

Ex-Mormons for  
**JESUS**

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

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NEWSLETTER ~ NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019

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## FROM CHAR'S DESK

It's that wonderful time of the year when we celebrate the birthday of our risen King! This year, I would like to remind us of the last verse of the Christmas song, "O Little Town of Bethlehem":

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend on us we pray,  
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.**

Just think, if Jesus had not come, we would still be in our sins and would never have the privilege of being "born again." But Jesus did come, Immanuel (God with us), and I pray for all our Mormon friends and loved ones, that their spiritual eyes will be opened and that they will come to know the Jesus that loves them and wants them to come to a knowledge of the Truth. Then, this Christmas, they will understand what it means when they sing, "cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today!"

## ~ JENELL'S JOTS & TITLES ~

### FAMILIES ARE FOREVER

(Is It Biblical?)

Many of you may have seen bumper stickers on a Latter-day Saint's car that says "Families are forever" and wondered what it meant. Well, in a nut shell, Mormonism teaches that we all pre-existed in a family unit consisting of Heavenly Father and one of His wives, called our "first estate". We were then sent to this earth, our "second estate", to prove ourselves worthy (which includes marriage in one of their

temples), we will then continue on in the family unit in eternity. Their scripture teaches: *"that same sociality which exists among us here will exist among us there, only it will be coupled with eternal glory which we do not now enjoy."* (Doctrine & Covenants 130:2)

Another example of this belief is as follows: *"We, the First Presidency and the Council of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, solemnly proclaim that marriage between a man and a woman if ordained of God and that **the family is central to the Creator's plan for the eternal destiny of His children...Heavenly Father wants men and women to be married and create families because families are one of the most important parts of the plan of salvation. Families help us reach our 'eternal destiny,' which is to learn and grow to become more like our Heavenly Parents.**"* (The Feb.2017 "Ensign", p.71, my emphasis)

While the value and importance of the family can not be underestimated, the Bible does not support a teaching of it being God's "central" plan, nor of it being "one of the most important parts of the plan of salvation". God Himself is to be our greatest focus, it was for Him that we were created and Jesus made sure that we did not place family on an undeserved pedestal. He taught the reward of everlasting life to any willing to forsake all, including family if necessary (Matt.19:29). He made it known that family members might even be each other's enemies because of Him and that anyone who loved family more than Him were unworthy of Him (Matt.10:34-37).

It is not that God is selfish or insecure in wanting to be above all in our lives, rather He know's that if we miss

His plan and focus of salvation, which of course if Jesus, we miss everything for all of eternity! It is Satan who would love for us to set our sights elsewhere.

Like most of Mormonism's doctrines and theology, a belief in a pre-existent life lacks Biblical validation. They try and take a few scriptures out of context to support this, such as Jeremiah 1:5 which says: "*Before I formed thee in the belly, I knew thee...*". But because God is omniscient (all knowing), of course He knew Jeremiah, but it doesn't say Jeremiah knew God at that time. Another scripture they like to use is Pr.8:22-23, which says: "*The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.*" However, when read in context, we can see that it is "wisdom" who is speaking, not a man (see vs.12). Jesus also made it clear that there would not even be marriage in heaven (Mark 12:25).

So much of Mormonism is "man-centered" and this belief in eternal families is just one more example of how far off-base they are. Not only are the earthy families supposed to be together throughout eternity, but the Heavenly Parents will continually begat new children.

The thought of eternal families is quite comforting to many, especially to those who have lost a loved one. And in this day and age of families being under so much attack, it is not surprising that Mormonism's family emphasis is so appealing. This is a drawing point, their crown jewel if you will, and numerous people have been prayed upon and have joined Mormonism for just this reason. However, if it is not true, which it isn't as the Bible confirms, this teaching does much more harm than good.

## CITATIONS OF CONCERN

(From LDS Leaders)

*"Marriage is the grandest, most glorious, and most exalting principle connected with the gospel. It is that which the Lord holds in reserve for those who become his sons and daughters; all others are servants only,*

*even if they gain salvation. They do not become members of the household of our Father and our God, if they refuse to receive the celestial covenant of marriage."* (President Joseph Fielding Smith, "Doctrines of Salvation", Vol.2, p.59)

## TITHE OR BURN!

I believe tithing (giving 10% of one's income to their church) should be an important part of a Christian's walk with their God: "*Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed Thee?' In tithes and offerings.*" (Malachi 3:8 NAS). However, is one's salvation in danger if they choose not to tithe? For Mormons, the answer is yes as follows:

AND...

*"Behold, now it is called today until the coming of the Son of Man and verily it is a day of sacrifice, and a day for the tithing of my people; **for he that is tithed shall not be burned at his coming.**"* (Doctrine & Covenants, 64:23, my emphasis)

*"...The Lord teaches that obedience to the law of tithing is necessary for our personal salvation and for the development of our souls. I hope, therefore, that few members of the Church go to their final place of rest without having had the opportunity to pay a full tithe..."* (The 1986 Ensign, p.18, my emphasis)

One more example that shows the pressure that is put on Mormons to tithe comes from another "Ensign" article. It tells of a Mormon Bishop sharing Malachi 3:10 with a new convert to Mormonism as follows: "*After reading these scriptures together, Bishop Orellana looked at the new convert and said, 'if paying tithing means that you can't pay for water or electricity, pay tithing. If paying tithing means that you can't pay your rent, pay tithing. Even if paying tithing means that you don't have enough money to feed your family, pay tithing. The Lord will not abandon you.'*" (the Dec.2012 Ensign, p.38).

