

Ex-Mormons for
JESUS

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

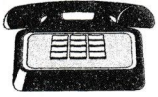
INFORMATION & VISITORS CENTER
1107 E. Chapman Ave., #206
Orange, CA 92866

Phone: (714) 997-3498

Email: bill@exmormonsforjesus.org

Website: www.exmormonsforjesus.org

NEWSLETTER - MAY/JUNE 2023



FROM CHAR'S DESK

I had one of the most amazing experiences this past month that I would like to share with our readers.

A former Mormon missionary called that used to come into our Center, when he was on his mission, 20 years ago! He said I used to share many things with him that bugged him throughout the years and he just wanted to let me know that he was now no longer a Mormon. He said it was through the things I shared with him that caused him to get out of that cult. (I couldn't believe it, he called it a cult)! He now wants to support our ministry.

I totally remember this missionary and it was so wonderful to talk to him again. That is why it is so important that Christians witness because the Holy Spirit uses what we share to do His work in their hearts, even if it takes 20 years! Please never stop witnessing!!

~ STEVE'S CORNER ~

As we approach another summer season, I pray this note finds you and your family and friends well. Over the last several years The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is trying to make the claim that they are true Christians. But is this really the case? Just because someone claims to be a Christian does not mean that they are. Remember, Satan can appear as an angel of light. In my decades of long study of Mormonism, I have found that the LDS church is not becoming more Christian. They are just trying to package themselves that way to attract more converts.

The church is trying to deemphasize the use of the term "Mormon" as much as possible. Two thousand years ago

the Lord Jesus Christ asked the most important question of all. "But what about you," he asked, "Who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16:15). The answer to that question and the response to that will determine someone's eternal destiny!

The Cradle

The Lord Jesus Christ of the Bible has always existed before He came to earth. He is eternally God the Son that the holy prophets foretold. In the pre-existence the LDS teaches Jesus was sexually procreated by the Father who is an exalted man. He then was sexually procreated again on earth by relations between the Father and the virgin Mary. The Bible teaches the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary by a miracle to produce the conception and birth of Jesus Christ. The LDS church cannot claim to be Christian yet not believe in the virgin birth of Christ.

The Cross

The very reason Jesus Christ came into this earth was to die on the cross for our sins. He shed His blood on Calvary and gave His life so that we can have an eternal relationship with Him. Mormons don't display the cross and generally emphasize that Jesus mainly atoned for our sins in the Garden of Gethsemane when He sweat drops of blood. It is not in the shedding of blood that Jesus atoned for us but in the shedding of His blood in death. During the Passover in the Old Testament the angel of death passed over those houses that had blood smeared over their doorposts. In the same way we are saved today only by the blood of Jesus Christ and not by any good works we produce. We shouldn't worship the cross, but we should worship Jesus who gave His life there. In the Mormon mindset the cross is like a down payment that allows them to earn eternal life and

godhood. Being married in the temple for exaltation is the focus of the LDS church, not the cross. It is significant that for the Lord's supper bread and water are used in the Mormon church. The blood of Jesus that He shed on Calvary is not the focal point.

The Crown

Jesus Christ is eternally King of Kings and Lord of Lords! He is coming again, not as a suffering servant, but as the Lord of the whole universe. In Mormonism, Jesus is a god among many other countless gods throughout the cosmos. In Biblical Christianity, Jesus Christ is unique and is the only true God. Christ alone is King and is worthy of our worship! Mormons everywhere need to hear the good news about Jesus from the perspective of the Bible, which alone is God's true word. The cradle, the cross, and the crown. The true Jesus is truly life-changing for all who call upon Him!

The Path of Humility

In our relationship with Christ we must always keep an attitude of humility. We are saved by His grace alone, through faith alone, and in Christ alone! Salvation will always lead to good works, but good works will never lead to salvation. In Luke 18:9-14, Jesus taught about the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector.

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up in the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people - robbers, evildoers, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled and those who humble themselves shall be exalted."

God hates pride! As Christians we should not be confident in our own righteousness but in Christ's righteousness. The Mormons who go through their temples must pass a temple worthiness interview by their bishop. In a sense, this bishop becomes their mediator instead of Jesus. The Bible teaches in I Timothy 2:5 that there is one God and one mediator who is Jesus Christ.

How can someone who is not God decide another person's worthiness? These temple worthiness interviews focus on pride because they concentrate on how good the person being interviewed is and not on how holy and good God is. One of the questions is where they even ask the person if they feel they are worthy to go into the temple, which the LDS church teaches is their most holy place on earth. Where in the Bible does it teach that people have to be interviewed by a spiritual leader of their personal worthiness to determine if they can go into a temple and be on the path to godhood? This is a system of pride! The Pharisee in the Luke parable boasted about his good works and looked down on the others who he felt were spiritually inferior to him. The hated tax collector on the other hand knew he was a sinner and begged God for mercy. The LDS teaching that men can become gods is the ultimate sin of pride! Satan himself was cast out of heaven for wanting to be like God. In our walk with Christ may we have a continual sense of humility that we are sinners saved by grace. We don't deserve anything from God! But God, who is rich in mercy, love and forgiveness has sent Jesus to save us so that we can have an eternal relationship with him. Mormons and Christians need to hear that we are unworthy, but He alone is worthy! I would never want to be a god and be worshiped because in my heart I know that I am a sinner like the tax collector. Only God is holy, sinless, and righteous! The Mormons believe that they should be with God because they are good. The Christians believe they will be with God for He alone is good and worthy of our worship! Are you walking in a continual sense of humility? The focus of our lives must be Jesus and not ourselves!

~ NOTICE ~

We want to invite you and your friends to hear Steve Welch speak on Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormonism on four consecutive Wednesday nights at Landmark Church in Diamond Bar. The classes will be held in the sanctuary from 6:30-8:00 in the evening starting on June 14th. There will be a \$3 dinner served at 6:00. The first two weeks, Steve will be teaching on Jehovah's Witnesses and the last two weeks, he will be teaching on Mormonism. After his last class on July 5th, there will be two additional weeks where a professor will teach on how to witness to a Muslim. You can register for these classes at landmark.live. Please pray that God will bring people and bless these classes. Hope to see you there!