

Ex-Mormons for
JESUS

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

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NEWSLETTER ~ SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2018

FROM CHAR'S DESK



Today, I decided to browse through some of the many letters we have received here at the Center, when I came across one from an ex-Mormon man that told of his experiences of leaving the Mormon Church. I thought I would share it with those who receive our newsletter as it is very powerful.

When I walked up to the altar in the small Christian church, I knew the moment of truth had come. I was choosing between two spiritual systems. My eternal destiny hung in the balance. I was going to renounce Mormonism. For 26 years I had believed Mormonism was the kingdom of God and a road to godhood, but now I believed it was a horrible deception.

At age 38, thru Christian radio and television, I became born again. I invited Jesus into my heart as my personal Savior. For the next 9 years, I considered myself both Born-Again Christian and Mormon. But without realizing it at first, I found that my Mormon side gradually and repeatedly pulled me away from my new relationship with Jesus. The third time this happened, the feeling of fire became frequent and intense. The feeling became so harsh and erratic, I finally had to admit to myself that neither it nor Mormonism could be from God.

Now at age 47, I went up to the Christian altar before the congregation to remove Mormonism from my life. The pastor led me in a prayer of deliverance. I renounced Mormonism and ordered the spirits to the pit in the name of Jesus. As soon as I finished, a loud shrieking began for several minutes as invisible discharge poured from my mouth. The feeling of fire

was gone.

My experience has made me realize that each person is a battleground between Jesus and opposite forces. The forces that tried to drive Jesus out of my life were themselves driven out by Jesus. If you are not yet born again, the opposition is trying to keep you from receiving Jesus so it can have power over you at death. If you are already born again, the opposition is trying to pull you away from Jesus.

The answer is to receive Jesus and to serve Him. Just sincerely pray this prayer: "Lord Jesus, I accept you as my righteous substitute to take my place in the sight of God; I invite you to come into my heart, to change me into what you want me to be, and to keep me by your power forever." (F.R.)

MORMON NO MORE

On August 17, 2018, the president of the Mormon Church, Russell M. Nelson, said he wanted his people to stop using "Mormon" or "LDS" as substitutes for the full name of the religion – "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints".

Nelson said in a statement, "the Lord has impressed upon my mind the importance of the name he has revealed for his Church. The full name was given by revelation from God to founder Joseph Smith in 1838 according to the faith's belief." The actual quote is found in Doctrine & Covenants 115:3, 4:

"And also unto my faithful servants who are of the high

council of my church in Zion, for thus it shall be called, and unto all the elders and people of my Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, scattered abroad in all the world; For thus shall my church be called in the last days, even The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints”.

The term “Mormon” and “Mormonite” were first used in the 1830's as pejoratives (disparaging, derogatory, belittling terms) to describe those who followed Joseph Smith and believed in the divine origin of the Book of Mormon (from Wikipedia). Nevertheless, Mormons have constantly used this term over the years - **Mormon** Pioneers, **Mormon** Doctrine, **Mormon** Tabernacle Choir, **Mormon** Missionaries, etc. so it evidently didn't bother them back then or even up to now, as their website is called **Mormon.org**.

Back in the 80's when someone asked a Mormon if they were a Christian, they would reply, No, I'm a Mormon! They seemed to be offended by the term “Christian” but liked the term “Mormon!” And in Bruce R. McConkie's book, “Mormon Doctrine,” p. 513, he said, “...by way of nickname, members of this restored Church have become known as Mormons, a name which is in no sense offensive or objectionable to them.”

Even so, today I think the leader of the Mormon Church feels it **IS** offensive! Why? I think it's because the Counter-Cult ministries have exposed so many of the unbiblical doctrines of Mormonism that it has caused people to know that it is not a Christian Church but rather a cult. Therefore, I think President Nelson is hoping that the term MORMON will gradually disappear and if they start saying “The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints” long enough (instead of Mormon or LDS), it will cause people that are not aware to think it is a Christian Church because the name, Jesus Christ, is in its title.

However, rather than just making a name change, how much better it would be if President Nelson would change their unbiblical doctrines and theology to the Biblical truths which would make them true Christians, not just in name only. Mormon leaders are working overtime to change Mormonism's image as more and more people are leaving than at any other time in

history. Please join us in praying for this trend to not only continue but for God's light to shine in all of the dark places of this horrible cult.

~ Jenell's Jots & Tittles ~

THE MOST IMPORTANT DAY IN HISTORY?

If we asked a Christian what they considered the most important day in all of history to be, I believe they would say that it was the day Christ went to the cross on their behalf –

*“And having made peace **through the blood of his cross**, by him to reconcile all things unto himself...And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled, in the body of his flesh **through death**, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight.”* (Col.1:20-22, KJV)

However, once again, Mormonism drastically distorts the real gospel. Mormon Elder Dieter F. Uchdorf, of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles stated: *“To find the most important day in history, we must go back 2,000 years ago in the **Garden of Gethsemane** when Jesus Christ knelt in intense prayer and offered Himself as a ransom for our sins. It was during this great and infinite sacrifice of unparalleled suffering in both body and spirit that Jesus Christ, even God, **bled at every pore...**”* (“Ensign”, p.108, my emphasis).

This is just one example where we see a Mormon exchange Gethsemane for the cross, and of course when they do this, they are proclaiming “another gospel” (see 2 Cor.11:4). You will never see a cross on a Mormon edifice or around the neck of a Mormon – *“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness, but unto us which are saved it is the power of God!”* (1Cor. 1:18).

