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NEWSLETTER ~ JULY/AUGUST 2011

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



### FROM CHAR'S DESK

We recently received an E-Mail from a Christian girl in New Zealand telling us she started dating a Mormon young man that she thought was a Christian as he loved the Lord and they even studied the Bible together. However, when he started telling her what he believed, she was horrified so she started investigating Mormonism and found out that their doctrines were contrary to what she believed as a Christian. She said that Jesus comes first in her life so she wants to break up with him but is finding this very difficult as she has fallen in love with him.

This is why we, at Ex-Mormons for Jesus, believe it is very important for Christian Churches to educate their congregations on the beliefs of Mormonism, especially their young people as a precaution against stories like the above. We are here to facilitate in this so if you would like us to share at your church, please let your Pastor know.

### Jenell's Jots & Tittles

#### MORMON'S SACRED GARMENTS WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

It looks like we will be having a couple of Mormon candidates up for our next presidential election. However, it is interesting to note that when interviewed, Mitt Romney, a leading GOP candidate, has made it very clear that he will not address any questions regarding his faith. Politically, he is probably being wise to side-step this issue but people who may know little or nothing about Mormonism may now be more curious than previously.

Mormonism has many peculiarities, but one of their most peculiar may be their "sacred garments" (underwear). From the booklet "What's Going On In Their?" by Chuck Sackett, an ex-Mormon Temple worker, we read: *"Every Mormon who 'receives his Endowments' (including all Mormon missionaries) is dressed by a temple worker in the 'Garment of the Holy Priesthood' which he is required to wear day and night, 365 days a year, until he is buried in it...Originally these resembled old-fashioned 'long johns,' though they are now cut off at knee-length and are short-sleeved...Closer examination reveals a pair of button-holes over the right breast sewn in the form of a square...Over the left breast a pair of button-holes in the form of a compass...One button-type hole over the navel...and an identical hole over the right knee...In spite of vehement denials by LDS leaders, there is a direct link between the rites, symbols, signs, handclasps, and penalties of the Masonic Lodges...and those of the temple endowments of Mormonism."* (pp.12-13, my emphasis)

The temple patron is further told that these garments "will be a shield and a protection to you from the

(Continued on page 2)

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*power of the destroyer until you have finished your work on the earth...". Thus the garment serves as a magic talisman to the temple patron, and is to be his source of protection from the power of Satan throughout his lifetime. The patron is instructed that when the garment is worn out, he must cut the Priesthood markings off of it and burn them, after which the garment can be used for rags or for any other purpose. Thus we see that the magical 'power' is in the Priesthood markings.*" (ibid.p.13).

Mormons take their garments, as well as the covenants made in their temples very seriously (and yes, Mitt Romney is a "temple Mormon"). It is sad to see Mormons put so much faith and trust in that which is unchristian. A Christian's protective armor is clearly spelled out in Ephesians 6:10-18, and what a blessing this is compared to the Mormon counterpart. While all Christians should have a desire to witness truth to these dear people, we must be careful to never ridicule that which they hold as sacred, but rather share the truth in love.

## FOR A MORMON TO CONSIDER

The famous evangelist, D. L. Moody, once said: *"The best way to show that a stick is crooked is not to argue about it, but to lay a straight stick along side it"*. Of course the Bible is a "straight stick" for Christians, but when we try and use it to show a Mormon the errors and problems of Mormonism, we often hear them say something to the tune of, *"the Bible is the word of God only as far as it is translated correctly"* (a paraphrase of their eighth "Article Of Faith"). By this they mean that they don't have to face the inconsistencies of Mormonism with the Bible because of their belief that it has been tampered with by man and many *"plain and precious things"* (1 Nephi 13:26-28) have been altered or removed from it. Following are some important things we would like a Mormon to consider regarding this.

First, we can ask them why they still use the K.J.V. of the Bible while believing that it has been compromised? After all, they do have another choice and that is, of course, the JOSEPH SMITH'S "NEW TRANSLATION" OF THE BIBLE. This unique "version" is accepted by their leaders and in the "Preface To The First Edition" it says: *"As concerning*

*the manner of translation and correction, it is evident, from the manuscripts and the testimony of those who were conversant with the facts, that it was done by direct revelation from God. It was begun in June, 1830, and was finished July 2, 1833"* (My emphasis). So why would any responsible person use a so-called polluted and defiled version over a *"direct revelation from God"* version?

Second, unlike the Mormon God, the Christian's God is more than capable of keeping His word in tact and has foreseen to address this issue. Just a couple of examples are: *"The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O Lord, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever."* (Ps.12:6-7)

*"For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."* (1 Pet.1:24-25)

The fact that our current Bibles are reliable and accurate come from many other sources, such as archaeology, fulfilled prophecies, the Dead Sea scrolls, historical accuracy, etc. For anyone really interested, there is an abundance of information on this subject. Some however, would rather believe in a "crooked stick" rather than research for themselves.

Last, we would like a Mormon to consider why even the "Introduction" to the Book of Mormon contradicts their belief in an untrustworthy Bible as follows: *"The Book of Mormon is a volume of holy scripture comparable to the Bible. It is a record of God's dealings with the ancient inhabitants of the Americas and contains, as does the Bible, the fullness of the everlasting gospel."* (My emphasis) . While there are many more points that can be addressed regarding this subject, this short treatise should be enough for any Mormon to see that their excuse for Mormonism's doctrine and theology not lining up to the Bible is just that, an excuse, but not a valid one.

