



October 1, 2008

## H.I.S. Ministries October Newsletter, covering September 2008

One of the titles of our Lord Jesus is “The Truth”. *“I AM the way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.”* (John 14:6.)

He is also called the Word of God. (John 1:1, 14.)

He said, *“Sanctify them through thy truth: Thy Word is Truth.”* (John 17:17.)

Paul warned that those *who have not received the love of the Truth* could not be saved! (See 2 Thess. 2:10-12.) Remember that Jesus is the Truth personified.

If we love Him and walk in His word, only then can we learn to discern error. In other words, we must study His Word and be willing to search it daily and thus stay in His truth.

We must worship God in spirit and in truth. Jesus said, *“The hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.”* (John 4:23-24.)

Often we hear and see people seeking to worship “*in spirit*”, but many of them miss worshipping *in truth*! True worship cannot be done without the truth of God. In our ministry to Mormons we must stress this for they seek feelings or *spirit-testimonies* without testing what the truths of the matters are. The Word of God says that we *must test all things* (1 Thess 5:21) and hold onto that which is good and true. If we do not test, but rely on our feelings instead, we are vulnerable to false and lying spirits. (See 1 John 4:1; 1 Tim. 4:1.)

Religions like Mormonism, Jehovah’s Witnesses etc. require that their followers accept all their teachings, everything, by trust in their leaders, which they call faith, but biblical Christianity requires that we examine everything. Truth has no fear of investigation! Error attempts to repress free discussion and examination.

LDS leaders do not want their members to study the history of the Church or question the words of their leaders. Questioning is considered the same as being critical. Apostle Dallin Oaks counseled against criticizing the leaders *“even if that criticism is true”*. He cautioned Mormons to *“rely on faith and not on historical facts in their beliefs in the authenticity of the church.* “He continued, *“Our individual testimonies are based on witness of the spirit, not on any combination or accumulation*

of historical facts. If we are so grounded, no alteration of historical facts can shake our testimonies."(Statements by Dallin Oaks, Salt Lake Tribune, 8/18/85.)

The LDS Church claims that their church is organized the same way as was the original church directed by Jesus Christ and His apostles. They also claim that they are the only true church on the face of the whole earth because they have prophets, seers and revelators.

The LDS Church News stated in the 19<sup>th</sup> of June, 2008:

*"The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is organized the same way that Christ organized His church in New Testament times. It is led by a prophet who serves as president of the Church. He has two counselors, and these three leaders constitute the First Presidency. The First Presidency is assisted by twelve apostles, who are special witnesses of Jesus Christ to all the world. Leaders called seventies assist the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and serve in various areas throughout the world. Local congregations are led by bishops. The main organization for women in the Church is the Relief Society, which was founded in 1842."*

Let's look at this a bit closer.

The New Testament does not present a church organization with a president and two counselors in addition to Quorums of 12 Apostles and Seventies, nor was there any women's organization during the time of Christ and His apostles.

The Mormon Church also boasts of having "Deacons", but they are only 12-year old boys. They say they have "Teachers" (an office in the Aaronic Priesthood), but they are just 14-year old boys. They have 16-year old teens serving as "Priests" in the Aaronic Priesthood, and they ordain young men to be "Elders" in the Melchizedek Priesthood when they turn 19 years old.

They have Patriarchs, Area Representatives (special representatives of the Twelve Apostles), they have High Priests, Stake Presidents with two counselors, each stake having also 12 High Counselors. They have Bishops with two counselors, and they also have Mission Presidents around the world. They have many temples (currently 132) with each having a Temple President with two counselors.

There is no organization like the LDS Church found in the New Testament.

The Bible says (Eph. 4:11) that Jesus *"gave some apostles and some prophets, and some evangelists; and some pastors and teachers"*. Apostles were special eyewitnesses who had been with Jesus (2 Peter 1:16). *"Prophets"* were especially gifted teachers. *Evangelists* were spreading the gospel message and *pastors* were to be shepherds of the flocks and they also had *teachers* of the gospel of Christ.

We know that prophetic calling, as in the Old Testament, ended as Matthew 11:13, Luke 16:16 say. In Hebrews 1:1-2 we read that God spoke *"to the prophets in time past"*, meaning not any more, but now our future is spoken of by His Son, Jesus Christ. We have that separate book, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ.* (Rev. 1:1.)

The LDS Church is not anything like the New Testament church.

Let's continue to examine what the LDS Church says about their *Prophets, Seers and Revelators*:

They say that, “A prophet is one who speaks, who is inspired of God to speak in His name.” Quoting LDS apostle, Bruce R. McConkie, from *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 606: “Members of the First Presidency and Council of Twelve ...are all sustained as prophets, seers and revelators to the Church. Any new revelation ... of course, be presented to the people by the President of the Church, he being the mouthpiece of God on earth.”

