

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](mailto:bill@exmormonsforjesus.org)  
Website: [www.exmormonsforjesus.org](http://www.exmormonsforjesus.org)

---

NEWSLETTER ~ SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2019

---



**FROM CHAR'S DESK**

Lately, I have been having a deep burden for the Mormons that have come to know that Mormonism isn't true. Many of these leave their church but then decide that no religion is true! Some of them even stop believing in God. Others stop believing that Jesus is the Messiah and discard all Christian doctrine and theology. However, my greatest burden are for those who end up becoming ungodly and unrighteous! The Bible talks about them in the first chapter of Romans:

*“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so they are without excuse.” (Rom.1:18-20)*

How sad is that, to have no excuse! Let's pray that God will send someone across their path to lead them to Jesus as He still loves them and will be merciful to them if they will only repent and receive Him (John 1:12). There is no excuse but, thank God, there is still repentance and hope!

\* + \* + \* + \* + \* + \* + \* +

If you meet the Master in the morning and pray,  
you will master what you meet all day!

~ JENELL'S JOTS & TITLES ~

**NEW PROBLEMS WITH THE FALL  
OF THE BOOK OF ABRAHAM**

The book of Abraham is a small piece of LDS scripture found in the “Pearl of Great Price”, one of the four standard works of their church. For Mormons, it is a very important item because, unlike the Book of Mormon, it teaches their unique views regarding polytheism (the belief in many gods), the priesthood, pre-existence, creation and Deity. It is supposed to be a translation that Joseph Smith had made from a record that the Biblical Abraham had written in Egyptian writings on papyrus.

In producing this work, Joseph had two things going for him. First, the Egyptian language had not yet been fully deciphered so no one could examine his ability to “translate” and second, after Joseph's death these papyri were thought to be lost, so again, his translating abilities could not be brought into question. However, these same papyri were later discovered at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and given to the LDS church on November 27, 1967. At first Mormon authorities were excited about this discovery and believed that this would prove Joseph to be a true prophet. However, photocopies of these same papyri were sent to several Egyptologists who informed them that they were nothing more than common Egyptian funeral papyri and had nothing to do with Abraham. In fact, the type of Egyptian writing on the papyri can be dated no earlier than 500 B.C., which is much too late to fit into Abraham's lifetime.

Not many Mormons were aware of this problem, or if they were, they accepted the flimsy excuses their leaders gave them. However, when the Internet age took hold, they found themselves confronted online with the real facts and many began leaving the faith because of it. In late 2013, in an effort to become more transparent and hopefully stop the loss of membership, the Mormon Church began publishing “approved” essays on historical and theological subjects (LDS.org. 2013). But the essays, one of them being the Book of Abraham, have themselves caused a faith crises for many Mormons.

The gold plates, from which the Book of Mormon was supposedly translated, were conveniently taken up to heaven by an angel (or some such excuse) and Joseph Smith’s other works were done by “revelation”. So the Book of Abraham is the only piece of LDS scripture that can be physically tested. And even though carefully worded, with the relevant facts having been carefully selected, the Mormon Church’s own website shares enough truth about this book (and other topics such as polygamy, man becoming a God, Joseph being a medium, etc.) to expose Joseph Smith for the fraud he is. Today, we are hearing of many Mormons finding this out for themselves. The facts are out there, please join us in prayer that they will not be afraid to look!

## **“BURDENS HARD TO BEAR”**

In Luke 11:46 Jesus said to those of His day – *“Woe to you lawyers as well! For you weigh men down with burdens hard to bear...”* (NAS). Today we can replace the word “lawyers” with Mormon leaders because they certainly weigh their members down with many burdens. So many in fact that it is hard for them to keep track of what they can and cannot do in order to please God and be a member in good standing with their church. The late LDS Apostle Bruce McConkie clarified it for them as follows:

*“Those things which men are directed to do to attain peace in this life and gain eternal life in the world to come are collectively called the commandments. They*

*are laws, ordinances, covenants, contracts, statutes, judgments, decrees, revelations, and requirements which come to man from God”.* (Mormon Doctrine, p.149)

Following is just a more in-depth example of what is involved: Keeping their Temple requirements (includes secret handshakes, signs and penalties, wearing secret undergarments with secret symbols for the rest of their life), perform temple works for the dead, being married for time and eternity in their temple, keeping the Word of Wisdom (no tea, coffee, alcoholic drinks or tobacco), follow and obey their “living prophets” without question, pay tithing, have as many children as possible (after all, their heavenly parents have spirit babies waiting to get a body and come to this earth), give testimony to Joseph Smith being a true prophet and also have a testimony of the Book of Mormon, be ready to accept any “callings” their leaders ask of them, etc.

Keeping laws (works) did not get people right with God in the Old Testament and this truth hasn’t changed since then. *Many* scriptures verify this fact but the book of Romans is an excellent place to start (all scriptures quoted are from the NAS): *“Because by the works of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.”* (Rom.20). *“For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the law”* (Rom.3:28). *“What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about; but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? ‘And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness’.* Now to the one who works, his wage is not reckoned as a favor, but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness.” (Rom.4:1-5)

The Bible is clear that a person is saved by GRACE (unearned, undeserved favor from God) through FAITH (complete trust) in Christ and His finished work on the cross. Through Him, repentant sinners can stand justified (not guilty) before God. The “gospel” is the good news that Christ paid for our sins with His sinless blood. Again we can read the Mormon view of this as follows:

*“Christians speak often of the blood of Christ and its cleansing power. Much that is believed and taught on this subject, however, is such utter nonsense and so palpably false that to believe it is to lose one’s salvation. Many go so far, for instance, as to pretend and at least believe that if we confess Christ with our lips and avow that we accept Him as our personal Saviour, we are thereby saved. His blood without other act than mere belief, they say, makes us clean...”* (What The Mormons Think of Christ by Bruce R. McConkie).

