

February 1, 2007

## H.I.S. Ministries February Newsletter, covering January 2007

Happy February to you. When we get past January it seems that Spring is right around the corner, and that brings joy and hope and brightens our days, right?

These last few months here in Utah, regardless of media informing about “global warming”, have been the coldest months in years. But now we can look forward to warming weather, and reduce our high heating bills.

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Serving the true God or false gods is a choice people have to make. Our mission among Mormons is to call them *to come out from Mormonism and its false gods and false Jesus and worship true God of the Bible and be saved.*

Please open your Bible (Joshua 24:1-13) and read how Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel, with their leaders, together to Shechem and called them to repentance. He reminded Israel what the God of their fathers had done for them. Joshua gave them a history lesson from the time of Abraham to that day they were now living, when they had, again, fallen into a false-god worship. Joshua continued (verses 14-15) and said to them, “*Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve Him in sincerity and truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, CHOOSE YOU THIS DAY WHOM YOU WILL SERVE; whether the gods which your fathers served...or the gods of Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: BUT AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD.*” This is what we too must do: Let Mormons know who the True God of the Bible is, and then ask them to choose whom they want to serve, God of the Bible or gods of Joseph Smith and Mormonism. They cannot choose unless they know the difference.

We are often told that talking about doctrine and who God is, and who Jesus really is, is too divisive and not loving! Some suggest that if we’d “just talk more about Jesus”, but not focus on differences, Jesus will straighten them out!

But in actuality the silence of the differences, who Jesus is and who God is, has allowed Mormonism to become “*the fastest growing religion in the world*”. Many say that all we need to do is love them, be their friend and live lives of example, while their membership grows. Is that it? As a former Mormon, I can tell you that I did not know then that Jesus of Mormonism is not same person as Jesus of the Bible. After all Mormons use the same biblical stories when talking about Jesus.

When they hear us talk about Jesus, they assume that *we are on the same page*, so to speak. Mormons attending their Sunday School and their sacrament meetings, hear the name of Jesus at least at the end each talk, but they do not learn there that the “Jesus” they talk about is not the same Jesus we, as biblical Christians, know, even though their leaders have admitted that Jesus they follow is not Jesus of traditional Christianity. How are they to know the difference if we do not tell them? Can “another Jesus” save them? NO. The biblical advice is to take them to the Word of God, that was given to us for “*doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness*” (2 Tim. 3:16) and explain that God and Jesus of Mormonism are different beings than God and Jesus of the Bible. Since the father-god of Mormonism is a former man, and thus “another god” than God of the Bible, so is his son “another Jesus”, a created being and not *God with us*, as the Bible tells. If we show them the difference, then they can choose whom they want to serve and they can put their

faith in the real God and His Son, Jesus Christ, who Himself is Eternal God. (John 1:1, 14.) Jesus warned that even if people know ABOUT Him, but if they do not KNOW HIM, THAT HE IS GOD, He will reject them and they will die in their sins. (See: Matt.7:22-23; John 8:23-24; 5:39;17:3.) Other false religions besides Mormonism also talk about Jesus, they know the same stories Mormons know from the Bible, but they do not know Him intimately either. They too have created to themselves “another Jesus” and salvation that is based on their own works. We have a God-given responsibility to share the truth with them.

We acknowledge the heartbreaking difficulty that Mormons coming to the true Christ have, when they try to separate themselves from the LDS Church, but it must be done, for, as Paul wrote to the Corinthians, who likewise came from false-god worship, *“Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord...”* (2 Cor. 6:14-17.) Paul did not just go to stand among the Corinthians as they were gathering in their temples, smile and wish them well as they went there, but he firmly preached the truth about God and Jesus to them. Preaching the truth is loving them. Smiling and wishing them well is only avoidance of possible conflict. The very reason why they should leave the LDS church when they understand that they have been believing in a false Jesus is that if they stay there, listen and participate in their meetings, their minds and hearts will continue to be polluted by false-god doctrines, false Jesus, and another gospel. Can a person who is born again by the Spirit of God participate in services where false gods are worshipped and where “another Jesus” and “another gospel” are taught? *“Can two walk together unless they agree?”* (Amos 3:3.) Obvious answer is: NO. If they would continue to attend LDS services, it would pollute their soul and spirit, and in addition to causing harm to themselves, it would give an impression of approval of what is taught there, and encourage Mormons to continue in their illusion. Paul said (Eph. 5:11) *“...have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove [expose] them.”* Worshipping false gods is against the First Commandment, and mingling and participating with those who worship them is forbidden by God. God’s Word says: *“come out from among them”*.