LDS apostle Orson F. Whitney explained the function of a Seer, in *Teachings of the Living Prophets (TLP)*, p. 7 . He said, “ Seer is one who sees ‘things which are not visible to the natural eye’. (*The Pearl of Great Price, Moses 6:36.*) Seer is able to see whatever is expedient in the past, present, or future and [he] is able to interpret and clarify eternal truths. Seer is a revelator and a prophet also...seer can know of things which are past, and also things which are to come...A seer is greater than a prophet. One may be a prophet without being a seer; but a seer is essentially a prophet...Joseph Smith was both prophet and seer.”

LDS apostle John A. Widtsoe explained the function of a Revelator: “A revelator makes known...something before unknown...Always, the revelator deals with truth (D&C 100:1) and always it comes with the divine stamp of approval.” The First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve are prophets, seers and revelators, but only one man at a time serves as the prophet, seer and revelator to the whole Church. In D&C 107:91-92 the President of the Church is designated as a prophet, seer, and revelator to the whole church.

When the president of the church dies, the First Presidency is disorganized and the Quorum of the Twelve apostles becomes the presiding quorum of the Church until the Presidency is again organized, during which time they (the Twelve) are the Presidency of the Church.

LDS apostle Mark E. Petersen said, that “the Living prophet is the Lord’s spokesman to the Church and to the whole world... [he] is raised up in these last days to give inspired guidance, not only to Latter-day Saints, but to all mankind everywhere... God simply does not work except through prophets.” (TLP, p. 10)

LDS apostle LeGrand Richards noted, “The Lord has never done a work that he has recognized without a prophet at its head.”

President Spencer W Kimball said, “...we testify to the world that revelation continues and that the vault and files of the Church contain these revelations which come month to month and day to day...” (TLP, p. 10)

The term “living prophet” has a real significance to Mormons. LDS President Ezra Taft Benson gave a presentation he called “*Fourteen Fundamentals in Following the Prophets*”.

1. “The Living 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 (scriptures)”.
3. “The living Prophet is more important to us than a dead prophet”.
4. “The Prophet will never lead the church astray”.
5. “The Prophet is not required to have any particular earthly training or credentials to speak on any subject or act on any matter at any time”.
6. “The Prophet does not have to say ‘Thus saith the Lord’ to us scripture’ ”.
7. “The Prophet tells us what we need to know, not always what we want to know”.

8. *“The Prophet is not limited by means of reasoning”.*
9. *“The Prophet can receive revelation on any matter, temporal or spiritual”.*
10. *“The Prophet may be involved in civic matters”.*
11. *“The two groups who have the greatest difficulty in following the prophet are the proud who are learned and the proud who are rich”.*
12. *“The Prophet will not necessarily be popular with the world or the worldly”.*
13. *“The Prophet and his counselors make up the First Presidency – the highest quorum in the church”.*
14. *“The Prophet and the Presidency – The Living Prophet and the First Presidency – Follow them and be blessed – Reject them and suffer”.*

President Ezra Taft Benson, in reference to his statement #2, that the living prophet is more vital to us than the scriptures, also said, “No book presides over this church, and no book lies in its foundation. You cannot pile up books enough to take the place of God’s priesthood...there is no book big enough or good enough to preside over this Church.” (We need to pay attention to that for this statement includes also the Bible.)

President Gordon B. Hinckley has said, (TLP, p. 12) *“The President of the Church.. is the earthly head of the kingdom of God...he is the seer, a revelator, a translator, and the prophet, having all the gifts of God which he bestows upon the head of the Church... (D&C 107:91-92)...that same authority which Joseph [Smith] held... were by him conferred upon the Twelve Apostles with Brigham Young at their head. Every president of the Church since then has come to that most high and sacred office out of the Council of the Twelve... There has been an unbroken chain from Joseph Smith, Jr...Of that I bear solemn witness and testimony... This Church is built upon the sure word of prophecy and revelation...”*

President Harold B. Lee said, *“His voice [a prophet’s] becomes the voice of God to reveal new programs, new truths...The Lord will never permit the Living Prophet to lead a Church astray...God would remove us out of our place if we would attempt to do it. You have not concern. We are not dependent only on revelations given in the past...we have a mouthpiece to whom God is revealing his mind and will. God will never permit him to lead us astray...”*

President Heber J. Grant has said, “...you always keep your eye on the President of the Church, and if he ever tells you to do anything, and it is wrong, and you do it, the Lord will bless you for it...God will not suffer his Church, established for the last time in this Dispensation of the Fullness of Times...to be led by a fallen prophet...” (TLP, p. 14-15.)

