

Ex-Mormons for
JESUS

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NEWSLETTER ~ MARCH/APRIL 2010

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



FROM CHAR'S DESK

Easter is the day Christians from all over the world commemorate the greatest religious celebration of all time, the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. If Jesus had not risen from the dead, none of His followers would either. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die" (Jn 11:25, 26). What an awesome promise!

What did Jesus mean when He said, "Believeth in Me?" We know He meant something other than just head knowledge belief because the Bible says the devils believe and tremble (James 2:19). To believe in Jesus means you put your faith in Him alone for your salvation. Afterwards you demonstrate your faith by your works. If you have saving faith, works will follow as night follows day but works will never save you. It is a gift of God

It is because Christ lived the perfect life for us, conquered death and rose again that we celebrate Easter. Let us rejoice evermore!!!

~ Jenell's Jots & Tittles ~

**YE SHALL KNOW THEM BY
THEIR FRUITS**

Many Christians that we encounter have been surprised to find out that most Mormons have

no problems with their consciences when it comes to being untruthful about their doctrines (or anything pertaining to Mormonism) if they think it will promote or benefit their church. It seems amazing that they can call themselves Christian while practicing this very un-Christian characteristic. Part of the answer, I believe, comes from the fact that Mormonism, being founded upon deception, is easily sustained by the same. We know the principle of reaping what was sowed, so we should not be surprised to find this kind of "fruit" being harvested from the garden of Mormonism.

As to Mormonism being founded on deception, there is a mountain of evidence that Smith and his successors lied about everything from his so-called "first vision" to his so-called martyrdom. And even if the average Mormon is not aware of this (which most are not), we can see this deceptive spirit permeating itself all through Mormonism.

One such example is found in their temple ceremony which includes the Genesis account of the fall of man.

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Thank You

The drama shows Lucifer convincing Eve that the only way to evolve spiritually is to eat of the forbidden fruit. Adam arrogantly chastises Eve and then declares his loyalty to “Father’s commandments”. She then asks him, “*Do you not recollect that Father commanded us to multiply and replenish the earth? I have partaken of the fruit and by so doing shall be cast out, and you will be left a lone man in the Garden of Eden.*” (“What’s Going On In There?” by Chuck Sackett, p.27)

Adam sees that he is caught in a most awkward dilemma – if he wants to *keep* God’s commandment and replenish the earth, he must *break* God’s commandment and eat the forbidden fruit. At this point Adam eats of the fruit “*that men might be*” (also see 2 Nephi 2:22-25). This corrupted and sad version of the Genesis account ends up making a noble sacrifice out of the first sin and teaches the Mormon people that the end result justifies the means. If it was permissible for Adam and Eve to disobey God’s commandment that good might come, then why not for all Mormons to do the same?

In regards to the point of Mormonism being sustained by deception, we only have to look at their “standard works” (KJV Bible, B.O.M., D&C and P.O.G.P.). There is not a single one that hasn’t undergone hundreds and even thousands of additions, deletions, and corrections, most without acknowledgment of any action ever having been taken. None of the dates are moved up to the time that the revisions were made and there is not a single heading or note in the *Book of Mormon, Doctrine & Covenants or Pearl of Great Price* that clues the readers in. It is not even acknowledged openly by the church leaders that such changes were ever made.

In doing this article we hope to accomplish three things. **First**, to help you see that Mormonism is not just a harmless off-shoot of Christianity. They are what Jesus warned about, “wolves in sheep’s clothing” (Matt.7:15) that need to have their beliefs exposed so that the innocent and uninformed not be taken in by them (Acts 20:28-29). **Second**, we hope this will better prepare you in witnessing to them. You might have to dig, prod, and challenge them in order to get straight answers, but don’t settle for less!

Third, become aware of the spiritual battle and pray accordingly (Eph.6:12-18).

*** SPECIAL REQUEST ***

You who have followed this ministry through the years, know that we do not make great pleas for donations. However, with the economy being what it is, our operating expenses are extremely low. We have always believed (and continue to do so) that if this ministry is the of the Lord He will keep it going. Therefore, if the Lord lays it upon your heart, please let us hear from you, thank you!

CITATIONS OF CONCERN (From LDS Leaders)

“*Counsel from President Ezra Taft Benson*” (1899-1994)
One who rationalizes that he or she has a testimony of Jesus Christ but cannot accept direction and counsel from the leadership of His church is in a fundamentally unsound position and is in jeopardy of losing exaltation” (Ensign, May 1982, p.64, reprinted in Ensign, July 1994, p.28).

TRANSLATION: It doesn’t matter if you think you have a testimony of Jesus or not. If you won’t accept and obey your church leaders, then your desire to become a God will be in jeopardy!

During his time of leadership in the LDS church, Benson also gave his infamous “Fourteen Fundamentals In Following The Prophet” speech. A few of his points were as follows: (1) *The prophet is the only man who speaks for the Lord in everything.* (2) *The living prophet is more vital to us than the standard works of the church [this includes the Bible].* (3) *The prophet will never lead the Church astray.* (4) *The prophet does not have to say, “Thus saith the Lord” to give us scripture.* (5) *The prophet is not limited by men’s reasoning.* (6) *The living prophet and the First Presidency – follow them and be blessed; reject them and suffer.*

Putting this type of fear and pressure on their people keeps them from *testing* a prophet as the Bible directs us to do (see 1John 4:1; 1 Thess.5:20-21; Deut.18:20-22, etc.). It also eliminates the ability to heed Biblical

warnings regarding a false prophet (Matt.7:15, Matt.24:11&24; Acts 13:6-10; 2 Pet.2:1-3, etc.). No true man of God would ever require this type of blind obedience from their people!

