



November 1, 2008

H.I.S. Ministries November Newsletter, covering October 2008

This fall has been one of the most beautiful fall seasons I can remember. Colors are brilliant red, yellow and orange, still some green left too. Leaves have started to die and fall - all that reminds us that after the season of winter, in the spring, trees will be revived and will "live again". The same for us who are in Christ - even if we die, we will live again. We can say as Job , "*in my flesh shall I see God*" (Job 19:26). That day will be when the Lord comes to get us to be with Him forever. (1 Thess. 4:13-18.)

There are so many problems facing this country and the entire world at this time. It makes many wonder if this is the time when the Lord will come for us? In Matthew 24, when His disciples asked Him, "*when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?*" He warned specifically about deception, false Christs and false prophets and who will show *great signs and wonders*, even to the point that His elect will come close to being deceived by them. He said that there will be *wars, and rumors of wars* and other catastrophes of all kinds when His coming is getting closer. Are we not seeing that right now? Sure, there have been many problems in the world before, but not *in every area imaginable* as there are now. He said that we will not know the exact time of His coming, but we, who have been warned by His Word, can see that the time is getting closer by observing these terrible things happening all around the world, just as we can see that summer is near when trees are starting to bud with new leaves.

When He comes, we who are His, will not be taken by surprise, for we are watching and waiting, but the people of the world are the ones who will be taken by surprise at His appearance. Jesus said that they will be like the people *in the days of Noah*, who also did not know *until the flood came and took them away*, for they were not expecting God's judgment coming even though they had been warned.

This is the time when no believer in Christ can be idle – we need to be busily engaged in presenting the gospel to those who do not know the Lord, and we, ourselves, must grow in the Lord and in His Word.

We often receive questions about ***eternal security***. Many ask how they can know that they, for sure, are saved?

The Bible informs us clearly that salvation is by God's grace, and not by our works, not by anything we can do.

Jesus was asked this question, "*What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, **This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent.***" (John 6:28-29.)

We must understand what the Bible means by *grace of God*. Paul wrote in Romans 11:6, "*...if by grace, then it is no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then it is no more grace: otherwise work is no more work*", meaning that **Salvation cannot be partly by works and partly by grace**. Our works have nothing to do with salvation!! Ephesians 2:8-9 clearly says, "*For by grace are ye saved...it is the gift of God: not of works lest any man should boast*". We can firmly declare that **eternal life must be received as a free gift of God or we will not have it at all**. We cannot purchase salvation because **salvation requires payment of the penalty of sin, payment that only God can make**. (Mark 2:7.) Obedience to the Lord, as He desires, comes from our heart's love for Him – otherwise obedience is just empty legalism. Living a good and obedient life does not "*earn*" salvation" – but there are, of course, benefits of living a good life, but we all are still sinners, needing God's grace to enter heaven. Paul wrote, "*...by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight...*" (Romans 3:20)

Since it is affirmed that we cannot be saved by our own "good deeds", then our salvation, which is God's Gift, cannot be lost by "bad deeds". Our works play no part in either gaining salvation by our own works or keeping it by our works!

If we could keep ourselves saved by our "*good works*", then we could boast that even if Christ saved us, it is our works that kept us saved and thus we would rob God of having all the glory in eternity!

Salvation can be given to us as a free gift only if the penalty has been fully paid – that means that our past, present and future sins were laid on Christ, when He, on the Cross, paid it all. (Col. 2:13-14.)

Ask yourself this question: How many of your sins were yet future, when Jesus died on the Cross? **All of them!** All our sins were paid for in full, if we have repented and have come to Him to be saved by His grace alone. **Only an infinite God, who in love and grace, through the virgin birth, became a man, can pay the debt of sin of entire human race .**

On the Cross Jesus cried: "***It is finished!***" It is an accounting term, in Greek "***tetelestai***", meaning that **the debt has been paid in full**, and thus God could "*be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus*" (Romans 3:26).

Because of that, God offers forgiveness and eternal life as a free gift, but on the same basis, He cannot pardon those who reject His grace and gift and instead offer their own works, even if just as a "partial payment".

