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



FROM CHAR'S DESK

I never cease to marvel at Mormonism. I know they claim to be the only true church with the restored gospel but how can that be when they keep changing their beliefs? I think if anything needs restoring it is the Mormon Church! I recall the first missionaries that came to my door back in 1964. They told me that Christianity went into total apostasy and the Mormon Church was the only true church on the earth. I think if Joseph Smith came back to the earth today, he wouldn't even recognize his "only true church."

What the Mormon missionaries taught me back in the 60's, today's missionaries deny! Back then you could call a Mormon a "Mormon" but not today. Now they want to be referred to as Christians because of the name of their church. Back then, they called me a "Gracer." Now they use the term "grace." Back then, it was a decree of the Lord that the Negro would never hold the priesthood until all the Gentiles came in. Today, they can hold the priesthood regardless. Back then, I told them they needed a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Today, they ask ME if I have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Back then, they pushed the Book of Mormon. Today, they push the Bible and even give it away free on T.V. I could go on and on but has Mormonism really changed or are they just being hypocrites, which is it? Ask your Mormon friends.

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God loves everyone, but probably prefers "fruits of the spirit" over "religious nuts!"

~Jenell's Jots & Tittles~

"THE BIBLE IS NOT A SUFFICIENT GUIDE" ??

In 1843, LDS President Orson Hyde made the following statement: *"The words contained in this Bible are merely a history of what is gone by; it was never given to guide the servant of God in the course he should pursue, any more than the words and commandments of God, given to a generation under one set of circumstances, would serve for another generation under another set of circumstances...The Bible is not a sufficient guide; it is only the history of the people who lived 1800 years ago.."* (Journal of Discourses, Vol.2, p.75).

President Hyde is, of course, only echoing that which the "Book of Mormon" espouses – *"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 29:10; also see 1 Nephi 13:24-28). I believe this type of rhetoric is meant to give an excuse for the fact that

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



Mormonism's teachings are not found in the Bible, as well as conveniently establishing a need for additional scriptures.

Once the seed is planted regarding the Bible being an insufficient guide, where is a person to go for the truth? Mormons are left wide open for any absurd teachings their leaders come up with and they are asked to accept those teachings with no more proof than a *feeling*! It seems as if the Apostle Paul foresaw this – *“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths.”* (2 Tim.4:3-4)

EXTRA-BIBLICAL REVELATIONS LEADS TO CONFUSION & HERESY

Mormons are continually indoctrinated with the idea that their modern day revelations give them a great advantage over the Christian world as to God, man's existence, and the mysteries of life. We quote from the January 1998 *Ensign* as a good example of this on-going propaganda: *“...through the blessings of additional scriptures, including the Joseph Smith Translation, and through what we learn in the temple and in the teachings of living prophets, we have answers to many fundamental questions that come to mind as one studies the Bible.”* (p.14)

The article goes on to tell of a man who was about to enter the “ministry” but became disillusioned because of “so many unanswered questions”. Some time later, Mormon missionaries “found him” and he joined the LDS faith where “he found answers which explained to his full satisfaction the deep questions that had left him unable to accept ordination as a clergyman.” Such a story is hard to believe for their “latter-day revelations” often pose more problems and questions than they clear up. For example, in speaking of “premortals life”, this same article states:

“This doctrine of premortals life was known to ancient Christians. For nearly five hundred years the doctrine was taught, but it was then rejected as a heresy by a clergy that had slipped into the Dark Ages of apostasy...Once they rejected this doctrine, the doctrine of premortals life, and the doctrine of redemption for the dead, they could never unravel the mystery of life...There is no way to make sense out of life without a knowledge of the doctrine of premortals life. The idea that mortals birth is the beginning is preposterous. There is no way to explain life if you believe that...We know from latter-day revelation that our existence did not begin with our birth on this earth and that we are eternal beings (see D&C 93:29). We are the sons and daughters of God the Father—his spirit children (see Heb.12:9, D&C76:24)...All human beings—male and female are created in the image of God. Each is a beloved spirit son or daughter of heavenly parents, and, as such, each has a divine nature and destiny...” (p.15)

But if this were true, that man came into being only through heavenly parentage, who produced the **first** god and his wife? And why does a **flesh and bone** mother and father god produce **spirit** offspring? As you can see, their extra-Biblical information introduces absurd doctrines such as God being married and having wives, Jesus and Satan being spirit brothers, man having a “divine nature and destiny” (becoming a god), polytheism and a whole host of other heretical beliefs. It creates a god made in man's image who is ultimately stripped of divine power and attributes.

It is very sad to see so many people duped into believing that Mormonism brings them into the light when just the opposite is true. God's revelation of Himself, of man and our relationship to Him is clearly and perfectly revealed in his word, the Bible. From this most sufficient source we know that **only** Christ pre-existed. Jesus said to the Jews – *“You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world”* (John 8:23 NAS - also see John 3:31 & 1 Cor.15:45-47). We become children of God at conversion (John 1:12), through adoption (Gal.4:5, Eph.1:5). What a blessing Christians have in knowing that our Bible is a lamp unto our feet and a light upon our path (Ps.119:105) and we need no other!