TAKING TIME TO TEST THE MESSAGE

In seeking converts, one of the main selling points Mormons use is to tell people that their church has scriptures that were revealed in **modern times**. Sadly, some uninformed and naive souls are impressed with this idea and join the Mormon church because of it. Yet how strange that the *Book of Mormon*, the very thing that convinces some that Mormonism is true, is one of the very things which exposes it as being a false, man-made religion – if they would only take the time to check it out!

If we had the opportunity to sit down with each potential convert to Mormonism **before** they got indoctrinated, it would be a fairly easy task to make our point (it is much easier to keep a person from joining a cult than to get them out after the socialization and thought control process has been established). Some of the things we would ask them to consider would be:

1. Where is the archaeological support for the *Book of Mormon*? Mormonism teaches that the Bible is untrustworthy yet we know of the cities and peoples it speaks of. On the other hand, Mormonism cannot point a person to one *Book of Mormon* city or coinage. No sample of the “reformed Egyptian” language (Mormon 9:32) has ever been uncovered. Biblical artifacts from about 2000 B.C. have been found, yet the major period covered by the *Book of Mormon* extended from only 600 B.C. to 421 A.D. and not one thing relating to this “modern day scripture” has turned up!

2. Why does the *Book of Mormon* fail to teach LDS doctrine? For example, one can search in vain for a verse that teaches that men can become gods, that God has a body, three degrees of heaven, baptism for the dead, marriage for eternity, etc.

3. Why does some of their later scripture contradict

their former scripture? For instance, *Doctrine and Covenants* 130:3 says: “*John 14:23 – The appearing of the Father and the Son, in that verse, is a personal appearance; and the idea that the Father and the Son dwell in a man’s heart is an old sectarian notion, and is false.*” Yet the *Book of Mormon* says: “*And this I know, because the Lord hath said he dwelleth not in unholy temples, but in the hearts of the righteous doth he dwell...*” (Alma 34:36).

We can’t meet with everyone who is considering Mormonism but it is our prayer that by passing this information on to you, you will be better equipped to witness and a few more souls may be snatched from the fire (Jude 23). In regards to the first point above, we have an **excellent** DVD which shows the archeological reliability of the Bible compared to the complete lack of the same when it comes to the *Book of Mormon*. For any donation to this ministry, please ask for “The Bible vs The Book of Mormon”.

CHARLOTTE’S THREE POISONS

When our director, Charlotte Pardee, was first asked by a Mormon to read the *Book of Mormon*, she came across what she calls three spiritual poisons that are deadly....

First: “*And after they go forth by the hand of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, from the Jews unto the Gentiles, thou seest the formation of that great and abominable church, which is most abominable above all other churches; for behold, they have taken away from the gospel of the Lamb [meaning the Bible] many parts which are plain and most precious; and also many covenants of the Lord have they taken away.*” (1 Nephi 13:26). If this “poison” is accepted, one would not put much trust in God’s Word the Bible and she believes that was the intent of the author.

Second: “*And because my words shall hiss forth—many of the Gentiles shall say: A Bible! A Bible! We have got a Bible, and there cannot be any more Bible. Wherefore, because that ye have a Bible ye need not suppose that it contains all my words; neither need ye suppose that I have not caused more to be written.*” (2 Nephi 29:3, 10). This was supposedly written between 559 and 545 B.C. In our scriptures, both the Old and

New Testaments, you will never hear them use the word "Bible" because that word was not used yet. This "poison" would open a door for people to accept whatever "more" was written without a shred of objective or historical proof.

Third: *"And when ye shall receive these things [the Book of Mormon], I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost."* (Moroni 10:5). God never asked us to pray a prayer like this regarding the New Testament so why would He ask us to pray a prayer like that regarding *another* Testament of Jesus Christ? When Mormons do as this verse suggests, many get some sort of manifestation, or *feeling* that this book is true. The danger of accepting this last "poison" comes from not knowing about deceitful spirits (1 Tim.4:1 & 1 John 4:1), or even of one's own heart being able to deceive them (Jer.17:9 & Deut.11:16)!

HE IS RISEN

We once again come to that glorious time of year when Christians, the world over, celebrate the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. We rejoice in knowing that He was willing to humble Himself and lay aside His right to deity in order to redeem us (Phil.2:6-8). A sacrifice for sin had to be made, and so we come to the cross...He who knew no sin was made to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (2Cor.5:21).

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Only through the blood of God's spotless sacrificial lamb could we be redeemed and gain what was lost through our oldest ancestors, Adam and Eve.

The resurrection of Jesus is our guarantee that death is no longer the victor, that sin has been conquered, and that the devil has been defeated. Those who believe in the True Jesus and confess Him as Lord and believe that God raised Him from the dead will have eternal life (**not** exaltation, or godhood, as Mormonism teaches) rather than eternal punishment.

Our resurrection life follows and continues, the best is yet to come...The paradise we lost and yearn for is just around the corner. This life is temporal, the eternal is coming. We hope that you, our Christian readers, will share what Easter means to you with the unsaved that you know. *"But He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God"* (Heb.10:12 NAS).

...He Is Risen Indeed!

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-A W. Chapman Ave. in Orange and we look forward to seeing you there.

