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NEWSLETTER ~ JAN/FEB 2013

OUR FAITH WILL WORK BY LOVE OR IT WILL NOT WORK AT ALL



FROM CHAR'S DESK

Another year has come and gone but our burden for the Mormon people never seems to come and go. It is always there, in our hearts, the burden to see our LDS friends and loved ones come to know the Lord in a personal way. What it will take, only God knows. Each person is an individual and what will open one person's heart, may never work for another. I am glad that God sees into each soul and knows what it will take for them to find the truth, which is not an "only true church" but Jesus Christ Himself. This year I pray we will see Him work in a way that will bring many Mormons into a freedom which only Christ can give. Happy New Year!

Mormon friends admire Billy Graham and they read C. S. Lewis for spiritual inspiration. They write insightful commentaries on the epistle to the Romans. And, of course, all of that is mixed in with things he finds "worrisome" but he is appeased because they have been able to talk about these worrisome things.

However, do you know how many ex-Mormons have said to me, "I would have died for the church"? I have never heard a Christian say they would have died for their church. Donny and Marie Osmond's brother, Jay, was on the BYU channel teaching a group of Mormons and he said, "family first, religion second, career third." I have never heard a Christian put any value ahead of their relationship with the Lord.

DIALOGUE WITH MORMONS

Richard Mouw, outgoing President of Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, has been dialoguing with Mormon Scholars and leaders for over a dozen years and has come to the conclusion that the "cult" label does not accurately apply to the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. So lets look at the definition of a cult and see if he is right. According to Websters New World Dictionary, the definition of a cult is a devoted attachment to or extravagant admiration for a person, principle, etc.

Do you believe a Mormon has a devoted attachment to their church? Do you believe a Mormon has an extravagant admiration for Joseph Smith and possibly the other prophets of their church? If they do, they are a cult according to Websters definition. Now, Mr. Mouw believes Scientology, Jehovah's Witnesses and Hare Krisna are cults but not Mormonism because his

Brother Orton, who taught the Bible in the Mormon Church for forty years, told me that Jesus could not keep his church together. I have never heard a Christian make such a claim. In an LDS manual, it says that God the Father and His wife "achieved a celestial marriage" (Achieving A Celestial Marriage", p.1). No Christian would ever say this.

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



Joseph Smith said it is assumed that God was God from all eternity but then refuted that idea and spoke of how “God came to be God” (“Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith”, p.345). I have never heard of a Christian that claimed God wasn’t always God but **came** to be one. Mr. Mouw may call these things “worrisome” but I call them blasphemous, and they bother me more than calling Mormonism a cult.

I don’t know how Mr. Mouw could spend over twelve years with Mormon scholars and leaders and not realize that Mormonism is not Christian no matter how much they say they admire Billy Graham. Admiring a great Christian without believing in his doctrines does not impress me but actually grieves my spirit. These dialogues between Christians and Mormons are not supposed to be about trying to convince or convert each other, but I could never do that. Jesus told me to go into all the world and preach the gospel, He did not tell me to try to build bridges that end up having men like Robert Millet say these meetings have actually caused him to become a better Mormon. My desire is for Mormons to give up Joseph Smith entirely and come to a saving knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

~ Jenell’s Jots & Tittles ~

MISPLACED REVERENCE FOR JOSEPH SMITH

I will kick off this article with a quote from a January 1996 “Ensign” (an official LDS publication):

*“The practical sage, President Brigham Young, who **died with the name of Joseph upon his lips**, said, ‘I honor and **revere** the name of Joseph Smith. I delight to hear it; I love it. I love his doctrine...**I feel like shouting Hallelujah, all the time, when I think that I ever knew Joseph Smith, the Prophet whom the Lord raised up...**I am bold to say that, Jesus Christ excepted, no better man ever lived or does live upon this earth. I am his witness.*

