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NEWSLETTER ~ NOV/DEC 2012

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



FROM CHAR'S DESK

It will soon be Christmas, that beautiful time of the year when Christians all over the world will be celebrating the birth of Christ, God incarnate in flesh. It is hard to believe that our Mormon friends and loved ones belong to a religion that teach God's Son is the Spirit-brother of Lucifer (Teaching of Spencer W. Kimball, p.34), that He was begotten by an immortal Father in the same way mortal men are begotten by mortal fathers (M.D.pp.546, 547), that He was unable to keep His church together like Joseph Smith did his (H of C, Vol.6, pp.408,409), and that He told Joseph Smith that all our creeds are an abomination in His sight and that all our professors are corrupt (P of G P, Joseph Smith, History p.49). How it must make God grieve to have such false beliefs taught about His Son. O, God, my prayer this Christmas season, is that You may break our hearts with the things that break Yours!

~ Jenell's Jots & Tittles ~

SHOULD A CHRISTIAN SPEAK UP?

Some Christians are uncertain in regards to speaking out against the cults. After all, doesn't the Bible tell us to "love one another"? Of course it does, but is it really loving to remain silent when you know someone may miss heaven for all of eternity? Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. made an interesting observation which I quote as follows: "He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps perpetrate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it."

Now of course the Mormon *people* are not evil, but the *system* that holds them in bondage to its false teachings certainly is. When I was first coming out of Mormonism, I really had to struggle with this issue. After all, my husband, two of our children and many other relatives were still Mormon. And even more importantly, what did **God** want me to do?

In reading my Bible, I began compiling references on this issue as I came across them. And because God does not want any to perish (2 Pet.3:9), I was pleased to find that there were **many** clear scriptures to guide me. Just a few (from the NAS) are as follows:

"preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction." (2 Tim.4:2)

"...I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints." (Jude 3)

"As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus, in order that you may instruct certain men not to each strange doctrines." (1 Tim.1:3)

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



Thank You

*“For the overseer must be above reproach...hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, that he may be able **both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.**”* (Titus 1:7-9; for additional references, see Ezek.33:6-9; Acts 18:24-28; 2 Cor.11:1-4, 12-15; Gal.1:8-10; Eph.5:6-13; 1 Thess.2:4, etc.).

While the Bible has its many references telling us that we definitely should speak up, it also has many telling us how, such as “speaking the truth in love” (Eph.4:15). As someone once said, “love without the truth is too soft and truth without love is too harsh”. We should always strive to be patient with a cultist and have no “spiritual chips” on our shoulder.

For additional information on how to talk with Mormons, you can request our tract, “Witnessing To Mormons” (a donation to cover postage would be appreciated). As the great Apostle Paul told Timothy “...*be sober in all things, endure hardship, **do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.***” (2 Tim.4:5; also see Pr.11:30 & James 5:19-20).

THE GOSPEL?

According to Mormonism, “the gospel” is as follows: “*Gospel means ‘good news’ – the good news that Jesus Christ has made it possible for us to **return to the presence of our Heavenly Father.** Through his perfect, sinless life and his suffering in Gethsemane and on the cross, **Jesus Christ atoned for the original transgression of Adam and Eve** and made it possible for us to be redeemed from spiritual death, which is the consequence of sin. Also through his atonement, including his crucifixion and resurrection, **he has saved us from the permanent effects of physical death.***”

*“In addition to these aspects of the Atonement, which apply to all mankind, the ‘good news’ also includes **things that we must do** in order to reenter God’s presence...”* (The Ensign, September 1985, p.17, all emphasis mine).

So according to Mormonism, the gospel has enabled us to (1) return to Heavenly Father (pre-existence), (2) paid for Adam and Eve’s sins, (3) purchased our resurrection from the grave, and (4) gives us things we must do. Now lets compare the biblical answer for what “the gospel” is:

*“Now I make known to you, brethren, **the gospel,** which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, **by which also you are saved...**For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that **Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.**”* (1 Cor.15:1-4 NAS). When one believes and receives (by faith - Eph.2:8-9) what Jesus did for them on the cross, it *truly* becomes good news!

CITATION OF CONCERN

(From LDS Leaders)

In the May 1998, “Ensign”, President James E. Faust stated: “*Ordinance and covenants...are the vehicles the Lord has provided to conduct us into eternal life. Covenants are not simply outward rituals; they are real and effective means of change. **‘Being born again, comes by the Spirit of God through ordinances.’** We should always honor and keep sacred the **saving covenants** we make with the Lord...”* (p.17 my emp.).

He continues on to give examples of what ordinances and covenants he is referring to, such as “the marriage covenants”, “the covenant of baptism”, “the oath and covenant of the priesthood” and “Temple covenants” to name a few. Once again, the bottom line for Mormons is “works” rather than receiving the **free gift** of Jesus’ payment for sin on the cross – “*If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*” (John 8:36).

MORMONISM & THE CROSS

It is our understanding that, for the first time in its history, we are going to see a cross on an LDS edifice! They are planning to have a large cross inlaid in the door of one of their temples, scheduled to open in

Rome, Italy in 2014. The artist's rendition can be seen on the LDS public relations video (You Tube). One can only speculate as to what this is all about, but because of their past stance regarding the cross, it sure seems to give off the odor of a wolf in sheep's clothing (Matt.7:15).