Once in a while, the cross will be mentioned in Mormon publications or speeches, but it will usually be in conjunction with Gethsemane. It is Satan who wants people to ignore the cross and look for another way to

be saved but Jesus is greater: *“And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; and **having spoiled principalities and powers**, he made a shew of them openly triumphing over them in it. (Col.2:13-15).*

If Mormons would only read their Bible with an open mind, they would see that only Christ’s physical death on the cross was a sufficient sacrifice in the Father’s eyes.

CITATIONS OF CONCERN

(From LDS Leaders)

“A question may be asked–‘Will mothers have their children in eternity?’ Yes! yes!...But as the child dies, so shall it rise from the dead, and be for ever living in the learning of God. It will never grow: it will still be the child, in the same precise form as it appeared before it died out of its mother’s arms, but possessing all the intelligence of a God. Children dwell in the mansions of glory and exercise power, but appear in the same form as when on earth. Eternity is full of thrones, upon which dwell thousands of children reigning on thrones of glory, with not one cubit added to their stature.” (Joseph Smith, “Journal of Discourses”, Vol.6, p.10)

BOOK REVIEW

For those of you who want to be better prepared to reach Mormons, you will find this new book, “Sharing The Good News With Mormons” a very helpful tool. The general editors are Eric Johnson (who works with Mormonism Research Ministry) and Sean McDowell (who is an associate professor in the Christian Apologetics program at Biola University). From the back cover I quote:

“Someone you know is a Mormon—a family member, a coworker, a friend, or a neighbor—and you long to present the truth about Jesus and what God’s Word teaches. But where do you start? How can you convey what’s on your heart in a way that is more likely to be

well received?

*Every relationship and situation is unique, and that’s why these essays from **respected scholars, apologist, and pastors—including Sandra Tanner, Robert Bowman, David Geisler, Bill McKeever, Mark Mittelberg, J. Warner Wallace, Lynn Wilder, and others**—lay out a variety of creative methods for sharing the gospel effectively so you can respond with compassion and clarity to Mormon teachings and initiate authentic conversations.*

Speaking the truth to Mormons can feel daunting when you’re unprepared. Let the suggestions in this book give you solid ideas for reaching those who are lost but don’t realize it.”

There are twenty-four essays which include topics like “Who Is the Real Jesus”? “The Christ Centered Approach”, “Joseph Smith’s First Vision and the Book of Mormon: The Historical Approach”, and “I’m Trying My Best: The impossible-Gospel Approach”. If interested, we have a few here at the Center for a suggested donation of \$16.00 or you can order them at mrm.org.

THE GOD OF THE BIBLE

The Bible clearly tells us that God has ALWAYS been God: *“Before the mountains were born, or Thou didst give birth to the earth and the world, **even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God.**”* (Ps.90:2 NAS). Yet an Ensign article (an official Mormon publication) says that godhood was something He had to “achieve” as follows:

*“His (Heavenly Father’s) work and His glory, He told us, is ‘to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.’ **He has already achieved godhood.** Now His only objective is to help us—to enable us to return to Him and be like Him and live His kind of life eternally.”* (“The Ensign”, May 2004, p.73, my emphasis).

The nature and kind of being that God is, is one of the foundational doctrines of the Christian faith. Jesus Himself stated that eternal life was dependent upon

knowing “the only true God” (see John 17:3). Obviously the God of Mormonism is not the God of the Bible!

ORANGE VILLAGE MALL

Several of our Ex-Mormons For Jesus workers hosted our table at the mall again in August. For those of you who live in the area, we would love for you to stop by and see us on the 3rd Saturday of every month from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Following is some of the activity we encountered this month:

Rosa talked to Maria, An elderly lady and her husband. She took a Spanish tract on Mormonism and I gave her our DVD (“Jesus Christ vs. Joseph Smith”) in English for her grandson who is dating a Mormon girl who claims to see “spirits”. I told her to call us at the Center and maybe bring her grandson in with her. I shared the gospel briefly and she agreed it was through Jesus that we have eternal life. She is a Catholic.

Char talked with a Filipino that believes this is hell right here. If this world knew what hell really is, they would be terrified of it! He took a lot of Christian tracts.

Rosa talked to a young girl named Joy, she thought we were Mormons and wanted no part of it. I explained and she asked what Mormons believe that was different. She still wanted no info that would disparage another religion – I shared a bit more and talked about Jesus. She was wearing a cross and said she was Christian but when I tried to explain that Jesus was God, she did not believe it. I took her to John 1:1 and she felt I was manipulating the Bible, she said Jesus is God’s son but not God.

A Christian woman went by and gave us a thumbs up!

Char talked a long time with a Muslim whose wife is a Christian. She explained that we all need to be born again. He feels Christians all believe differently about the Bible, etc. He had to meet a friend but he promised he’d be back and we’d talk more.

Rosa talked to Chemo and his wife. He said he was of no religion but believed in God. He took our DVD, tract

on Mormonism and some gospel tracts.

Leslie talked to a Spanish woman and explained to her about Mormonism.

So many people do not know what it means to be born again, so we are going to start bringing more Christian tracts when we minister at the mall: *“preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths.”* (2 Tim.4:2-4 NAS)

SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

We hold monthly support group meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Our guest speaker on October 9th will be a former Bishop, Lee Baker. He was a member of the Mormon faith for 32 years and held many leadership positions. He forced his own excommunication in 2008 after several years of meetings and letters to the highest level of the Mormon Church concerning questions of doctrine. He has an amazing story, you won’t want to miss this one! His wife, Kathy, will also be sharing.

There will be a question and answer time after the lesson 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 671 N. Poplar Street, Orange. We look forward to seeing you there.

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Thank You