It is my personal opinion that our tithing helps support the church we attend and can also bring God's blessings (Malachi 3:10), but it has nothing to do with our

personal salvation. To say otherwise is to nullify Christ's atonement on the cross for our sins. Once again, we see a Mormon doctrine that is completely unbiblical and drastically misses the mark for a true Christian!

## SO MUCH FOR TRANSPARENCY

Under "Citations of Concern" in our last newsletter, I shared an article from the September 2019 "Ensign" regarding transparency in Mormonism. In part it stated: "...*The Church is dedicated to transparency and has published precious resources to provide new insights and offer even more context to the story of the Restoration through the Joseph Smith Papers website and the Gospel topics essays on ChurchofJesusChrist.org...*"

Many of you who get our newsletter know that Mormonism, in the past, has been anything *but* transparent. But because of the writings of ex-Mormons who have become Christians, the many apologetic ministries like Ex-Mormons For Jesus, the inner-net, etc., the ugly truth of Mormonism's past has become available to anyone who is willing to know the truth. In light of this, their leadership has decided that the truth (at least in part) would be better and hopefully less shocking coming from them rather than a non-Mormon source, so a few years ago they made the above mentioned website available. However, the following quote from their past President, Boyd K. Packer, more closely reveals the true side of Mormonism:

***"THE TRUTH IS NOT TO BE IDOLIZED:*** *I have a hard time with historians because they idolize the truth. The truth is not uplifting; it destroys. I could tell most of the secretaries in the Church office building that they are ugly and fat. That would be the truth, but it would only hurt and destroy them. Historians should only tell that part of the truth that is inspiring and uplifting.*" ("Faithful History" by Signature books, also found in "Pillars of my Faith" talk at Sunstone Symposium SLC, Aug. 19, 1994)

So that is what the Mormon leadership has been doing all these years, only telling that part of the truth that is inspiring and uplifting and ignoring the true facts. This is so sad as many would not have joined Mormonism if they had known the truth! There are many passages in the Bible that teach the importance of knowing and speaking the truth. In closing, I will share just one from our Lord Jesus:

*"...If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."* (John 8:31-32 NAS).

## UNDERSTANDING THE TRINITY

Well, that title may be a little mis-leading because who can completely understand our awesome God, in whose image we have been made, yet is so far above us in every way. As the Bible says: *"For who in the skies is comparable to the Lord? Who among the sons of the mighty is like the Lord..."* (Ps.89:6 NAS).

While Christians accept the Trinity as a basic Christian doctrine, Mormons coming out of Mormonism usually have a hard time coming to grips with it as they have been so brainwashed by the Mormon concept of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit being three separate Gods (among many as they believe they too can become a God). Our EMFJ Director, Charlotte Pardee, recently shared with some of us what I thought was helpful on this topic as follows:

*"One day I was alone at the EMFJ Center and I asked the Lord, 'Why couldn't you be just one God, one Person because the Mormons have so much trouble with the doctrine of the Trinity?' He said, 'I had to be Three. You did, Why?"*

*'What if I was just one Person, one God? No one would ever know Me. I am so far beyond anything you could ever imagine, you would only be terrified of Me. But what if I was just 2 persons, one God? Those that walked the earth when Jesus did would know Me but when Jesus went back to heaven, you would only know Me by hearsay. But because I am the Holy Spirit, everyone can know Me.'*

*Then I recalled when Jesus told His disciples He was going away and sorrow filled their hearts. But He told them, 'it is expedient for you that I go away, for if I go not away, the Comforter (the Holy Spirit) will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you.' And Jesus had Told them earlier that He would abide with them forever. Then I realized that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the One God we can all know!*

*THE FATHER IS BEYOND OUR UNDERSTANDING - GOD GREAT AND MIGHTY (ELOHIM)*

*THE SON PUTS A FACE ON GOD - GOD KNOWABLE (THE WORD)*

*THE HOLY SPIRIT ALLOWS GOD TO DWELL WITHIN US - GOD INTIMATE (THE SPIRIT)*

*GOD, BEYOND OUR UNDERSTANDING, GREAT AND MIGHTY, BUT MADE HIMSELF KNOWABLE AND INTIMATE - I am so glad that God is Triune, aren't you?*

## **SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS**

We normally hold monthly support group meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month. They include a guest speaker and end with 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. However, **we will not have a regular meeting in December but they will resume in January 2020, HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR ONE AND ALL!**

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



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## **GOD'S GIFT**

**LITTLE BABY**

**ON THE HAY.**

**SOON THERE'LL BE ANOTHER DAY**

**WHEN NAILS SHALL PIERCE**

**YOUR HAND & FEET**

**AS YOU PROVIDE OUR SIN'S DEFEAT.**

**RISEN JESUS ON THE THRONE.**

**WE LIFT OUR PRAISE TO YOU ALONE—**

**FOR YOU'RE THE GIFT**

**THAT WE RECEIVE**

**THE MOMENT THAT OUR HEARTS**

**BELIEVE.**

**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS!**





SUPPORT GROUP  
MEETING

We hold monthly support group meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month. Our speaker on August 13<sup>th</sup> will be Wayne Risley, who has spent a lot of his time witnessing to Mormon Missionaries, so it should be very interesting.

Our meetings always end with 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 671 N. Poplar St. Orange. Hope to see you there!