*“**May we all be his witnesses...**May our testimonies ring forth with power and authority and conviction concerning Joseph Smith, **the greatest prophet who has ever lived...**The word of the Lord to Joseph has been fulfilled: ‘The ends of the earth shall inquire after thy name, and fools shall have thee in derision, and hell shall rage against thee; While the pure in*

*heart, and the wise, and the noble, and the virtuous, shall seek counsel, and authority, and **blessings constantly from under thy hand**’ D&C 122:1-2.” (p.7, my emphasis)*

Most Mormons would probably be quick to deny reverence for Joseph, however, they still sing the song “Praise to the Man” in reference to him. This song speaks of Joseph dying as a martyr, it speaks of his shed blood pleading unto heaven, of his “endless priesthood” and how he is now “mingling with Gods”.

In another “Ensign” article, Jesse N. Smith, Joseph’s cousin, shared these words of praise: “[Joseph Smith was] incomparably the most God-like man I ever saw...I know that **by nature** he was **incapable** of lying and deceitfulness, possessing the greatest kindness and nobility of character. I felt when in his presence that he could read me through and through. I know he was all that he claimed to be.” (Dec. 2008, p.40). On the following page we read: “Emmeline Blanche Wells wrote: ‘In the Prophet Joseph Smith, I believed I recognized the great spiritual power that brought joy and comfort to the Saints...**The power of God rested upon him to such a degree that on many occasions he seemed transfigured...The glory of his countenance was beyond description.**’” (my emphasis).

Other quotes from Mormon sources speak of having to “**pass the sentinel Joseph the Prophet**” to get into the celestial kingdom (Journal of Discourses, Vol.4, p.271), and of looking “**upon him as a God**” (Journal of Discourses, Vol.5, p.88), and needing “**the consent of Joseph Smith**” to enter the celestial kingdom of God (Journal of Discourses, Vol.7, p.289, all emphasis mine).

Many Christians may honor their pastors, leaders, spouses, parents, etc. They may love the great men and women or prophets they read about in the Bible. However, true Christians know that worship and reverence is reserved for the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit alone. The Bible gives several instances where men have attempted to worship someone other than God (e.g. Acts 10:25, Acts 14:11-15, Rev. 19:10, Rev.22:8-9) but were hastily rebuked. It is my prayer that Mormons will come to realize their grave error of misplaced reverence for Joseph Smith.

CITATIONS OF CONCERN

(From LDS Leaders)

While visiting an open house with her family, President Eyring told the story of his three-year-old granddaughter asking “where is Jesus?”. Her mother explained that she would not see Jesus in the temple, but she would be able to feel His influence in her heart. The little girl then said, “Oh, Jesus is gone helping someone”. At that, President Eyring stated - “*She knew that the temple is the house of the Lord but also understood that the resurrected and glorified Jesus Christ has a **body and can only be in one place at a time**. If He was not at His house, she **recognized that He must be in another place.***” (November 2012 “Ensign”, p.72, my emphasis)

The LDS reference President Eyring gave for his reasoning was D&C 130:22 which says: “*The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s; the Son also; but the Holy Ghost has not a body of flesh and bones, but is a personage of Spirit. Were it not so, the Holy Ghost could not dwell in us.*” All of this is just further proof that Mormonism does not know or teach the Jesus of the Bible (see 2 Cor. 11:3-4). Lord help them!

In Another article from this same magazine, Elder Richard G. Scott (one of Mormonism’s “Twelve Apostles”) spoke on “The Joy of Redeeming the Dead”. While most of the article was rubbish, I will just share one paragraph that was very troublesome to me: “*Do you young people **want a sure way to eliminate the influence of the adversary in your life?** Immerse yourself in searching for your ancestors, prepare their names for the sacred vicarious ordinances available in the temple, and then go to the temple to stand as proxy for them to receive the ordinances of baptism and the gift of the Holy Ghost. As you grow older, you will be able to participate in receiving the other ordinances as well. **I can think of no greater protection from the influence of the adversary in your life.***” (p.94, my emphasis).