Many cultists, as Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons and others reject salvation by grace alone, and insist that **it must be earned by one's good works**. They say and think that evangelical Christians believe that they are saved by just "*saying*" that they believe in Christ, and then they can go on and live in sin, and yet go to heaven. **That is not what Christians teach at all**, but yet there are some even among Christians that believe we can "*fall away*", and that "*once saved always saved*" may encourage one to live in sin because we know that we cannot loose

our salvation. **Just the opposite is true** – for the love we have for our Lord, who paid it all and saved us, motivates us to live a life pleasing to Him. The greater the salvation one has received, the more he/she will love the Lord and be grateful, as in a story Jesus told in Luke 7:47-48, “...**her sins, which are many, are forgiven: for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.**” Those who think that they are participating/working for their own salvation, have less love and gratitude for Jesus, for they think that they are “earning” their salvation to some degree, and that they do not owe it all to Him. **To know that one is secure for eternity gives a much higher motive for living for Christ than fear of losing salvation. Love is a greater motivator than fear.**

To teach that we are saved by grace, but then “kept saved by our own works”, is just the same as saying that “good works earn salvation”. Such teaching, as is explained in Hebrews 6:4-9, rather than glorifying Christ, holds Him up to shame and ridicule before the observing world because **IF we could lose our salvation**, Christ would have to be crucified again to save us, and not only that, but it would be foolish of Him of purchasing a salvation for us, but not making provision to preserve it for us. The fact is: **If we could not earn salvation by our works, we for sure could not keep it by our works!**

Hebrews 6:4-6 presents a **hypothetical question**: “**IF they shall fall away...**” meaning that **IF it was possible to fall away from grace, then it would be impossible (v. 4) to renew us again unto repentance without Christ dying for us again.** He would have to die an infinite number of times, for we all will sin again and again, even when we have no desire to live sinful lives. (Read Paul’s lamentation on his own sinfulness in Romans 7:14-25). If we reject “once saved, always saved” we can only replace it with “once lost, always lost”.

John, the beloved apostle, assured us, “*These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that **ye may know** [present tense] that **ye have** [present possession] **eternal life...**” (1 John 5:13.) If we received “eternal life”, it would not be “eternal” if it could be lost. John also said, that they who believe in Jesus Christ “**should not perish, but have everlasting life**” (John 3:16). In John 5:24, we read that **they, who have “everlasting life...shall not come unto condemnation...**” Jesus promised, “*My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me: And I give them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand.*” (John 10:27-28.) **We**, who have received eternal life, **are in His hands**, and He will not let go of us. If one, **having received eternal life**, could lose it, it would make Jesus a liar. That we sin is evident. 1 John 1:8 says, “*If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves...*”, but John continues and assures, “**If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**” (1 John 1:9.) “*From all unrighteousness*” means that any and every sin can be forgiven, **if we confess them**. We need to note that John was writing to those “*who walk in the Light*” (v. 7), meaning *believers in Christ* who have the *Light of Christ*. John includes himself by saying “*if we confess*”, and thus he is urging all believers to confess their sins, and receive forgiveness. Habitual sinning is not part of a true believer’s life, even though we all occasionally sin. **God will chastise His own. If we sin, but not receive chastisement for our unrepentant sins from our Lord, then it presents a***

question: were we saved at all? In Hebrews 12:3-11 we are clearly told that we all sin, but our sins (if we are His own) do not cause loss of salvation, but **they bring His chastening on us as His children.**

In Matthew 7:22-23 Jesus says to those who were relying on their works for salvation, instead of grace and gift of God, "*I never knew you*".

In 1 Cor. 3:12-15 we are told that every Christian's works are **tried by fire** at the "*judgment seat of Christ*", where we all will appear (2 Cor. 5:10). **Good works will bring rewards**, but a believer's lack of them will not cause loss of salvation.

If a person has no good works to present, he is still "**saved; yet so as by fire**". (1 Cor. 3:15). Works that were motivated by selfish desires will burn, works that were done for Christ, will last and bring rewards.

If "salvation" can be lost, it was never a true salvation in the first place. **Some are good pretenders before people, representing to be what they are not.**

That is the reason why Paul said, "**Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves**". (2 Cor. 13:5.) We may not even know for sure about our own heart until we examine what we are willing to do for the Lord. **If we are not willing to live for Christ as the Lord of our lives, can we say that we were really sincere when we committed ourselves to Him some time in the past?** Often evidence is seen in our longevity and real growth in Christ. If our faith is not genuine, when troubles come, we cannot last, but walk away?