I have quoted the late SBC President’s, Adrian Rogers’, firm and excellent counsel before, and I hope you do not mind that will do it again.

He wrote, *“It is better to be divided by truth than to be united in error. It is better to speak the truth that hurts and then heals, than falsehood that comforts and then kills. Let me tell you something, friend, it is not love and it is not friendship if we fail to declare the whole counsel of God. It is better to be hated for telling the truth, than be loved for telling the lie. It is impossible to find anyone in the Bible who was a power for God who did not have enemies and was not hated. It’s better to stand alone with the truth, than to be wrong with the multitude. There is only one Gospel and Paul said, ‘If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed’.”* These words are a reminder to us to stick to the truth and never compromise God’s truth for our own comfort.

Perhaps the fact that Dennis and I were once deceived, and because we too had worshipped the false gods of Mormonism, has made us more cautious and observant of what is going on. We must verify and test all things and teachings from the Bible, as 1 Thess. 5:21 and Acts 17:11 counsels everyone to do. Teachings or doctrines that cannot be found in the Word of God, must be rejected. Quoting Richard Baxter: *“We have greater work to do here than merely securing our own salvation. We are members of the world and Church, and we must labor to do good to many. We are trusted with our Master’s talents for His service, in our places to do our best to propagate His truth, and grace, and Church, and to bring home souls, and honor His cause, and edify His flock, and further the salvation of as many as we can. All this is to be done on earth, if we will secure the end of all in heaven.”*

Cults and false religions flourish because of biblical illiteracy and/or unbelief, and apathy of Christians.

God is pleased if we, rather than trusting the “*arm of the flesh*”, or our own heart and feelings, find all answers and solve our problems using His Word, the Bible.

“*It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.*” (Ps. 118:8.)

Our feelings, our heart can deceive and lead us astray, but “*the Word of the Lord endures forever.*”

(1 Peter 1:25.) “*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*”

(Jer. 17:9.)

May God direct us to do His will.

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### **From our mail box, important questions that came via email:**

*“Question: What do you think of the idea of “one true church” as Mormon Church claims to be? Are there Christians in most churches, and are they the spiritual body of Christ, “called out ones”?”*

**My answer:** We do not believe that there is “one true church”, i.e. one true organization, as the LDS Church claims to be, but we do believe that there are true believers in many Bible-teaching Christian churches. The English word, “church”, is a translation from a Greek word, “*ekklesia*”, which means “called out ones”, as you are referring to. A Christian is a person who has asked forgiveness of his sins, and accepted, through faith, the Lord Jesus and His gospel (Romans 10:9-10; John 1:12; Eph. 2:8-9) and been spiritually born again. Such persons are thus joined to one another by the Spirit of God who in-dwells them. They are the Church, the body of Christ, regardless where they “go to church”.

*Question: I asked a Mormon if he was born again, and he said, “yes, of course I am”. Not only he says that he is born again, he says that he is a very active, “temple-Mormon”, and he said that he teaches the Gospel Doctrine class in his ward. My question to you: If he is born again, is he then not a Christian, saved by grace, as he assured me that he is?*

**My answer:** What does the LDS Church teach about being *born again* and about *salvation by grace*? **They teach** that “*No one can be born again without baptism...*” In other words, **to be born again, one must be baptized into the LDS church, and receive the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands.** They believe that baptism starts them on their road to the celestial kingdom, but to reach the celestial kingdom, they must continue, till the end, to live in obedience to the LDS gospel and “*be fully converted*” [to Mormonism]. It has all to do with the LDS Church and not much with Jesus, not even “their Jesus”.