How sad that these youth are not only strongly urged to participate in this unbiblical practice, but then they are taught that if they obey, it will “*eliminate the influence of the adversary*” in their lives. Once again

it is *works*, not the Lord that will protect them, what cruel deception!

THE BIBLE VS THE BOOK OF MORMON

(Which One Do You Believe?)

- BIBLE:** At the tower of Babel the Lord confounded “the language of **all** the earth” (Gen. 11:9)
- B.O.M:** At the tower of Babel the Lord confounded the language of the earth **except** the language of Jared, his brother, their friends, and their families. (Ether 1:35-37).
- BIBLE:** Christ’s Church and the gospel would **never completely disappear** from the earth, thus having to be restored (Matt. 16:18, Eph. 3:21, Heb. 12:28, Jude 3, Ps. 12:6-7, Ps. 100:5). The Word of God will “never pass away” (Matt. 24:35, 1 Pet. 1:24-25, Isa. 40:8).
- B.O.M:** The “great and abominable church” has “taken away from the gospel of the lamb many parts which are plain and most precious...” and “...there are many plain and precious things taken away from the book, which is the book of the Lamb of God.” (1 Nephi 13:26, 28).
- BIBLE:** Jesus the Messiah was born in **Bethlehem:** “Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea...” (Matt. 2:1).
- B.O.M:** “And behold, he shall be born of Mary, at **Jerusalem** which is the land of our forefathers...” (Alma 7:10).
- BIBLE:** Believers in Christ “were called Christians **first** in Antioch.” (Acts 11:26).
- B.O.M:** The book of Alma, which is claimed to have been written in 73 B.C., calls believers “Christians” (Alma 46:15).
- BIBLE:** Melchisedec was “without father, without mother...” (Heb. 7:1-3).
- B.O.M:** The book of Alma says that Melchisedec “did reign under his father.” (Alma 13:18).
- BIBLE:** The fall of Adam resulted in **sorrow** for mankind (Gen. 3:9-19, Ps. 51:5, Rom. 5:12).

B.O.M: Adam's fall was necessary for mankind to have children and have **joy** (2 Nephi 2:22-25)

Of course Mormons have excuses for these type of errors and contradictions; however, when examined closely, their explanations are weak and quickly fall apart. We have an excellent DVD here at the EMFJ Center, "The Bible vs. The Book of Mormon". If interested you can contact us and request it for a suggested donation of \$10.00 (plus shipping would be helpful).

FROM OUR LOG BOOK

We keep a daily "log book" of the activities that occur each day. Following is just a few current ones:

"S.M. called - I talked with her a few months ago regarding her son who married a Mormon and after many years he finally converted to Mormonism. She said we were extremely helpful and is coming over to to our Center to talk."

"M. came in, she has an 18 year old daughter that wants to be baptized into the Mormon church. Her daughter fell for a Mormon boy...M. shared a letter her daughter wrote to her parents asking for their "support" of her decision. She said she has prayed about it "with a sincere heart and real intent" and

got a definite answer & she knows the church is true."

"A girl called from Calgary, Canada who is a Mormon but is doubting (she got our number from the web). She has already written her letter to have her records removed but is a little afraid to send it. All of her friends are Mormon and she feels she might lose them...When she went to the temple to do baptism's for the dead, she didn't like the feeling she got in there..."

"Received a call from C.C. from Los Angeles - not a very nice call, he ended it by saying, 'I hope you guys die.'"

"Phil Spry, a Pastor in N.C. asked for a copy of our ex-communication letter to send to an Evangelical Church in Utah that he is helping. We had a good talk. One of his father's relatives was the 3rd Governor of Utah, William Spry."

SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

We hold monthly support group meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. These gatherings include a mini-lesson, testimony of an ex-Mormon, 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 240 W. Chapman Avenue in Orange and we look forward to seeing you there.

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

