

Ex-Mormons for
JESUS

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

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NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2021



FROM CHAR'S DESK

It will soon be that time of year when we celebrate the birth of our precious Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. However, it seems so often the world ignores the real meaning of Christmas.

I was once going through several stores trying to find something to do with the Lord, such as a manger scene, to put on my front lawn for Christmas. However, I could only find snowmen, Santa Clauses, candy canes, Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer, etc. but none of these had a thing to do with the real meaning of Christmas!

Then I thought about all the Mormon temples throughout the world and how none of them have a cross on them. Instead, the angel Moroni, in gold, is on the top of each one when there is no such angel called Moroni in the Bible. How this must grieve the Lord - no manger and no cross!

So we, at Ex-Mormons for Jesus, want to lift Jesus up in our Christmas newsletter this year to honor and glorify Him!! He came into the world in a MANGER and died on the CROSS to pay for all our sins. He is worthy of our praise for He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords! Praise His Holy Name!

Have a Christ-filled Christmas everyone!

~ STEVE'S CORNER ~

Dear Ex-Mormons for Jesus family, I want to wish you and your family a merry CHRISTmas and a happy New Year! I purposely capitalized the word CHRIST in Christmas because Christmas is all about the Biblical Jesus Christ! Worshiping Jesus Christ isn't just a thing we do in

Christianity. Worshiping Jesus Christ is the only thing we do in Christianity! Our whole lives are all about loving Him, serving Him, glorifying Him, and worshiping Him! The word became flesh and dwelt among us. Luke 2:8-11 says, "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

Why was Jesus born on earth? He came to die and he died that we might be born again. You cannot have Christmas without the cross. And you cannot have the cross without Jesus' glorious bodily resurrection three days later. Jesus was born so we can have a relationship with God on Earth and forever in Heaven! He forever paid the penalty for our sins. Romans 5:8 says, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Salvation is found only in Jesus Christ and is only for those who trust and receive him as their Lord and Savior. Acts 4:12 says, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." In Mormonism their founding prophet, Joseph Smith, is seen as part of their salvation process. Doctrine and Covenants 135:3 says, "Joseph Smith, the Prophet and Seer of the Lord, has done more, save Jesus only, for the salvation of men in this world, than any other man that ever lived in it." In Biblical Christianity salvation is only through Jesus Christ! The Mormons revere Joseph Smith as a prophet of God. The LDS Jesus

came just to allow them to work their way to one of three levels of Heaven. At this joyous time of year may your focus be on the Biblical Jesus Christ and his amazing love! Christmas is not about Santa, physical gifts, the decorations, or even family. It's all about worshiping and celebrating Jesus Christ! May we have a Merry CHRISTmas this December 25th and for every day for the rest of our lives!!!

PROBLEMS WITH THE FIRST VISION

The alleged first vision of Joseph Smith in 1820 is the foundation of Mormonism. Former Mormon president Gordon B. Hinckley stated, "Our whole strength rests on the validity of that vision. It either occurred or it did not occur. If it did not, then this work is a fraud." (November 2002 Ensign, page 80) An obvious problem regarding Mormonism is that they are putting the entire truthfulness of their religion in someone who is not God. The foundation of Biblical Christianity is on the solid rock of The Lord Jesus Christ.

The first problem with the first vision account is that the Bible teaches there would be no complete apostasy. The Mormon Church claims there was a total apostasy, opening the door for Joseph Smith to start the LDS Church in 1830. In Matthew 16:18 it states the gates of Hell will not overcome the church. Jesus said he would always be with his believers in Matthew 28:20. How could Jesus be with his followers if they all died out as Mormonism teaches? In Jude 1:3 we are told to defend the faith which was once delivered unto the Saints. The second problem with the first vision is that if God the Father and Jesus Christ had appeared visibly to Joseph Smith he would have been instantly killed. No one on earth can see the Father face to face and live as Exodus 33:20 teaches. Interestingly, Doctrine and Covenants 84:22 teaches that without the priesthood no one can see God and live. Joseph Smith claims he received the priesthood in 1829, nine years after the first vision.

The third problem with the first vision is that the Bible teaches that God is Spirit. We see this in John 4:24 where God is called Spirit and I Timothy 1:17 teaches that the Father is invisible. Doctrine and Covenants 130:22 teaches that God the Father has a body of flesh and

bones. In contradiction to this, in the Book of Mormon in Alma 31:15 it says that God is a Spirit. The fourth problem with the first vision account is that there are 9 different versions of this supposed vision. Who appears to Joseph is different in these accounts and the message given also varies. For example, in the first account of these 9 versions written in 1832 it states that only Jesus appeared to Joseph Smith. It described Joseph Smith as being aware of his sins and frustration without finding a New Testament type Church. In contrast, in the official version from 1838 it states that Jesus and God the Father appear to Joseph and tell him all the churches are wrong, all their creeds are an abomination, and all their professors are corrupt. If you were to give a police officer 9 different versions of a traffic accident or murder that you had witnessed they wouldn't believe you. And we don't believe Joseph Smith either.

Finally, the first vision account is not believable because there were no eyewitnesses to this event. Mormons are taking the singular testimony of a 14 year old boy named Joseph Smith and putting their entire eternal destiny into what supposedly happened on that spring day in 1820. Biblical Christianity, on the other hand, has extensive eyewitness testimony to the foundation of our faith, who is Jesus Christ. Christ was born publicly, he taught and did his miracles publicly, he died publicly, he resurrected and appeared to hundreds publicly, he ascended to heaven publicly, and he is coming again publicly.

Please pray for the lost Mormon people. They are blinded to the truth, even when clear evidence about serious problems with Mormonism is presented. Using the problems with the first vision account can plant a seed as to the truthfulness of that supposed event. Remember, at the same time use this as an opportunity to tell them the truth of the Gospel in love. They need a miracle to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. Jesus Christ, not Joseph Smith, is that miracle!

SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

We are excited to announce that our EMFJ Center will reopen Monday, November 15th. We will inform you when our support group meetings will resume.

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

SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

We hold monthly support group meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd 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 M o r m o n s t h e m s e l v e s .