In his book, "Mormon Doctrine" the late LDS apostle, Bruce R. McConkie had this to say about the cross: *"In succeeding centuries, the churches which came into being through an intermingling of **pagan concepts** with the true apostolic Christianity developed the practice of **using symbolic crosses in the architecture of their buildings** and as jewelry attached to the robes of their priests...**All this is inharmonious** with the quiet spirit of worship and reverence that should attend a true Christian's remembrance of our Lord's sufferings and death. In fact, the revealed symbolism to bring these things to the attention of true worshipers is found in the ordinance of the sacrament."* (pp.172-173, my emphasis).

Paul, the Lord's true apostle, certainly felt differently. He stated that he would glory (boast) in the cross of our Lord Jesus (Gal.6:14); and in 1 Cor.1:18 he shared something that every Mormon should sit up and take notice of – *"For the preaching of the cross is to **them that perish** foolishness; but unto **us which are saved it is the power of God.**"*

Indeed, Mormonism is changing. Sadly, not in their doctrines or theology (which we could then rejoice in) but in their ever evolving tactics to be accepted as a mainstream Christian Church. If this is just their first baby step in doing an about face in regards to the cross, we wonder how the average Mormon will respond? In light of their negative view in the past, one would think they would be upset, or confused at the least. However, they always seem to accept anything their leadership does even if it diametrically goes against their past positions (e.g. polygamy, blacks, blood atonement, etc.). Time will tell.

TO OBFUSCATE

Many of you may be familiar with this word, but I first saw it in print when I read an article by Bill

McKeever ("Mormonism Researched Ministry" in Utah). He stated: *"I've often said that much of the confusion people have about the LDS faith is generated by the very men Mormons insist are called by God to clarify LDS positions. How can the general public accurately understand what Mormonism is all about when LDS leaders obfuscate the particulars of any given belief?"*

Webster's dictionary defines "obfuscate" as follows: *"1. to confuse. 2. to make unclear. 3. to darken."* Wow, what a great word to describe what LDS leaders, as well as their people, do for the sake of trying to be accepted as Christians while still clinging to their heretical beliefs. For anyone who has been involved in trying to reach Mormons, they know exactly what Bill is referring to.

Unfortunately, the outcome of this tactic seems to be working. There have been many times we have seen Christians come away confused from a public presentation where a Mormon was allowed to share their beliefs. And especially so when no one was allowed to respond or ask questions. It seems to have even affected Dr. Richard Mouw, the outgoing president of Fuller Seminary, who continues to accuse evangelicals of bearing false witness when it comes to the teachings of Mormonism. And according to his new book, "Talking with Mormons: An invitation to Evangelicals", Dr. Mouw insists that the word cult should not be applied to Mormonism (vii-ix). This "confusion" seems to stem from Mormons being able to obfuscate effectively.

Most Mormons are good people with good morals and good programs but we must stand on God's side and not be persuaded by smooth talk and half-truths. The *only* determining factor in deciding if Mormonism belongs in the cult category should be by looking at their doctrines and theology! In facing a similar situation, the Apostle Paul stated – *"But what I am doing, I will continue to do, that I may **cut off opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are** in the matter about which they are boasting. For such men are **false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.** And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light."* (2 Cor.11:12-14 NAS)

NOTICE: Dr. John Wallace (an ex-Mormon) will be teaching a 6 week class on “Transitions” at the Calvary Chapel Westgrove Church starting Sunday, November 4, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. and continuing every Sunday evening until December 9, 2012. “Transitions” is for Mormons who are migrating from “religion to relationship”, but all are welcome. The church’s address is 12832 Knott Street, Garden Grove, California. There is no cost and you can call us here at the EMFJ Center for further information – (714)997-3498 or at the church, (714)897-8972. Dr. Wallace is an excellent teacher so if you know of a Mormon who is “transitioning”, please invite them.

HEARING FROM YOU –

We love hearing from people who are interested in this ministry. Some of you may be able to relate to this e-mail: *“Hi Bill: I’m a recovering Mormon for the past 10 years. Recovery has been a good and accurate description of my journey out of Mormonism. It has taken a long while for me to discover who the Christ of the Bible is. Since knowing Jesus as my personal Savior I’ve come to realize how powerful He is and how He can restore and renew my mind from the bondage of the Mormon gospel. I’ve learned that the brain washing techniques used by the church such as repetitive messages, guilt, shame, keeping members under watch by their Bishops, visiting teachers and home teachers, are the same techniques that have been used by controlling governments.*

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Christ doesn’t work that way. I’ve learned what grace is and even though this was a very difficult concept to understand in the past I can see that this is just one of the magnificent things about how our God loves us. I’m free from the thinking that I have to work to earn His love. Thank you for the ministry and all those that are assisting ex Mormons in discovering the real truth.

GEMS OF TRUTH

“A Bible that is falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn’t.”

“You are not God’s child because you try to do right, you try to do right because you are a child of God.”

“Heaven is for those who love Christ here!”

SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

We hold monthly support group meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. These gatherings include a mini-lesson, testimony of an ex-Mormon, a question and answer time, and 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.