(Please read Matt. 13:3-9.) We have many examples in the Word of God of those who were thought by men of being true believers, but actually they were not. One of them is Judas Iscariot. **He was never a true believer at all, just a pretender** – and there may be many "Judases" among us too, for we cannot see the hearts of people – only God knows them. He alone knows if our commitment to Him was genuine. **Salvation that cannot be lost** is ours if when we genuinely repent, believe the gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-4) and ask Jesus, who is God, to come and save us. We have God's promise: "***If thou shalt confess with thou mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness: and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.***"

(Romans 10:9-10.)

(For more on this "**Once Saved, Always Saved**", go to: www.thebereancall.org.)

From our mailbox:

This LDS man has been writing to me for a long time. I will quote from one of his letters that deals with a common misunderstanding that LDS people have on the Nature of God. Their misunderstanding allows them to believe in Joseph Smith's god, who was a mere mortal man.

“Rauni, You indicate the Jesus has a glorified body now, the body in which he was resurrected. So if the three members of the Godhead are one, does Heavenly Father and the Holy Ghost also inhabit Jesus' glorified body?”

Incidentally, you are not 'orthodox' Christian in your belief that Jesus presently has his glorified body. Orthodox Christians fully buy into the 'without body, parts, or passion' statement of the Nicene Creed. Most 'orthodox Christians' believe that God and the Godhead are now strictly spiritual without tangible bodies.

A person that will be able to ultimately achieve a fullness of joy will, as you say, be reconnected with their bodies at the resurrection when the Savior comes again. One must have both body and spirit to be able to achieve eternal glory and a fullness of joy.

Your belief pretty well leaves Heavenly Father out of the equation. He has no body and since he is one with Christ he must inhabit Jesus' body. This is a ridiculous and obviously false concept of God. Heavenly Father dwells in his own body, is a distinct individual, the actual Father of Jesus Christ. They are completely united in their work and glory of bringing immortality and eternal life to man.

The Savior here (John 17:20-26) is not hoping that his followers would all be merged into one body and to lose their individuality. This scripture clearly indicates the kind of oneness the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost have--oneness in thoughts, goals, missions, intents, and actions, not that everyone merges into a mysteriously one being.”

My reply:

... You simply do not seem to know or understand what evangelical Christians believe and what the Bible teaches about the Godhead.

Maybe it is because you **have chosen** to believe **the lies about God?** (2 Thess. 2:10-12.) To find the Truth, one must love the truth and seek to know God. Jesus is the Truth personified. (John 14:6; 17:17.)

Christians believe in the Triune God, and that Jesus, one of the Three Persons in Trinity, became a man (John 1:1, 14). He died, was buried and resurrected on the third day (**that is the gospel** – 1 Cor. 15:1-4.) He was 100% God and 100% a man. He will have His body forever. Believers in Him will be like Him in our resurrection.

Nicene Creed speaks of God's Nature – for **God is Spirit**, if He was not He could not dwell in His people. (By the way, your Book of Mormon, Alma 34:36 says the same – even though Joseph Smith later changed his concept of God.)

The Bible teaches following about God:

1. “For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.” (1 John 5:7, KJV) **2. There is only one God** (Isa. 43:10-11; 44:6; 45:5; 46:5,9.) **3. “God is Spirit”** (John 4:24). **4. “Spirit does not have flesh and bones”** (Luke 24:39) **5. “He (Jesus) is the image of invisible God”** (Col. 1:15) **6. “No one has seen God at any time. The Only Begotten Son, who was in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.”** (John 1:18) **7. “I and My Father are one.”** (John 10:30). **8. God does not change.** (Mal. 3:6; Ps. 119:142.)

Joseph Smith taught the opposite. He taught that there are many gods. He taught that Heavenly Father advanced from an imperfect mortal man to a perfected god. Smith taught that God had not a power to create everything from nothing.

Oneness with God and oneness with all believers in Christ is possible through indwelling of **God the Holy Spirit** in all born again believers.

God is One God, but Three Persons! I have been showing that to you now for several times in several letters. I hope you finally see it.

