

Ex-Mormons for
JESUS

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

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NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2022



FROM CHAR'S DESK

Some time back, I was reading about a little Chinese girl who said, "I know why Christ said, 'Ye are the salt of the earth.' It's because salt makes people thirsty." What a wise little girl!

Are we, as Christians, making people thirsty for Jesus? Or have we lost our salt? Jesus said if salt has lost its savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing but to be cast out and be trodden under foot of men. (Matt.5:13)

There is a way to keep salty. Do you know what it is? The Bible tells us how in Colossians 4:6. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

I remember when I was at the home of a couple where the husband was not saved. He kept asking me questions until 11 o'clock in the evening. Finally he said, "I don't get it, Charlotte, every question I have, you have an answer from the Bible!" The Bible makes people thirsty. That man ended up getting wonderfully saved!

Are we making the Mormons "thirsty for Jesus" because we know our Bible or are we just spending our time using the Bible to prove they are wrong?

Something to think about!

~ STEVE'S CORNER ~

Dear wonderful friends in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I pray that this note finds you and your family well! I wanted to wish our precious director for Ex-Mormons for

Jesus, Charlotte Pardee, a very happy 93rd birthday! Charlotte has been on the frontline witnessing to the Mormon people for over 50 years. She has taught me to love Jesus and to love the Mormons. Spreading the truth in love is what God wants us to do. Viewing our witnessing as a theological debate may win the argument yet lose the soul. We are to plant seeds that the Holy Spirit can water and bring to fruition!

The Jehovah Witnesses are back and I mean that literally. Starting on September first of this year they have resumed their door to door ministry around the world. They were not doing this for nearly two and a half years because of Covid. The JW's deny the Trinity and believe in a big God Jehovah, a little inferior god, Jesus, whom they teach is a created being and Michael the Archangel and they believe the Holy Spirit is an active force but not God. They deny Jesus died on the cross and teach he died on a torture stake wooden pole with no crossbeam. They say Jehovah disintegrated his body in the tomb and they deny the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. They use the word resurrection but they really mean a recreation since Jesus body is gone. They believe that man doesn't have a soul but is a soul. Hell is seen as the grave and Jehovah annihilates the wicked so they cease to exist at death. A key teaching is they believe only 144,000 JW's will go to heaven with Jehovah and the rest of Jehovah's Witnesses will live forever in paradise on earth, but God won't be there. Once a year they have a communion service called the Memorial and only the remaining alive of the 144,000 may partake which is roughly 20,000. They believe that Jesus returned invisibly in 1914. The Watchtower organization has falsely prophesied Armageddon numerous times like 1925 and 1975. Salvation for the Jehovah's Witnesses is a works oriented process where they go to meetings,

door to door ministry, read the Watchtower books and magazines, and do whatever the organization tells them to do. They are led by eight men called the governing body in New York. They don't celebrate holidays, vote, are not involved in the military, and deny blood transfusions. They have their own biased version of the Bible called The New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures. This version was not translated by any Hebrew or Greek scholars. They have changed many passages on the deity of Christ. For example, in John 1:1 in their Bible it says the "word was a god." They have added the word "a" to make it seem like Jesus is not eternally God. Another example is in Colossians 1:15-20 where it teaches Christ created all things. They have added the word "other" in the text 4-5 times to make it seem like Jesus is a created being. Finally, in John 8:58, Jesus said before Abraham was born, I Am. In their Bible it says before Abraham was born, "I have been." This totally changes the meaning of the passage that teaches that Jesus is Yahweh. Please be ready to share the love of Jesus with the Jehovah's Witnesses when they come to your door or you meet them personally!

CRITICAL PASSAGE IN ACTS

When witnessing to Mormons, there is a good passage to use out of Acts 14:1-18, Living Bible.

At Iconium, Paul and Barnabas went together to the synagogue and preached with such power that many—both Jews and Gentiles—believed. But the Jews who spurned God's message stirred up distrust among the Gentiles against Paul and Barnabas, saying all sorts of evil things about them. Nevertheless, they stayed there a long time, preaching boldly, and the Lord proved their message was from him by giving them power to do great miracles. But the people of the city were divided in their opinion about them. Some agreed with the Jewish leaders and some backed the apostles. When Paul and Barnabas learned of a plot to incite a mob of Gentiles, Jews, and Jewish leaders to attack and stone them, they fled for their lives, going to the cities of Lycaonia, Lystra, Derbe, and the surrounding area, and preaching the Good News there. While they were at Lystra, they came upon a man with crippled feet who had been that way from birth, so he had never walked. He was listening as Paul preached, and Paul noticed him and realized he had faith to be healed. So called to him, "Stand up!" and the man leaped to his

feet and started walking! When the listening crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted (in their local dialect, of course), "These men are gods in human bodies!" They decided that Barnabas was the Greek god, Jupiter, and that Paul, because he was the chief speaker, was Mercury! The local priest of the Temple of Jupiter, located on the outskirts of the city, brought them carloads of flowers and prepared to sacrifice oxen to them at the city gates before the crowds. But when Barnabas and Paul saw what was happening they ripped at their clothing in dismay and ran out among the people shouting, "Men! What are you doing? We are merely human beings like yourselves! We have come to bring you the Good News that you are invited to turn from the worship of these foolish things and to pray instead to the living God who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them. In bygone days he permitted the nations to go their own ways, but he never left himself without a witness; there were always his reminders—the kind things he did such as sending you rain and good crops and giving you food and gladness. But even so, Paul and Barnabas could scarcely restrain the people from sacrificing to them!