The Bible is a weapon that Satan has no defense for. Obviously, it is he who would like to cast a suspicious and unfavorable light upon it in order to keep people from truth that could set them free – *"For the word of*

*God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”* (Heb.4:12)

## **CITATIONS OF CONCERN (From LDS Leaders)**

*“The crowning Gospel ordinance **requisite for Godhood** is celestial marriage. The doctrine of celestial marriage, as taught and practiced in the Church of Jesus Christ today, means temple marriage. It does not necessarily mean **plural marriage**, as some are prone to believe, although at times in Gospel history plural marriage has been included in the law of celestial marriage...”* (“The Gospel Through The Ages”, by Milton R. Hunter of the First Council Of The Seventy, p.118, my emphasis)

## **MORMONISM’S PRIESTHOODS (AN ASSUMPTION OR A RESTORATION?)**

**T**he Mormon Church claims to represent the Aaronic and Melchizedek Priesthoods, thus giving them a special status to preach and administer the “restored gospel” of Jesus Christ. However, the Bible teaches that the Aaronic order was abolished at the cross (Hebrews, chapters 7-10), and the Melchizedek Priesthood, as Mormons practice it, was never set forth in the Bible.

Disregarding these truths, Mormons are taught that priesthood authority was lost on earth after the death of Jesus’ twelve apostles thus resulting in a complete apostasy. Following are a couple of examples of this teaching:

*“Through Joseph [Smith], the gospel that Jesus established in New Testament times was brought back. It had been lost with the deaths of the Apostles of old. I can share with the world the knowledge that priesthood authority, the doctrine, and the ordinances of the New Testament church are once again on earth...”* (July 2008 “Ensign”, p.62)

*“...There were no legal administrators whose acts were binding on earth and in heaven. The gospel preached by Paul, and for which Peter died, was no*

*longer proclaimed from the pulpits of Christendom. In short, apostasy reigned supreme; it was universal, complete, all pervading. The religion of the lowly Nazarene was nowhere to be found. All sects, parties, and denominations had gone astray. Satan rejoiced and his angels laughed...”* (April 2005 “Ensign”, p.56)

Christians acknowledge that there was a general apostasy, however, they know it was never “universal, complete, all pervading”. There were 7,000 faithful in Elijah’s day, but he was unaware of them (1 Kings 19:13-18). And in Matthew 18:20, Jesus tells us – “*For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them*”. And again in Matthew He promised us that He would build His church and the gates of hell would not prevail against it (Matt.16:18).

Also, if the twelve Apostles had a priesthood (which they didn’t) and it got passed on through the laying on of hands, as Mormons now practice, why would the twelve have been so absent-minded and careless as to not have taken care of this before they all died?

True believers have a “royal priesthood” (1 Pet.2:9) under Christ our Great High Priest, and are made priests by Christ through His blood (Rev.1:5-6). Much like other Mormon teachings, their “priesthood authority” is nothing more than just a sad assumption rather than a glorious restoration!

## **MORE OPPOSITES**

**I**n our last newsletter, we shared some Mormon beliefs and doctrines that are in direct opposition to the Bible. Following is a few more taken from the book, “Mormons How God Loves Them”, by our director Charlotte Pardee (Bible references are taken from the NAS):

**BIBLE - First the natural, afterward the spiritual**: “*So also it is written, ‘The first man, Adam, became a living soul.’ The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual.*” (1 Cor.15:45-46)

**MORMONISM - First the spiritual, afterward the natural**: “*We had spirit bodies in pre-existence; these bodies are now housed temporarily in mortal tabernacles...*” (“Mormon Doctrine” by Bruce R. McConkie, p.750)

BIBLE - Man is made in God's image: *"And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."* (Gen.1:27)

MORMONISM - God is made in man's image: *"Joseph Smith said: 'God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man...I am going to tell you how God came to be God. We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea, and take away the veil, so that you may see.'"* ("Mormon Doctrine" by Bruce R. McConkie, p.321)

BIBLE - Man never pre-existed, only Jesus did: *"And He was saying to them, 'You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world.'" (John 8:23). "The first man [Adam] is of the earth, earthy; the second man [Jesus] is the Lord from heaven."* (1 Cor.15:47)

MORMONISM - Man pre-existed, along with Jesus: *"Pre-existence is the term commonly used to describe the pre-mortal existence of the spirit children of God the Father..."* ("Mormon Doctrine" by Bruce R. McConkie, p.589; also see "The Seer", p.158).

BIBLE - God is not married: Silence on the subject as it is unbiblical.

MORMONISM - God is married: *"The fleshly body of*

*Jesus required a Mother as well as a Father. Therefore, the Father and Mother of Jesus, according to the flesh, must have been associated together as Husband and Wife; hence the Virgin Mary must have been, for the time being, the lawful wife of God the Father...As God the Father begat the fleshly body of Jesus, so He, before the world began, begat his spirit. As the body required an earthly Mother, so his spirit required a heavenly Mother. As God associated in the capacity of a husband with the earthly mother, so likewise He associated in the same capacity with the heavenly one."* ("The Seer", pp 158-159)

References, Bible as well as Mormon sources, are not exhaustive. The above mentioned book by Charlotte Pardee is available to anyone who is interested. The suggested donation is \$12.00 plus 20% shipping.

## SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

We hold monthly support group meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**EX-MORMONS FOR JESUS**

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