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NEWSLETTER ~ MAY/JUNE 2013

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



FROM CHAR'S DESK

This has been a sad two months since we sent out our last newsletter, as we have received many e-mails that really break our hearts. We have decided to share a few of them this month and hope you will be praying for these dear souls who have been devastated by Mormonism. If Christians could trade places with us for just a month or two, they would understand how hard this ministry is; but thanks be to God, we can turn all of our sadness over to the One who loves them and trust Him to bind up their broken hearts and heal all of their wounds. How blessed we are to have the privilege of sharing the True Jesus with them. One of His precious Names is Jehovah Shalom, the Lord, our peace. We pray they will experience His peace no matter what they are going through.

FROM THE WEB

From J: "Sign me up for your bi-monthly e-newsletter, send me a listing of resources available. I've just recently found out the truth about the Mormon Church and am having a hard time believing in Jesus and Heavenly Father now."

Response: "We received your e-mail and understand what you are going through. Some ex-Mormons say it is worse than a divorce or a death in the family. We want to encourage you to go to your Bible and you will find that Jesus and your Heavenly are still there. Jesus came to give us truth and His Word says Jesus IS the Truth. He came to set us free, not free to be bad but free to love to do His will which is always good. He took our place on the cross and traded our sins for His righteousness. J____, Jesus loves you and He will see you through this hard and difficult time in your

life. I would love to talk with you, You can call me anytime on my cell phone...In His Love, Charlotte Pardee"

From A.C.: "Send me a listing of resources available. I have kind of a long story, but now I am trying to recover from the Mormon doctrine and I want to follow the Jesus of the Bible. I don't know how, or where to go or what to do. All other churches have always been abominable, and I am really scared of being brainwashed again. Can you help me?"

Response: "Called and left a message, she returned my call. We had a good talk, she is a Mormon but no longer believes it...I'm sending her my book "Mormons, How God Loves Them..." but she told me not to put Ex-Mormons on the envelope as she still lives at home. She started to doubt Mormonism when her Patriarchal blessing didn't come true." (Note: Charlotte's book is available here at our Center for a suggested donation of \$12 for anyone who might be interested)

From R.W.: "I have been a member of LDS church for 40 years – taught/brainwashed since the age of 6 years old – I have held just about every calling in the church except Bishop – and have never been taught the real truths behind the origins of the B.O.M. or the testimony

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ALL GIFTS DONATED TO EMFJ ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED AS WELL AS YOUR PRAYERS FOR THIS MINISTRY --



Thank You

of the 3 witnesses being recanted – or many of the quotes by various prophets of the lds church. I am in an utter state of shock/disbelief/confusion. I am lost as a person of who I thought I am/was – I need guidance and help and direction – Thank you”

Response: “We are sorry we are late in answering your e-mail. We totally understand where you are coming from. Every Mormon goes through shock, disbelief and confusion when they find out the truth about Mormonism. We also know that every Mormon needs guidance and help and direction. I don’t know where you are from but if you live close enough to Orange, California, we have a Support Group Meeting...It would be so helpful if you could attend our meetings...Also, please send us your phone number so we can keep in contact in case you live too far away to make these meetings. Our heart goes out to you. God be with, Charlotte Pardee”

TRANSLATING THE B.O.M. (VIA A “SEER STONE”)

Most Mormons believe that Joseph Smith did his translating through the Urim and Thummim. They have no problem with this as the Bible also speaks of the Urim and Thummim (e.g. Ex.28:30, Deut.33:8, Ezra 2:63, etc. – although never in connection with *translating* anything). However, what many do not know (or tend to ignore) is that Joseph *also* used a “Seer Stone” for translating. David Whitmer, one of the “three witnesses” whose testimony appears in the front of every Book of Mormon, shared the following:

“I will now give you a description of the manner in which the Book of Mormon was translated. Joseph Smith would put the seer stone into a hat, and put his face in the hat, drawing it closely around his face to exclude the light; and in the darkness the spiritual light would shine. A piece of something resembling parchment would appear, and on that appeared the writing...Thus the Book of Mormon was translated by the gift and power of God, and not by any power of man.” (“An Address To All Believers In Christ”, p.12, soft cover).

