

SYLVIA'S CORNER

MY MORMON TEMPLE EXPERIENCE

Well there I was, finally in the Mormon Temple to be married. I had very much wanted to go. Really, in fact, it had been my idea. Coming from a Christian background, and initially resisting even membership in the church, it was amazing that I had gone so far as to do this at all.

The Bishop and Second Counselor, as well as others, were there to witness the ceremony.

I really didn't know what to expect. Ever since I had become a Mormon, I had been encouraged to take this further step. As I sat in the waiting area, someone officiating offered those of us getting ready to go through, the opportunity to leave if they had changed their minds. At that time, I felt the strongest impression just to get out of there. I didn't, however, because so many of our friends were in attendance.

After the ceremony, many asked how I liked the experience. I replied that I didn't like it much. They said that a lot of people felt that way initially, but had to go back on a regular basis and I would grow to enjoy it. I never returned.

Now that I am a "born again" Christian, I realize that temples are no longer necessary. In reading the Bible, I saw that when Jesus died, the curtain in the temple that divided the Holy of Holies, was torn in two. This is best explained in Hebrews 9:11, where it says; "But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood He entered ONCE into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us." By His death on the cross, Jesus put an end to the old way of approaching God, through the

animal sacrifices, and became our way to now have direct access to the Father once and for all. (See Hebrews 10:10-12 and also 19-22.) Now the Lord dwells in the heart of the Christian that has accepted the work Jesus did on the cross, asked for forgiveness of sins, and invited Him to be their personal Lord and Savior. Our body is His temple now. In I Corinthians 6:19-20, it reads; "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

In fact, to really illustrate the point, in Acts 17:24, it reads "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands."

So we can see from this that God no longer needs man-made temples. Therefore, we must question why they are a Mormon prerequisite to what they believe to be the highest state of eternal life.