

Ex-Mormons for  
**JESUS**

*Our faith will work by love,  
or it will not work at all.*

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## FROM CHAR'S DESK



At Easter time, it always breaks my heart when I go in stores and they have everything you can imagine, including candy galore, but nothing about Easter and what it is all about. Praise God, we know!!

### CHRIST AROSE

Low in the grave He lay, Jesus my Savior!  
Waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!

Up from the grave He arose  
With a mighty triumph o're His foes  
He arose a Victor from the dark domain  
And He lives forever with His saints to reign

He arose!  
He arose!  
Hallelujah, Christ arose!

By Robert Lawry

May you have a blessed Easter with your family!

### CARY'S COLUMN

Let me introduce myself...

As your new column writer for EMFJ, I hope you see the value in first getting to know me. Let me first tell you, I am soooo thrilled as your brother in Christ, who has come to Jesus from out of Mormonism, to serve as a writer for Ex-Mormons for Jesus. I don't take it lightly that you would take time to read my column,

therefore it will always be my goal to make this time valuable for you.

I am the author of **Speaking the Truth in Love - What Every Mormon Should Know and Sharing Christ with Your Mormon Friends** (both presently out of print). My wife, who has since passed away, used to have a funny line when people would ask if I knew what to share with Mormons. She would answer, "Oh yes - He wrote the book on it!"

I am a semi-retired speaker and performer, resting from decades of appearances in thousands of schools, conferences, churches, and entertainment venues throughout America and around the world. I have been known as the speaker who performs pantomime. I know... I know...that's an oxymoron, lol. But what an unique and rewarding career it has been - to make the crowd laugh and feel, then to give a message to inspire life change!

I was converted into Mormonism from Christianity as a teen who dated an LDS girl. Haha, why else would a young man join a different religion? I was like most teenage converts into Mormonism, who are either apathetic or unlearned about God's truth. I didn't know that Mormonism teaches that God used to be a man that earned Godhood, and that we could become gods like him, too. I didn't know that their concept of Jesus' identity is completely different than the true Jesus of the Bible. For whatever reason that young (or older adults) become convinced that Mormonism is God's "true church," it is to answer such convincing, that I hope to serve here.

Knowing which position to believe about God's truth is no small matter. For if the Christian protestant position is God's truth, then everyone who denies the identity of Christ as the Bible sets forth, would be facing an eternity of grave concern. Our LDS friends do not sense as much of a concern, as LDS theology does not affirm such a great consequence about the eternity of a generally good person.

Knowing the true God and the true Biblical identity of Jesus is ultimately the bottom line (Jn 17:3). As Jesus affirmed, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me." (Jn 14:6) With that being said, Christians must be vigilant. Friends don't let friends die without Jesus.

### **'THE GOSPEL LOST?' REALLY?**

The LDS Church prominently proclaims that the gospel was lost from the earth after the apostles' ministry in the first century. They stress this claim in their website, their missionary presentations, videos, and practically every publication to potential converts. Their claim that their founder, Joseph Smith, was instructed to restore the gospel of Jesus Christ by an angel named Moroni is a highlight of Smith's testimony.

Please excuse my straightforward words as I point out a terrible mistake made by their founder and subsequent leaders. On the contrary to their claim, the gospel is clearly communicated throughout the New Testament, it is the central focus of the New Testament, and is clearly defined in the beginning of 1 Corinthians chapter fifteen: "Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand...that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and that He was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen..."

That gospel was lost?

The New Testament books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are all referred to as "The gospel According to" those authors because that is exactly what they are - The declaration of Christ dying for our sins according to the Old Testament scriptures, His burial, resurrection, and the eye witness accounts of those events. How did Joseph Smith not see the gospel in the Gospels? I don't mean to sound sarcastic with that question. But...really?

To add embarrassment to the mistake, we can see that all of the Apostle Paul's letters discuss the gospel in detail from several different aspects. Oh, my goodness - How well Paul lays out how that through the gospel, Christ was made "to be sin for us" (2 Cor 5:21), that the gospel "is the power of God for salvation," that it is

"the righteousness of God revealed" (Rom 1:16,17) and on and on.

What makes matters even worse for their mistake, of missing the gospel is their attempt to define their "restoration" of the gospel, but presenting a gospel that is completely different. When speaking of the gospel being restored, the phrase "ordinances of the gospel" is most often used, especially in the LDS Third Article of Faith, which states: We believe that through the atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel." Ordinances are a decree or command, or a law set forth, just as they say. However, the true biblical gospel is not a set of ordinances. Read Paul's definition of the gospel again, above. You can see that it is not what we are to do at all. On the contrary, the gospel (which means "good news") states what Christ did.

Please do not misunderstand. The LDS church does in fact proclaim that Christ died, was buried and rose again. But not as the gospel. To them Christ's death, burial and resurrection are a prelude to their gospel of laws and ordinances.

Why am I making this an important topic to bring to your attention? It is because of a stern warning made by the apostle Paul:

"I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel - which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But if even we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!" (Gal 2:6-9 NIV).

This warning by Paul is no light matter. His phrase "under God's curse" as written in the original Greek language, is the word anathema, which is the strongest curse that God gives. The gospel is the good news that sets forth what God did for us by His grace and in His Love. To substitute His gospel with such a different gospel is grave business.

To our LDS friends reading this, please consider what the gospel actually means for us. On the one hand, to not know the true God of the Bible and heed the message of the gospel yields eternal consequence (2 Thess 1:8). However, on the other hand, to accept Him and His gospel yields eternal life (Rom 1:16, Jn 3:16. ;17:3). Contact us to learn more and we will be happy to give biblical counsel about the wonderful gospel of Christ. We promise, NO MISTAKES.

**ALL GIFTS DONATED TO EX-MORMONS FOR JESUS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED AS WELL AS PRAYERS FOR THIS MINISTRY. THANK YOU!**