

JESUS

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



FROM CHAR'S DESK

As December approaches, we often hear people say, "I can't believe it's Christmas time already!" We even may be guilty of saying that very same thing ourselves. However, we should be grateful as this is the time we have the opportunity to tell everyone about Jesus. It may be the only time many of them ever hear His Name mentioned. The world has tried to remove God and His Name from our midst but they never will. Jesus said in His word, "Upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it." (Matt.16:18).

Satan can raise up all the false religions he wants to but they will never be able to stop those of us who are of His church as we are built upon Jesus Christ, the Rock. This Holy Season let us share that "the reason for the season is JESUS," with everyone we meet as He came to pay a price He did not owe because we owed a price we could not pay. Have a Blessed Christmas and a productive New Year by sharing Him to a lost world!

~ Jenell's Jots & Tittles ~

MORMONISM BEAUTY & THE BEAST

The phrase "beauty is only skin deep" is a very suitable one for describing Mormonism. The beauty side (that which originally attracts a convert) are things like having close families, their charitable ways, being able to redeem dead loved ones, being a family unit for eternity, removing the unpleasant

aspect of hell and offering a god made in man's image. Author Mark J. Cares said of Mormonism: "*Underneath lurks a hideous monster that has slowly enslaved and now is steadily tormenting many Mormons. Few religions better fit Jesus' picture of false prophets as ferocious wolves wearing sheep's clothing...*" ("Speaking the Truth In Love to Mormons", p.148). As scripture warns, Satan will not show his true self, rather he "*disguises himself as an angel of light*" (2 Cor.11:14).

If our Mormon friends were really sincere, they should ask us questions like "*would you like to know how to become a god?*", instead of offering us a free Book of Mormon and instructing us to read and then pray about it. We would then have a better (and more honest) idea as to what they believe, not just merely the surface image they wish to project. Or if they would tell us that they believe God was once a man who worked His way up to godhood (as did His Father before Him, and so on); and we can, through certain works *earn* salvation, rather than telling us about their "family home evening plan", we would again have a better understanding of the true spirit behind Mormonism.

(Continued on page 2)

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



One might wonder why Mormonism's theology and doctrine is intentionally left out (and even often denied) when trying to convince someone to join their group. After all, shouldn't doctrine be the most relevant aspect in making the decision? A Mormon would probably say (as we have often heard) that a prospective convert is only ready for milk, not meat. But the more honest answer is that they know their unscriptural, heretical teachings would scare off even the most naive. They must first put out the bait and after one is "hooked" then they will, little by little, learn some of their true beliefs.

Besides our own personal experiences as ex-Mormons, we have talked to numerous other former Mormons who tell us they became disillusioned once they were fully plugged into the system. Many, especially those with a Christian background, eventually find their way out but there are those who remain because they have given it their all. Denial seems to occur when people have sacrificed so much that they feel a need to see things not as they are, but as they *want* them to be. The beast is not easy to swallow, but by not seeing the whole picture, one small bite at a time is fairly easy to handle. The deceptive spirits behind Mormonism count on that!

CITATIONS OF CONCERN

(From LDS Leaders)

"Are all the families of Israel and every woman striving herself to play well her part and reverence her husband as her lord; for he is her lord...Do you uphold your husband before God as your lord? 'What!—my husband to be my lord?' I ask, Can you get into the celestial kingdom without him? Have any of you been there? You will remember that you never got into the celestial kingdom without the aid of your husband. If you did, it was because your husband was away, and some one had to act proxy for him. No woman will get into the celestial kingdom, except her husband receives her, if she is worthy to have a husband; and if not, somebody will receive her as a servant." (LDS Apostle, Erastus Snow, "Journal of Discourses", Vol.5, p.291)

Mormons strongly believe that they are right and everyone outside of their faith is wrong. Therefore, their beliefs must be shaken before the truth of God's Word can take effect and convict them that the only way of salvation is based on God's grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ alone. From time to time we give you, our readers, questions that might help this process along.

This month we suggest you ask your LDS acquaintances why their scripture pronounces blessings upon Judas Iscariot in the following prophecy? *"And again, verily, verily, I say unto you, and it hath gone forth in a firm decree, by the will of the Father, that **mine apostles, the Twelve which were with me in my ministry at Jerusalem, shall stand at my right hand at the day of my coming in a pillar of fire, being clothed with robes of righteousness, with crowns upon their heads, in glory even as I am, to judge the whole house of Israel, even as many as have loved me and kept my commandments and none else.**"* (D&C 29:12, my emphasis)

Although our Lord does state that there would be twelve Apostles with him in Heaven (i.e. Matt.19:28), we definitely know that Judas Iscariot will not be one of those twelve - *"The Son of Man is to go, just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that Man if he had not been born. And Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, surely it is not I, Rabbi? He said to him, you have said it yourself."* (Matt.26:24-25 NAS).

Again, lets read the words of Jesus as recorded in John 17:12: *"While I was with them, I was keeping them in Thy name which Thou hast given Me; and I guarded them, and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled."* However, the exact wording of D&C 29:12 obviously is including this "son of perdition". I find it quite troublesome to read in Mormon scripture that Judas Iscariot will someday be clothed in robes of righteousness, wearing a crown, having the same glory as the Lord, and be at His right hand!