The books of Galatians and Ephesians are also excellent resources for this topic. For example: *“nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we may be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified.”* (Gal.2:16) and, *“I do not nullify the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly.”* (Gal.2:21, also see Gal.5:4, Eph.2:8-9, 13, Phil.3:9, Titus 3:5-7), etc.)

How Mormons can miss this clear message is mind boggling. And when we try and share this glorious truth with them, they completely misunderstand and think we are saying that one can just accept this gift of grace and then go on sinning as before. Nothing could be further from the truth: *“Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”* (2 Cor.5:17), and: *“But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you become obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.”* (Rom.6:17-18). Yes, the grace of God not only justifies but also makes us a “new creation” which results in a changed life style.

How we pray for the dear Mormon people to come to understand this and lay down the heavy burden their leaders put on them. Jesus said: *“Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My Load is light.”* (Matt.11:29-30).

## CITATIONS OF CONCERN

(From LDS Leaders)

*“We need to do better in responding to honest questions. Although we may not be able to answer every question about the cosmos or **about our history, doctrine, and practices**, we can provide many answers to those who are sincere...**Of course, we may not always find satisfying answers to our questions.** At such times, it’s good to remember that there is still a place in religion for faith. Sometimes we can learn and study and know; **sometimes we have to believe and trust and hope...**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](http://ChurchofJesusChrist.org)...”* (The September 2019 Ensign, pp.25 and 26, by Apostle M. Russell Ballard, my emphasis)

## CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE

We at EMFJ know how hard it is for those of you who have a loved one still caught up in Mormonism. The following is from a Christian wife whose husband is a Mormon and we are sharing in hopes it might be of some encouragement for some of you:

*“My husband is deeply entrenched in the LDS church, and I believe he would be very adverse to even talking about looking at LDS sources to see the actual deceit, changes, etc. for himself. I believe he would become angry...he always says he doesn’t criticize my church. But, he knows LDS church is true!...”*

*He is a temple worker and does “shifts” there when he is scheduled. His local ward keeps him so busy because of his musical ability...he is in “demand”...I think it makes him feel important. He was at two meetings last Saturday for a total of 7 hours with couple hours break in between.*

*I haven’t given up on him because I know God is more than able to break through his defenses and reveal truth*

to him. But, I will admit that I can really get discouraged as each year passes. I appreciate your prayers and the ministry's prayers so much...

It is interesting to me that \_\_\_\_\_ still knows and loves the older hymns he learned and played as a young man...He will play those songs here at home on our organ. I guess I cling to that little glimmer of hope that somewhere down deep in his heart, there is a little ember still there.

I will keep praying and ask that you all pray for me to show him the love of Christ and be non-confrontational in our daily life. It is so hard sometimes to understand how he can truly believe as he does.

I will be in touch and thank you again for support and prayers. Sometimes, I can feel a little alone. There are no support groups in this area...Few people I know seem to know much about Mormonism...it seems they may not want to really talk about it. However, there are missionaries [LDS] around. They seem to try to get fast commitments then schedule baptisms. Many of these people are unchurched or have been disillusioned with churches. I don't know though, how many remain active when they see how much is required of them. Again, thank you so very much. In Christ's love \_\_\_\_\_.

## THE INCREDIBLE DECEPTION OF MORMONISM

The past era of Mormonism has had no problem in boldly dubbing Christianity with the term "apostate Christendom". Today, however, Mormons are taught to accept us Christians because this makes them look more tolerant and, as they put it, "anyone who believes in Christ is a Christian". While this may be a smart public relations tactic on their part, it is deceptive and wasted verbiage because while their words may have changed, their true position hasn't! To believe otherwise would negate their whole premise for a "restored gospel".

In his book "Mormon Doctrine", the late LDS Apostle, Bruce R. McConkie, described "Christendom" as follows: "That portion of the world in which so-called Christianity prevails – as distinguished from heathen or

Mohammedan lands—is called Christendom. The term also applies to the whole body of supposed Christian believers; as now constituted this body is properly termed apostate Christendom."

Mormons of the past have made **numerous** gross and serious claims against Christianity. Just one more from their third President, John Taylor is as follows: "We talk about Christianity, but it is a perfect pack of nonsense...the devil could not invent a better engine to spread his work than the Christianity of the nineteenth century". (Journal of Discourses, Vol.6, p.167)

If Mormons really believed all of this, one wonders why they would want to lump Christianity and Mormonism into the same category? Well, as said earlier, I guess it just makes for good public relations even when they know they do not believe we are the same. By the way, when Mormons try to tell us "anyone who believes in Christ is a Christian", we can tell them not by a long shot for even "evil spirits" know Jesus – "And the evil spirit answered and said to them, I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" (Acts.19:15, also see James 2:19)

## 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 guest speaker on Oct.8th will be an ex-Mormon, Vicki Leppo, who has many interesting stories to share.

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 1026 S. East St., Anaheim, CA 92805. We look forward to seeing you there.

+ \* + \* + \* + \* +

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