Additional information concerning this is found in “A Comprehensive History Of The Church”as follows: *“Joseph and Oliver both say the translation was done by means of the Urim and Thummim...while David Whitmer says that the translation was made by means of a Seer Stone. The apparent contradiction is cleared up, however, by a statement made by Martin Harris. He said that the Prophet possessed a Seer Stone, by which he was enabled to translate as well as with the Urim and Thummim, and for convenience he sometimes used the Seer Stone. Martin said further that the Seer Stone differed in appearance entirely from the Urim and Thummim...The Seer Stone referred to here was a chocolate-colored, somewhat egg-shaped stone which the Prophet found while digging a well in company with his brother Hyrum...” (Vol.1, pp.128-129)*

Even though Joseph’s “Seer Stone translation” is well documented, we never see it portrayed in LDS publications. Instead, this event is always depicted with a prayerful Smith leaning over the gold plates with a pen in hand. Obviously, it is a source of embarrassment to them because they know Seer Stones are closely related to occult practices, such as Crystal gazing. Even the late LDS apostle, Bruce R. McConkie, recognized it as such. In his book, “Mormon Doctrine”, he stated: *“In imitation of the true order of heaven whereby seers receive revelations from God through a Urim and Thummim, the devil gives his own revelations to some of his followers through peep stones or crystal balls...” (1979 edition, pp.565-566; evidently he was unaware of the above?).*

Many who have studied Joseph Smith’s history know that he, along with his family, was heavily involved in other occult practices. On March 20, 1826 he was arrested, tried and found guilty of being a “glass looker”. The original “Book of Commandments” said he had “the gift of working with the rod” (Ch.7, vs.3). Today’s counter-part, the “Doctrine and Covenants”, has changed that verse to read the “gift of Aaron” (D&C 8:6-7). He was involved in “treasure hunting”, he owned a “Jupiter Talisman”, peep-stones, etc. For anyone who would like a more in-depth study on this topic, we suggest the book, “Mormonism Shadow or Reality?” by the Tanners, which we have available here at our Center.

THE “RESTORATION”

Mormons believe that about 2,000 years ago, a great apostasy occurred which plunged the whole world into great theological darkness. This darkness, they are taught, remained until the time of Joseph Smith, when he then restored the **true church** (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) along with its true doctrines. An official LDS church magazine, spoke of this: “*Truly the bright light of the Restoration, bursting forth from the time of the Prophet Joseph Smith, makes clear the fundamental, eternal principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ. That light, revealed through the Prophet, replaced doctrinal shadows and clouds of error the world had inherited as a result of the great Apostasy nearly 2,000 years ago. How grateful we ought to be for the restoration of sacred truths!*” (“The Ensign”, April 1997, p.12).

This article goes on to explain what “doctrinal shadows and clouds of error” were corrected by Joseph Smith’s “Restoration”. The Christian belief in the Trinity is one example as follows: “*The Prophet Joseph learned early that the sectarian creeds were confusing in their declarations on the nature of God. They held to the notion of the Trinity as conceived in the Nicene and Athanasian Creeds...Those creeds portray God as three personages in one and one in three, ‘neither confounding the persons, nor dividing the substance’; as being uncreated, incomprehensible, and almighty. From these creeds has grown the current orthodox view held by most Christian denominations that ‘there is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body, parts, or passions; of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness.’*” (pp. 14-15)

So much could be said regarding this quote if space permitted. However, yes, Christians do believe in a Triune God, but it is not because of any “creeds” man came up with. The Bible is clear on the eternal existence of one God as three Persons. And yes, we believe God is “uncreated, incomprehensible, and almighty”. Beyond that, Mormonism’s definition of the Christian God is a sad distortion invented in their minds, not ours! We have an excellent paper on “The Trinity According To Scripture” here at our Center. It is free and we will be happy to send it to anyone who

requests it. Another doctrinal point Joseph’s restoration supposedly cleared up is in regards to the paternity of Jesus Christ. The article declares that Jesus “*is the first spirit child born to God the Father* [via one of his heavenly wives, not mentioned here but elsewhere] *in the premortal world*”. As to His earthly body, it goes on to explain that “***The Only Begotten***” is a term that is **clouded unless one understands that the Father has a body of flesh and bone**. This, they believe, enabled the Father to come to the virgin Mary, “*not in violation of natural law*”, to produce Jesus’ earthly body (p.15, my emphasis). However, the Bible states that Mary is still a virgin **after** she is pregnant with our Lord (see Matt. 1:23).