COMPARING JESUS WITH JOSEPH SMITH

In the eyes of a Christian, trying to compare our Lord with any man is nothing short of blasphemy and totally ridiculous! John the Baptist knew this - "... but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals..." (Matt.3:11); Jesus' disciples knew it - "Jesus said therefore to the twelve, you do not want to go away also, do you? Simon Peter answered Him, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. And we have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God." (John 6:67-69); and Jesus proclaimed it - "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." (Rev.22:13).

However, in believing that Jesus is merely their older brother, one that has just got a head start on them, most Mormons have no problem with statements like this one from Brigham Young: "Well, now, examine the character of the Savior, and examine the characters of those who have written the Old and New Testaments; and then compare them with the character of Joseph Smith....and you will find that his character stands as fair as that of any man's mentioned in the Bible..." (Journal of Discourses, Vol.14, p.203).

Nor do they have a problem in worshipping Joseph Smith through song, such as "Praise to the Man", which includes such lines as - "Jesus anointed that Prophet and Seer. Blessed to open the last dispensation, Kings shall extol him and nations revere...Long shall his [Joseph's] blood, which was shed by assassins, Plead unto heaven while the earth lauds his fame." (HYMNS, THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, p.147).

Even Joseph Smith himself had no qualm in saying, "...I have more to boast of than ever any man had. I am the only man that has ever been able to keep a whole church together since the days of Adam. A large majority of the whole have stood by me. Neither Paul, John, Peter, **nor Jesus** ever did it. I boast that no man ever did such a work as I..." (History of the Church, Vol.6, pp. 408-409, my emphasis).

A true prophet of God would never think of making such a statement! In 1 Cor.1:31, the Apostle Paul reminded the church at Corinth what the Prophet Jeremiah had to say regarding boasting: "Thus says the Lord, let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me..." (Jer.9:23-24).

Mormonism today would rather the average person didn't know this, and would probably even deny putting Joseph Smith on par with Jesus, however, this is what they often do. And with that kind of teaching, is it any wonder that they do not feel a need for a personal Savior or seek the free gift of salvation, the forgiveness of their sins through the shed blood of the sinless Jesus? Christians, please be bold and take every opportunity to share with your Mormon acquaintances.

OOPS

Mormon scripture seems to be telling us that Jesus Christ had a son as follows: "...I, the Lord God, should send forth angels to declare unto them repentance and redemption, through faith on the name of mine Only Begotten Son." (D&C 29:42).

Unlike the Bible, which we have both Greek and Hebrew to help us to determine the most correct translation into English, the Mormon church has absolutely nothing to support their translations. Therefore, many Mormons will attempt to explain away the above verse by simply stating that sometimes the term Lord God not only applies to the Son, Jesus Christ, but also to the Father.

That might be an acceptable explanation in some cases, but not this one. Going back to verse one of Chapter 29, we are clearly told **who** the speaker of this chapter is: "Listen to the voice of Jesus Christ, your Redeemer, the Great I AM, whose arm of mercy hath atoned for your sins;". Throughout the rest of chapter 29, we find that Jesus is the one continuing to speak so when we get to verse 42 it makes the **son** of Jesus the object of Mormon faith!

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE

“I have felt for many years to pray for the Latter Day Saints (sic). If God can turn around the Worldwide Church of Christ, he can certainly do the same for LDS. Somehow, I feel as though I lack the knowledge of how to pray effectively toward that end. Can you give me some direction? Thank you very much for your time. K.J.”

“Dear K.J. We were so happy to hear you have a burden to pray for the dear Latter-day Saints. They need our prayers very much! I Believe all things are possible with God but I believe it would be almost impossible for the Mormons to give up their added unbiblical teachings such as the Book of Mormon, their temples, their teachings regarding genealogy, becoming Gods, Jesus and Lucifer are spirit-brothers, their General Authorities, etc. The Worldwide Church of God didn't have so much baggage.

I have led many Mormons out of the church and I have done it through the guidance of the Holy Spirit by sharing what their past apostles and prophets have taught right out of their own books. Most Mormons do not know many of these unbiblical teachings as they learn to follow whatever the prophet tells them without checking him out.

I believe the best way to effectively pray for the dear, deceived Mormons is to intercede on their behalf before God, even to the point of fasting. God loves them and hears our intercession. God bless you, Charlotte Pardee, Director”

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

THE TRUE COST OF ADMISSION

The following quote is from a recent Mormon publication: *“President Packer emphasized that ‘ordinances and covenants become our credentials for admission into [God’s] presence. To worthily receive them is the quest of a lifetime; to keep them thereafter is the challenge of mortality.’”* (Oct.2010 “Ensign”, Special Issue on LDS Temples, p.50, my emphasis)

It is quite sad to see Mormons trying to sell “ordinances and covenants” as their admission price into God’s presence when the Bible tells us nothing but the blood of Jesus will do. We pray Christians will use every opportunity to share this truth with them!

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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.

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