The real Person, you or me, is not what we can see when we look at each other. **The body** that houses your spirit and soul **is not the real you!** **God is Spirit and he created man in His image, the image of His Person that is Spirit.** (John 4:24.)

Trinity is a coined word Christians use to express what the Bible teaches; that is, doctrine of unity of God as consisting of **three distinct Persons**. This word is derived from the Greek word *trias*, first used by Theophilus (A.D. 168-183), or from the Latin word *trinitas*, first used by Tertullian (A.D. 220), to express this doctrine. The propositions involved in the doctrine are these:

1. That GOD is one, and that there is but one God (Deut. 6:4; 1 Kings 8:60; Isa. 44:6; Mark 12:20, 32; John 10:30).
2. That the Father is a distinct divine Person (*hypostasis, subsistentia, persona, symbositum* intellectuale), distinct from the Son and the Holy Spirit.
3. That Jesus Christ was truly God, and yet He was a Person distinct from the Father and the Holy Spirit (John 20:30-31)
4. That the Holy Spirit is also a distinct divine Person.

Notice the use of the words, "us" and "our" when the Son of God ("the Word") created Man (Gen. 1:26). Although equal in divinity, the Father is in a position of authority or hierarchy over Jesus Christ, incarnate Son of God (John 14:28; 13:16; 1 Cor. 11:3; Phil. 2:6-8).

I hope this clears it up for you. If you diligently study the scriptures without your Mormon misinterpretations, you will begin to see. We, who had accepted Joseph Smith's ideas of God, have naturally a problem with what the Bible teaches, **until we really study it**, as Paul instructed young Timothy: "*STUDY to shew thyself approved to God, a workman that needed not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*" (2 Tim. 2:15.)

From this we learn that if we **study**, and work hard to understand what God is saying, we will come to the correct knowledge of God. If we study, we will not end up "**ashamed**" of our lack of knowledge, and we learn to "**rightly divide**", which means to *correctly explain the word of truth*.

Since you believe that the Book of Mormon is true and has the *fullness of the LDS gospel*, which Mormons say that the Bible does not have, but **can you show me some of your doctrines from the Book of Mormon:** 1. that God has a physical body, 2. that there are more than one God, and other Mormon doctrines 3. as two priesthoods, 4. that men must marry for "time and all eternity" in a temple, 5. that men can become Gods, 6. that one must do genealogy and temple work for the dead, 7. that there is a second chance after death?

I hope this answers your questions and helps and encourages you to study the Bible and find the truth in Jesus of the Bible,
Rauni

A former LDS lady wrote:

Hi Rauni,

I had written quite awhile back just telling you how happy I was to have found your website and how much it has helped me. I have happily been out of the church for over 10 years but only in the last couple years have I been able to really learn and understand Christianity. There have been a lot of things I had felt without knowing why then, but know now. Thank God for former Mormons willing and able to speak out!!...

Thank you for what you do and for having the courage to do it. I cannot express in words what your site and those like yours have done for me. You give me courage to come out of my shell and strength to share my faith. I've not been able to even think of doing this before. Thank you!

God bless you in your ministries! "

[I have responded to her letter. It is nice to get some positive letters once and awhile. ☺]

Most Mormons assume that their teaching on the nature of God has been the same from the beginning of the Church. That is not so. It has been changed. The Book of Mormon, with its hundreds of quotations from the Bible, teaches fairly closely to the Biblical doctrine of God. When LDS people are starting to have doubts and questions about their belief in many gods, their leadership instructs them to read the Book of Mormon which contradicts Joseph Smith's later doctrines of many gods, and clearly confuses people. It was not until 1844, when he publicly started to preach "plurality of Gods" in his sermon known as "King Follett Sermon". Some LDS people, after reading more of the Book of Mormon, have insisted that Mormons do not believe in many gods nor that men can become gods. President Gordon B. Hinckley's "almost denial" of this doctrine during his several interviews in Time magazine etc. added to this confusion. During these interviews when he was asked if the Mormon Church teaches that God was once a mortal man, and that men can become Gods, Hinckley said "I don't know that we teach that..". It is obvious that his denials were meant for non-Mormon readers. There are many printed and televised sermons of Hinckley where he is clearly teaching that very doctrine. He is quoted in the LDS Church's official magazine Ensign, in September 1994, saying, "**The text of that address has become and important doctrinal document in the theology of the Church. It is known as the King Follett Sermon.**" In that sermon Joseph Smith said, "**God himself was once as we are now, and is exalted man, and sit enthroned in yonder heavens!...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...and you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves...the same as all gods have done before you...**" (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 345-346.)