Mormon Doctrine, pp. 100-10, says, “*To gain salvation in the celestial kingdom men must be born again, born of water and of the Spirit [baptized](John 3:1-3) ...Those members of the Church who have actually been born again are in blessed and favored state. They have attained their position, not merely by joining the Church, but through faith, righteousness, love, and overcoming the world.*”.

In his understanding, based on teachings of the LDS Church, he can say he is “*born again Mormon*”, but that is not the same what the Bible teaches, and thus *he is not a born again Christian*. He says that he is a *born again Mormon*, based on teachings of the Mormon Church (as quoted above), but you need to be able to explain that a *born again Christian* is a person who knows and follows *Jesus Christ of the Bible, the Second Person of Trinity, God the Son*, and has accepted Him as his Savior and Lord, asked forgiveness and being BORN AGAIN by the Spirit of God. **Salvation is not by works of any kind, it is by grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ, God, who became a man.** (Eph. 2:8-9; John 1:1, 14.) **That new birth has nothing to do with the**

**LDS Church**, or any other church for that matter. It has nothing to do with water baptism either, which Mormons teach washes away their sins. You had asked this Mormon if he has been born again, and he said “yes”. That was your opportunity to ask him what he meant by that. In order to be communicating clearly, words must mean the same to both of you. But you were meaning “apples” and he was talking about “oranges”. When he said “yes”, that gave you an opportunity to explain what the Bible says about the new birth and Jesus Christ. If we do not make it clear, our “non-answer” can only harm them by giving them a false assurance that they indeed are born again and are Christians.

We must help them to understand that Jesus is not our brother, but eternal God, who created all things, and who became a man to save us (John 1:1-3, 14). Being baptized into the Mormon Church and confessing a false Jesus will not save anyone, even if they serve faithfully to the end.

**How is Jesus JESUS OF THE BIBLE different than Jesus of the LDS Church?**

Matthew 1:18-23 tells that He will be born of a Virgin, and that He is “*God with us*”. But Mormon Church teaches that Jesus was NOT Virgin-born, but that he was conceived naturally, “*in the same way that mortal men are begotten by mortal fathers*” (Mormon Doctrine, p. 547).

They also teach that Jesus is not God Almighty, but that He “*became a god*”. Before he *became a god*, he was born as a spirit child of their god and one of his wives in pre-existence as a brother of all mankind and angels, including Lucifer. But John 1:1-3, 14 says that *He is God from all eternity who created all things*. He, God, became a man to save us from our sins. Jesus said that *our eternal life depends on knowing Him and the Father, who sent Him*. (John 17:3) We must know Him personally, and have a relationship with Him. We must know Him as one knows an intimate friend, not just know what we can read about Him. He warned that many will come using His name, but if they do not KNOW HIM, He will reject them. (Matt. 7:22-23.)

He emphasized again that IF we do not KNOW THAT HE IS GOD, we will die in our sins.

(John 8:23-24.) There has been a lot of misunderstandings, and some even teach that if one confesses *the name of Jesus*, one is born again and can continue attending churches that teach “*another Jesus*” and “*another gospel*” and have “*another spirit*” (2 Cor. 11:4; Gal. 1:8-9). They say that God will sort it all out later. Not so, according to His own Word! We have a command from Jesus to know whom we serve, and to search the scriptures for that knowledge. (John 5:39; 17:3; 2 Tim. 2:15; 1 John 4:1.) We are to *test all things, even the spirits that give “feelings” that “seem so true”*. (1 Thess. 5:21; 1 John 4:1; 1 Tim. 4:1.) We must *STUDY to be approved to God*. (2 Tim. 2:15.) We must warn about false doctrines, and direct them to Jesus who is God.

**One more question: What is our purpose and obligation to God?**

**My answer:** God created us for fellowship with Him. That was His purpose. But He gave us our freedom to choose, to know Him and to love Him, for love cannot be commanded or forced.