After the crippled man was healed by Jesus, through the venue of Paul and Barnabas, the people thought they were gods and wanted to sacrifice to them. Paul and Barnabas were grieved by the idea that they were gods because to believe so would be blasphemy.

Mormons teach that they are "gods in embryo." That is, they are not gods now on earth but have the potential to become gods in the Celestial kingdom to temple-married Mormons. If Mormonism was true Paul and Barnabas would have had a great opportunity to tell the people that they were "gods in embryo." The Bible consistently teaches there is only one true God and all other gods are false. Paul and Barnabas had the perfect reaction after people wanted to sacrifice to them and thought they were gods. They were grieved, tore their clothes, and preached the truth of God to the people.

This passage is good to talk about with Mormons about who God truly is and always will be: God Almighty!

When it comes to morality, we like to compare ourselves with other people. This may give us the deceptive idea that we are a good person. Biblical salvation teaches that we are sinners in desperate need of a savior. We cannot have salvation by trying to follow the ten commandments. It is only through repenting and trusting in Christ that we have a relationship with God in this life and in the life to come.

The next time someone tells you they are a good person, use this as an opportunity to share the true gospel of Jesus Christ!

FOLLOW CHRIST ONLY

The Mormon magazine, Liahona, June 2022, has a picture of LDS prophet Russell Nelson on the cover. It says, "We follow Jesus Christ and his prophet." In Biblical Christianity, we follow Jesus Christ only. I Timothy 2:5 says there is one God and one mediator between God and man, the man Jesus Christ." When any group says they follow Christ and _____ they are spiritually deceived.

In the Liahona, just mentioned, there is an article entitled "Choose the Lord and his Prophet." On page 8, it states about Russell Nelson, "Like Samuel, today's prophets, seers, and revelators are men of wisdom, much of which can only be acquired with age. President Russell Nelson is 97. As we review his inspired leadership, there is no doubt we have a prophet in Israel."

Hebrews 1:1-2 states, "In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days He is spoken to us through His Son." The law and the prophets were pointing and leading to Christ.

We have prophets today in the sense of Christians proclaiming truth from the Bible. But the time of Old Testament prophets leading to Christ has come and gone.

We must share with the precious Mormon people that we follow only the Biblical Jesus Christ and not Jesus AND a prophet. It is at this point that you must share who the Biblical Jesus is: Eternal God, virgin born, second personage of the Trinity, Creator, Savior and King of

Kings and Lord of Lords.

One mark of a cult is that they emphasize that you must follow their leaders, even if their teaching contradicts the Bible. Mormonism constantly denies the main teaching of the Bible and has another Jesus, another spirit and another gospel.

Why would I follow Russell Nelson when I can follow and worship Jesus Christ? The LDS prophets come and go, but the Biblical Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. Your pastor is not the head of your church, Jesus Christ is!!!

CITATIONS OF CONCERN

(From LDS Leaders)

"When Adam and Eve were placed on the earth, they lived in the Garden of Eden. We do not know its dimensions, but the Prophet Joseph Smith, taught that it was located on or near Independence, Missouri." The Ensign 1998, p. 16

LETTERS OF RESIGNATION

Periodically, we will continue to share portions of resignation letters we have on record here at the center in our newsletters. Hopefully it will be of some help for those who have gone through this or may be doing so in the future.

I...request the removal of all my membership roles in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints immediately in recognition of the American Constitution of Rights to freedom of religion and in accordance with my wishes.

I renounce the L.D.S. church and any priesthoods or blessings real or implied. This request is strictly a formality to bring church records in line with what is already an accomplished fact.

I do not recognize your right to take any punitive measures, call any courts or any other legal procedures. However, I am aware that you will hold a Bishops Court whether I am present there or not and I am letting you know now that I do not intend to be

there under any circumstances. I do not want the word excommunication used in any way with my name for the reason that the word excommunication means that it was by your choice that I am no longer a member of the church or that I have done something wrong and neither is the truth. I have left the church on my own free will simply because I do not believe in any of its doctrine....I consider this matter to be complete and my membership totally withdrawn by the affixing of my signature to this document. I hope to receive a verification letter within 30 days from the date of this letter that this matter has been taken care of.

Thank you for your full cooperation and for respecting all my wishes. S.L.A.

SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

These meetings will have to, once again, be suspended until further notice. We especially appreciate your support through prayers and financial aid if possible.