Some additional “light” this article boasts of, is that “*the atonement of Christ, being literally and truly infinite, applies to an infinite number of earths*” (p.17, my emphasis). Another of Smith’s restoration points speaks of “*Redemption through Grace and Works.*” Initially the article says that both are needed and then adds: “*But grace alone will not save anyone either. God requires that we come unto Jesus Christ of our own volition through faith, repentance, sacred gospel ordinances, and enduring to the end...*” (p.19, my emphasis)

The last one spoken of in this article is regarding, “*Redeeming the Dead*” as follows: “*Specifically mentioned as candidates for receiving the gospel in the spirit world are ‘those who had died in their sins, without a knowledge of the truth, or in transgression, having rejected the prophets...’ The dead who repent will be redeemed, through obedience to the ordinances of the house of God, ‘And after they have paid the penalty of their transgressions, and are washed clean, shall receive a reward according to their works, for they are heirs of salvation’*” (p.19, my emphasis).

To many, it looks like the only thing Joseph Smith brought forth was “distorted lies” rather than “restored truths”. There are numerous false religions that claim special, or additional “light” that comes only through their organizations. However, our loving Father has foreseen this and gave us His word, the Bible, as our standard so we need not be deceived. Unfortunately, those who choose to have their “ears tickled” (2 Tim.4:3 NAS) through any source other than the Bible, open themselves to “seducing spirits” and “doctrines of

devils” (1 Tim.4:1). May all Christians give thanks and rejoice in saying: “*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path*” (Ps.119:105).

THE NARROW WAY

Last Sunday my pastor preached on “Re-routing” and stated that “direction, not intention determines destination.” Wow, how true! My thoughts and heart immediately turned to the Mormon people who are so very sincere and so very sure that the direction they are on will lead them to at least one of their three degrees of heaven. In fact they are taught that almost *everyone* will go to one of these three heavens. Following is an example of this belief by LDS apostle Dallin Oaks:

“The lowest degree is the telestial domain of those who ‘received not the gospel, neither the testimony of Jesus, neither the prophets’ (D&C 76:10) and who have had to suffer for their wickedness. But even this degree has a glory that ‘surpasses all understanding’ (D&C 76:89). Its occupants receive the Holy Spirit and the administering of angels, for even those who have been wicked will ultimately be ‘heirs of [this degree of] salvation’ (D&C 76:88).” (The May 1995 “Ensign”, p.86, my emphasis)

Another article that speaks of this is found on page 27 of a January 2011 “Ensign” as follows: *“The theology of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ is comprehensive, universal, merciful, and true. Following the necessary experience of mortal life, all sons and daughters of God will ultimately be resurrected and go to a kingdom of glory more wonderful than any mortal can comprehend. With only a few exceptions, even the very wicked will ultimately go to a marvelous—though lesser—kingdom of glory...”* (My emphasis)

How opposite is this from the words of Jesus? He said: *“Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life and few are those who find it.”* (Matt.7:13-14). His very next verse warned of false prophets, how fitting. Proverbs 14:12 says: *“There is a way which seems right to a man but its end is the way of death.”*

SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

We hold monthly support group meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. In June, Matt Bown will be sharing on “Polygamy”. At the end, there will be a question and answer time, 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 240 W. Chapman Avenue in Orange and we look forward to seeing you there.

PURGING THE MAILING LIST

Ex-Mormons For Jesus is a faith ministry. Simply put, this means we have no source of income to keep this ministry in operation other than the prayerful generosity from the body of Christ. In order to be good stewards, we occasionally need to purge our mailing list as the newsletters become very costly.

We would **greatly** appreciate your taking the time to let us know if you want to continue receiving these mailings. Please circle “yes” or “no” and return the response in the enclosed envelope, thank you.

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YES, KEEP THE NEWSLETTER COMING

NO, PLEASE REMOVE MY NAME

Name: _____

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