God loves all, and wants all to be saved as John 3:16, and 1 Tim. 2:4 inform. Romans 5:6-11 says that *when we were yet sinners* who did not know Him, *Jesus died for us*. When we learn about His great love for us (John 3:16) and accept God’s Son, we too will “*become sons of God*” (John 1:12) and we will have an intimate relationship with Him forever.

I hope that these answers will help you to witness to this Mormon you have talked to, and clear his misunderstanding of the new birth and salvation. If you have more questions, please write again.

Blessings, Rauni

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We received this following anonymous letter by postal mail, with no return address. Many angry Mormons write anonymously, and their letters cannot be answered, but this time we decided to give a brief answer anyway and publish it in this newsletter, in hopes that the writer of this letter will be able to find it. (We scanned his/her letter exactly the way it came, with typos and all.)

*“To: Dennis and Rauni Higley, - In regards to a pamphlet i aquired from a friend at work i was inspired to write you and tell you my experience, i first attempted to read your pamphlet, after the first few words i felt so vile, dirty, and violated i knew without a doubt such a book could only come from satan, as i closed the cover of your booklet i felt inspired to find who wrote this book, i looked at the cover and there were your names in bold print, then i had the strongest feeling of such i have never had before, something told me i should find the address of these people and send them a letter, i told myself no that’s ridiculous i would never find their address, then i felt inspired to open your book again. there on the first page in the boldest print i have ever seen was your names and address i new I was being inspired of god because it would never have been so easy to find what i needed to be able to do such a task unless it were of god, because “god giveth no commandment unto the children of men save he should prepare a way for them to accomplish the thing which he commandeth” i new it would be on my shoulders if i didn’t write. i am inspired to remind you that one of the unforgivable sins is that of denying the spirit of god, and would like to challenge you with 3 challenges, they are simple and if you truly believe what you believe you will have no problem accomplishing these challenges, the first is that you should send a copy of you pamphlet “The Truth About Mormonism” to the church of Jesus Christ headquarters in salt lake addressed to Gordan b Hinkley. My second challenge is to read the Book of Morman again and cross reference the foot notes at the bottom of the pages with all the bible references that the foot notes indicate and if the book of Morman and bible don’t go hand in hand than you are right but if they do go hand in hand than the church of jesus christ of latter day saints is the true church for only things of god and christ talk of their teachings and principles and promote good , instead of evil. My third challenge for you if you truly do not believe the lds church to be the church of god is for you to show and tell every non lds member you meet the signs and tokens given in the temple as well as there corresponding name and use because if you do not believe even remotely the lds teachings you will have no problem doing this and will not be frightened of the curse given for doing these things. - in closing i would also like to remind you of alma the younger who caused many to leave the church of god he was told the soles that he led from the truth were on his head and he would be punished for them when his judgment was given at the end of his life, i know with out a shadow of doubt the lds faith is true and that it is the most correct of any religion, your book helped me realize that today, also i know that joseph smith was and is a prophet of god, and so is gordan B hinkley i also know hole heartedly that alma’s curse is on you if you don’t stop your ways. i say these things in the name of jesus christ amen.”*

**Our reply:** We would like to thank you for your letter and we wished we had a way to talk with you. We are glad that someone at your work cared enough about your salvation to give to you our booklet to inform you about the errors of Mormonism and your need to know Jesus Christ of the Bible and be saved by Him. God has commanded that we warn others as we have been warned. (Ezekiel 33:7-9.) However, we can only inform and lead people to the Word of God, the Bible, but is up to each individual to study as 2 Tim. 2:15 commands, and come to know the truth about God, Jesus and salvation. The Bible is given to us for that very reason (2 Tim. 3:16). God loves you and asks you to come to Him to be saved. “...God our Savior, who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all..”(1 Timothy 2:3-5.)

