

Ex-Mormons for

JESUS

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NEWSLETTER ~ JAN/FEB 2018

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



FROM CHAR'S DESK

I can clearly remember when I became director of the Ex-Mormons for Jesus Information and Visitors Center in the city of Orange. That was over 30 years ago! When I look back, I can recall all of the many godly people He has sent to help me and I am amazed at what our Lord has done through us, His servants, and we are awed at how He uses us, His broken vessels for His glory!

As we start this new year of 2018, I wonder what He has planned for us. I know how much He loves and cares for the Mormon people and wants them to understand what it really means to be born again. I pray He will show us how to reach them in a way that will not turn them off but will cause them to yearn for what we have, a personal relationship with Jesus Christ! Would you please join us in prayer for God to accomplish this through us and we'll be forever grateful! Happy New Year!

Jenell's Jots & Tittles

“BURDENS HARD TO BEAR”

In Luke 11:46 Jesus said – “Woe to you lawyers (or in modern times, the word “lawyers” can be replaced with “Mormon leaders”) *as well! For you weigh men down with burdens hard to bear...*”(NAS).

Yes, Mormons are weighed down with **many** laws, regulations, do's and don't's (works). So many in fact that it is hard for them to keep track of what they can

and cannot do in order to please God and be a member in good standing with their church. Following is just an example of what is required of them: Keeping their Temple requirements (includes secret handshakes, signs and penalties, wearing secret undergarments with secret symbols for the rest of their life), perform temple works for the dead, being married for time and eternity in the temple, no tea, coffee, alcoholic drinks or tobacco, follow the “living prophets” without question, pay tithing, have as many children as possible (after all, their heavenly parents have spirit babies waiting to get a body and come to this earth), give testimony to Joseph Smith being a true prophet and also have a testimony of the Book of Mormon, be ready to accept any “callings” their leaders ask of them, etc.

Keeping laws (works) did not get people right with God in the Old Testament and this truth hasn't changed since then. *Many* scriptures verify this fact but the book of Romans is an excellent place to start (all scriptures quoted are from the NAS): “*Because by the works of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.*” (Rom.20). “*For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the law*” (Rom.3:28). “*What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about; but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? ‘And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness’.* Now to the one who works, his wage is not reckoned as a favor, but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness.” (Rom.4:1-5)

The Bible is clear that a person is saved by GRACE (unearned, undeserved favor from God) through FAITH (complete trust) in Christ and His finished work on the cross. Through Him we can stand justified (not guilty) before God. The books of Galatians and Ephesians are also excellent resources for this topic. For example: *“nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we may be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified.”* (Gal.2:16) and, *“I do not nullify the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly.”* (Gal.2:21, also see Gal.5:4, Eph.2:8-9, 13, etc.)

How Mormons can miss this clear message is mind boggling. And when we try and share this glorious truth with them, they completely misunderstand and think we are saying that one can just accept this free gift of grace and then go on sinning as before. Nothing could be further from the truth: *“Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”* (2 Cor.5:17), and: *“But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you become obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.”* (Rom.6:17-18). Yes, the grace of God not only justifies but also makes us a “new creation” which results in a changed life style.

How we pray for the dear Mormon people to come to this knowledge and lay down the heavy burden their leaders put on them. Jesus said: *“Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My Load is light.”* (Matt.11:29-30).

A “HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD” QUOTE
BY JAMES WHITE
(Alpha & Omega Ministries)

“The doctrines of grace separate the Christian faith from the works-based religions of men. They direct us away from ourselves and solely to God’s grace and mercy. They destroy pride, instill humility and exalt God. And that is why so many invest so much time in the

vain attempt to undermine their truth. The religions of men maintain authority over their followers by 1) limiting God’s power, 2) exalting man’s abilities, and 3) “channeling” God’s power through their own structures. A perfect salvation that is freely bestowed by God for His own glory is not a “system” that can be controlled by a religious body or group. And even more importantly, such a system is destructive of any sense of pride in the creature man, and if there is anything man’s religion much safeguard, it is man’s “self esteem””

Parts of this quote can fit many different cults but the author surely had Mormonism in mind when he wrote it. I think it is worth reading a second time!