RELIGION VS. RELATIONSHIP

Satan's primary concern is not just to corrupt morals or even produce enemies of religion. In fact "religion", that institution which rests upon the assumption of gaining human adequacy and sufficiency, is exactly what Satan tries to promote. In speaking to the religious leaders of His day, Jesus had the following to say, however, I have replaced the "scribes and Pharisees" with a modern day version of the same:

"You blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel! Woe to you, Mormons, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence. You blind Mormon, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also. Woe to you, Mormons, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. Even so you too outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness." (Matt.23:24-28 NAS)

The names may have changed, but Mormonism is much like the religious systems Jesus disliked when he walked this earth. These people are so busy with religion that they don't see their need for a personal relationship with the One who has offered Himself as a sacrifice for them. They don't understand that righteousness can only come through Jesus, not laws and ordinances, and are trying to please God by cleaning "the outside of the cup".

Jesus called them "blind" and was of course referring to spiritual blindness. In 2 Cor.4:4 we read of "the god of this world" blinding the minds of the unbelieving that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ. Of course the good news is that "whenever a man turns to the Lord, the veil [blindness] is taken away" (2 Cor.3:16 NAS). Don't ever give up on praying for and witnessing to your Mormon friends and family!

FALSIFYING REVELATIONS

The "Doctrine and Covenants" (D&C) are regarded

as scripture by our Mormon friends. It contains revelations which were supposedly given by God to Joseph Smith and a few other early LDS leaders. These revelations were first printed in what was called the "Book of Commandments", (BOC) in 1833. Chapter 1:7 of the BOC, as well as Section 1:37,38 of D&C, makes the following claim as to the faithfulness of those revelations:

"Search these commandments, for they are true and faithful, and the prophecies and promises which are in them, shall all be fulfilled. What I the Lord have spoken, I have spoken, and I excuse not myself; and though the heavens and the earth pass away, my word shall not pass away..."

However, we find that such was not the case for over 2,800 word changes have been made in those "revelations". For instance, Chapter 4:2 of the original BOC made this statement concerning Joseph Smith and the "Book of Mormon" (BOM):

"...and he has a gift to translate the book, and I have commanded him that he shall pretend to no other gift, for I will grant him no other gift."

Later, when Smith "pretended" to the gift of translating the Bible and then the Book of Abraham, rather than receiving a new revelation concerning "other gifts", the above revelation was changed. With words added and deleted, the revelation now claims that the translation of the BOM would merely be the "first gift" and Smith would not receive another gift "until my purpose is fulfilled in this" (D&C 5:4).

Another example of the revelations being falsified is found in Chapter 6 of the BOC which contains 143 words. The heading in its equivalent, now found in Section 7 of D&C, claims this revelation was translated from parchment by means of the "Urim and Thummim". However, we can see that the revelation has grown from its original 143 words to the current which now has 252 words! One might wonder how Smith, who could not even translate a three verse passage correctly with the Urim and Thummim, could be trusted with the nearly 600 pages of the BOM that were translated the same way?

We don't see how any excuses Mormons might like to

make for these changes could hold up in light of what their tenth president, Joseph Fielding Smith, had to say: *“There is a beautiful thread of consistency running through the scheme of gospel restoration...Inspiration is discovered in the fact that each part, as it was revealed, dovetailed perfectly with what had come before. There was no need for eliminating, changing, or adjusting any part to make it fit; but each new revelation on doctrine and priesthood fitted in its place perfectly to complete the whole structure, as it had been prepared by the Master Builder...”* (Doctrines of Salvation, Vol.1, p.170)

When a group of men who claim they are led by God have no conscience when it comes to falsifying their own revelations, we can get a glimpse at what they are capable of. Be not deceived, Mormonism is a dangerous cult!

BOOK REPORT

We have good news for those of you who have read “A Mormon’s Unexpected Journey”(Vol.1) by Carma Naylor. Now, picking up where she left off, Carma continues her compelling story as she compares Mormonism to the true gospel of Jesus Christ in this second volume. For any of you who might have missed her first book, I share the following from the jacket cover: *Carma Naylor’s Mormon roots go back to the early history of Mormonism when her great-great-grandparents were*

among the pioneers who walked from Iowa City to the great Salt Lake Basin, pulling their possessions in a wooden handcart. Carma loved her Mormon heritage and lifestyle, and was deeply committed to faithfully serving her church. She fulfilled a full-time mission to New Zealand, met her husband at Brigham Young University, was married in the Salt Lake temple, and had eight children. Her story, written from her heart, shares openly some of her family’s struggles.”

For those who have Mormon family, or if you just need to understand the mind set of these people, or desire to know how to witness to them, this book will be most beneficial. Pastor Chuck Smith, founder of the worldwide Calvary Chapel movement stated that it was *“A must read for any who have wondered what Mormonism is all about.”* It can be ordered here at the EMFJ Center for a suggested donation of \$15 or you can find it on the internet.

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 240A W. Chapman Avenue in Orange and we look forward to seeing you there.

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