As to your three challenges to us, we’d like to inform you that our booklet, in its very early form, over 20 years ago, was sent by us to the leaders of the LDS church. Not only that, but we had asked them to correct us in any matters we may not have correctly understood. **To this date we have not received any corrections or answers from them.** Just so that you’d know, the LDS Church acquires all published books, booklet and articles written about them, so we know that they have even our latest copy of it. They, like you, can see our address in it, even though they might not take it as “god-given”-hint to write to us. ☺

**We have read the Book of Mormon many times. The references and foot notes in the Book of**

Mormon in many places correspond with the Bible, for much of the Book of Mormon is copied from the Bible. Nevertheless, one cannot find Mormon doctrine in the Book of Mormon – nor are any Mormon doctrines found in the Bible. Mormonism simply is a counterfeit Christian religion and its doctrines can only be found in the Doctrine and Covenants, the Pearl of Great Price and writings and sermons of the “*prophets and apostles*” of that church.

Your third challenge was that we’d give “*tokens and signs and corresponding names*” (what about penalties?) we received (with “*covenant and obligation of secrecy*”) in the Mormon temples, to non-LDS people we meet, and you say that “*if we do not believe even remotely the LDS teachings, we will not have a problem doing this, and will not be frightened of the curse given for doing these things.*” We have done this many times, but only when asked. Mormons say that these ceremonies are sacred, but in actuality they are just SECRET. They are Masonic rituals Joseph Smith stole from Masons, and we do not have any obligation to keep them secret after we learned that Mormonism is not true, nor is it biblical. Mormonism is not from God – nor are the “*tokens, signs and penalties*” given in a temple anything that we need to fear. Jesus of the Bible said that He has not spoken or done anything in secret. (See John 18:20; Isaiah 45:19.)

We pray that Jesus Christ of the Bible and Holy Spirit will help you to desire to know the truth. He said, “*I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no one comes to the Father except through Me.*” The Mormon Church, nor Joseph Smith or Gordon B. Hinckley are not what we need – we all need Jesus. If we come to Him in repentance, realizing that He alone is the way and that we can receive Him by simply asking, we are saved. (See Romans 10:9-10 and Eph. 2:8-9.) May God, the True One, help you. In Christ of the Bible, Rauni Higley

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We have been in touch with “*our Ugandan-Edward*” weekly, sometimes more than once a week. He is continuing his radio program in Jinja, Uganda. With your help, we were able to send him funds to continue it till middle of March. He has been a born again Christian for about a year now. This young man has learned more of the Bible and faster than anyone I have ever been talking with. His heart is in it. He loves the Lord, and the Holy Spirit is His real teacher, even though we have also sent him Chuck Missler’s Bible study tapes, over 100 of them, and he has been studying with them. Chuck Missler and *Koinonia Institute* are qualified to teach the entire Bible and he could earn Theological degrees, up to a doctor’s degree, from them. We are pleased that he is studying with them, for in these days we cannot even trust all Theological Seminaries to teach the pure Word of God. There are many that are very good, but there are also some that are not so great. Please keep praying for Edward, for he is facing opposition from many directions, even from where we would not have expected.

Please keep us and all those many people we are currently witnessing to and working with in your prayers. Please pray for Pam who is a former Mormon and for Pam’s parents, who, to her amazement, after she had had a positive witnessing experience with them, have gone back to Mormonism. Please also pray for Judy for wisdom relating to her work and finances, and Bruce for settlement from an insurance company. We ask you to pray God’s guidance and continued growth in the Lord for Lisa, Jennifer, Sonia, Jay and Andy. We know that the Lord will guide all of us as we ask. Please pray for our dear friend, Jim, in Northern Ireland, who has leukemia and is very ill at this time. - Our prayers are not to inform God of our needs, for He knows all of them, but through prayer we confess how much we need Him. We honor Him by asking, and we thank Him for what He has already done and will do in the future. “*Now unto Him that is able to do all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*” (Eph. 3:20-21.)

**We thank you for your support, prayers and thoughts. We could not do this work without your partnership. It delights us when we hear from you.**

**Please let us know how you like our newly organized website. Matt McClung has been working with it and added some new things, and we are thankful to him for his work for us in this important part of ministry. ([www.hismin.com](http://www.hismin.com))**

**God bless you all. With love in Christ Jesus,**

**Rauni & Dennis Higley**

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