IT CAME DOWN TO FEELINGS

An article in the December 2017 “Ensign”, by Stephen W. Owen, Young men General President, caught my eye. He stated: *“During my first semester at college 40 years ago, I decided to read the Book of Mormon cover to cover. Somehow, I had never done that before. At that time, I could tell why we have the Book of Mormon and why it’s important, and I could bear testimony that it is the word of God...”* (p.12, my emphasis)

How could he possible have a “testimony” that it was the word of God? Obviously, this knowledge or “testimony”, came from outside sources as he had admitted that he had never read it from cover to cover. Once again, this story illustrates that the Mormon minds are controlled by their church and they don’t even know it.

He went on to say: *“When I had finished, I prayed, as Moroni suggests, to ‘ask God...if these things are not true’ (Moroni 10:4). Did I receive a dramatic revelation? No. But I did receive a **feeling** of peace, consistent with the **feelings** I had while reading the book, I now had the ingredient that was missing, not just in my mission preparation but also **in my conversion to the Savior.**”* (My emphasis). Wow, he was going on a mission for his church and he wasn’t even converted to Jesus!

Feelings can be a powerful thing. We at Ex-Mormons For Jesus have heard of many Mormons who said they know Mormonism is false, but because of a special “feeling”, they simply can not leave. So where can these feelings come from? There are several possibilities, one being Satan. The Bible tells us “*Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders*” (2 Thess.2:9). Another can be from deceitful spirits: “*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.*” We pray for our Mormons friends to read their Bibles with an open mind and allow this amazing book to override their feelings and be their final authority.

CITATIONS OF CONCERN

(From LDS Leaders)

“Now hear it, O inhabitants of the earth, Jew and Gentile, Saint and sinner! When our father Adam came into the garden of Eden, he came into it with a *celestial body*, and brought Eve, *one of his wives*, with him. He helped to make and organize this world. He is Michael, the Arch-angel, the Ancient of Days! about whom holy men have written and *spoken—He is our Father and our God, and the only God with whom we have to do...* When the Virgin Mary conceived the child Jesus, the Father had begotten him in his own likeness. He was *not* begotten by the Holy Ghost. And who is the Father? He is the first of the human family; and when he took a tabernacle, it was begotten by *his* Father in heaven...” (Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, Vol.1, p.50, italics in original)

CAN IT GET ANY MORE BIZARRE?

Most of our readers know that Mormonism teaches that God, as a flesh and bone man, came and had sexual relations with Mary to produce Jesus. Many quotes can be given to document this, however, I will just share one as follows: “...*The birth of the Saviour 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).

Going one step further, a recent article in the “Ensign” shared that God was also the “literal” Father of the spirit babies that were born in the pre-existence: “*Before this life, we lived with God, who is our Heavenly Father. He is the literal Father of our spirits, and we are His spirit children. Therefore, all who are born into this life are spiritual brothers and sisters.*” (The January 2018 Ensign, p.26).

So many problems pop up from this concept that one has a hard time trying to wrap their head around it. For example, God must have had millions of wives in order to produce the billions of people that have been born on this earth. And how ridiculous to think that a “spirit” baby would float out of the womb of a flesh and bone mother.

The more one studies Mormonism, the more bizarre it gets. If you know a Mormon, please pray that God will use you to share the real Jesus with them. If you need resources, we are here to help in any way we can.

SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

We hold monthly support group meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Our next get-together will be on February 13th and the guest speaker will be Charee Nickens, an ex-Mormon who back-slid during her teen-age years. She will be sharing her incredible story of what she went through to be reinstated back into the Mormon Church. You won’t want to miss it!

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

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BOOKS

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