There are men like Robert Millett (BYU's Religion professor and MTC teacher of missionaries before they go on their LDS missions), who have further, with their double-talk, confused many into thinking that perhaps Mormonism is changing and "becoming more Christian". That is not so. Millett believes what all Mormons are supposed to believe, what "**...the Latter-day Saints believe that god the Father is an exalted man...a personage with flesh and bones...Joseph Smith taught that God our Father was once a mortal, that he lived on an earth, died, and was resurrected and glorified, and grew and developed over time to become the Almighty that he now is...but that he has not been so forever...**" (The Mormon Faith: A new look at Christianity, by Robert L. Millett, 1998, pp. 29-30.)

God of the Bible did not "develop into Almighty God". He always was God and He always will be God. There are no other Gods anywhere, as Isa. 44:10; 44:6, 8 say. He is God from "everlasting to everlasting". (Ps. 90:2) To clear this up among Mormon followers, President Hinckley in his October 2001 General Conference address assured his followers that even if when "they" (those outside of Mormonism) may think that the LDS Church is changing, it is not so. He said, "**Those who observe us say that we are moving into the mainstream religion. We are not changing. The world's perception of us is changing. We teach the same doctrine.**" (Ensign, Nov. 2001.)

This is important for all to remember.

We have been teaching a class on Mormonism since the 7th of September at Calvary Chapel. Our last class, at this time, will be on the 2nd of November.

Dennis is flying to Florida and Georgia today for 5 days to teach there. He needs our prayers! He has asked the pastors there to also invite **Adam's Road Band** to come and share with him. I wrote about Adam's Road Band in our September Newsletter. This band consists of former LDS missionaries who performed beautiful music in Utah last August and gave powerful testimonies of their conversion from Mormonism to Christianity while on their LDS missions. They now live in Florida, about 300 miles from where Dennis will be speaking, but they have said that they will come if it can be worked out. Please pray for them too.

We would like to list again names of our dear friends who need prayer for healing: 1. Heidi continues to be treated with chemo and radiation, and it is hard on her body. 2.

Bruce is in Virginia to be treated for his brain injuries that resulted from an accident he was in a few years ago. His insurance company has not settled with him yet. 3. Phil is still not well from pneumonia he had this summer. Pray for his strength to return. 4. We praise the Lord that Dick is doing better, even if not completely healed yet. 5. Max is better too – we know that prayer works. God is good.

We have several good friends that are in even worse financial situation than we are! – so please pray for them. The Lord knows who they are and how to help them, and us too.

We again like to thank you for your prayers and help in this ministry. Times are hard. Financial help for our ministry's expenses has almost disappeared. There are only a half a dozen faithful helpers left. But we understand – everyone is hurting and future of this country seems very uncertain. However, our provision comes from the Lord, and He instructs His own, so we trust in Him. He will take care of us, but lack of funds now means that we may not be able to provide as many books, DVDs and other materials as we have done in the past. As you know, we do not sell anything for money. We have sent free of charge our materials and many LDS books we buy to those coming out of Mormonism and who are in need of them. Thus we are avoiding LDS accusations that we are in this for money. We support ourselves with Dennis' carpentry work, and you have helped us to cover our ministry expenses.

Dennis has been able to have work in his remodeling and furniture building job, but he has had to increase his work-days to 6 days a week to provide for us and the ministry. As long as there is work offered for him, he is trying to do it, but he still puts many hours to the ministry work too. He needs prayer for physical strength and stamina to continue in both jobs. The ministry is my full time work. I have not worked this year in my "income producing profession" (Real Estate) for as you all know, it is down anyway...

We all need to pray for our country and for this election next week. We need to pray that the Lord will help each and everyone to vote responsibly, **emphasis on traditional family and protecting the life of the unborn. We need to follow the biblical counsel.** If we act responsibly in that, then the Lord will take care of the rest. But if we put our financial securities **above life and morality**, I am sure that we will not receive God's blessings in other matters either.

"If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (2 Chron. 7:14.)

In His love,
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