Mormonism is founded on Joseph Smith and what he said and taught and on words of those who have followed him as the “living prophets” of the Mormon Church. Currently the 16<sup>th</sup> president of the LDS Church is Thomas S. Monson.

As you can see, the Mormon Church, its organization and its leadership, has no resemblance to the New Testament church.

## **From our mailbox:**

### **An LDS man asked:**

1. *What is your religion's line of authority? Do you have a prophet? How was he chosen?*
2. *Does God give modern day revelation to your church?*
3. *When did your church start?*
4. *Does your church have priesthood?*
5. *Does your church have sacraments?*
6. *What does your church do to build faith?*
7. *Is the main purpose of your church to reveal that Mormonism is incorrect?*
8. *Where does your church stand with gay/lesbian uprising?*
9. *What is hell? A place or a state of mind?*
10. *What is heaven? How do you get there?*
11. *Does your church believe that we are all children of God?*
12. *Do you believe in everlasting punishment of the lost or rebellious?*
13. *Does your church believe in eternal marriage?*
14. *Can families be together forever in the life to come?*
15. *Does your church believe that we can progress and become gods like God is now after this life?*
16. *What do you do in heaven?*
17. *What about in hell?*
18. *Do you believe that the Mormon prophets and first presidency are liars?*
19. *Are there any saving ordinances that the Mormon church does not have?*
20. *Where are people supposed to get married? Does your church have actual churches and temples?*
21. *Is your church concerned about ancestors?*
22. *Does your church have any peculiar beliefs, such as circumcision?*
23. *Does your church have many unanswered questions?*
24. *Does your church believe that there are other planets with people like us?*

### **My short reply to each of these questions:**

1. Our "line of authority" is God's Word, the Bible. Yes, we have prophets – all the prophets in the Bible. They were chosen by God to speak for Him.
2. God's revelation to mankind, given through His prophets and written in the Bible is timeless and thus as modern as we are.
3. The Church started in Acts 2 – which was after the ascension of Jesus and coming of the Holy Spirit.
4. Yes, we have the "royal priesthood" spoken of by Peter in 1 Pet. 2:9-10. It is also called the "priesthood of believers". The Levitical or Aaronic Priesthood was abolished – i.e. it ended when Jesus died on the Cross and became our ultimate sacrifice. Read Hebrews, chapters 7 through 9.
5. Sacraments? As in the Roman Catholic Church? No, we do not have "sacraments", but as believers in the Lord Jesus, we participate in communion. We call it "Lord's supper". See Luke 22:19-20 and 1 Cor. 11:23-26.

6. Our faith is built by His Word, the Bible. We do personal studies of it daily as well as it is taught in church.
7. Our main purpose is to teach the truth as it written in the Bible. “Thy Word is Truth.” (John 17:17.) Jesus Himself is the Truth. (John 14:6.) It is the Truth of the Word of God that exposes false teachings and false religions.
8. We stand with God against all sin, but not against sinners. Jesus came to save sinners – He seeks sinners to come to repentance and be saved. He said, “*I AM not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*” (Matt. 9:13.) (See also Luke 19:10; 2 Pet. 3:9.)
9. Jesus said that hell is a real place – actually He spoke more about hell than heaven. (See Luke 16:19-31; Rev. 20:10-15.)
10. Heaven is God’s dwelling place. We will get there by putting our trust and faith in Jesus of the Bible, who is eternal Almighty God. (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14.) We must know Him as God for only God can forgive sins and give us salvation. (See John 8:23-24; Mark 2:7.) It is by His grace that we can be saved. (Eph. 2:8-9.) No church saves – Jesus alone can save us. (Acts 4:12; John 14:6.)
11. We are the creation of God, but not automatically His children. We must be born again and receive Jesus to become children of God, as John 1:12 says. Then we are adopted into God’s family through Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:15-16; Eph. 1:5.) Until we are born again, we are simply Adam’s posterity, as Romans 9:8 says, “*Children of the flesh, these are not children of God*”. That is the very reason why Jesus said, “*You must be born again.*” (John 3:7.)
12. Yes, we believe what the Bible says about everlasting punishment. See at least Matt. 25:46 and Rev. 20:15.
13. No, we do not believe in eternal marriage, for marriage was ordained for procreation. We will not have children in heaven – only on earth. Jesus said that we are single there, just like angels are now. (Matt. 22:30.) But we believe that husbands and wives who belong to Jesus will be together as God’s own in heaven – and that is much better. He is the bridegroom of all His own.
14. All who belong to Jesus and have been born again, will be together in heaven forever. We of course hope that all members of our families belong to Jesus and thus will be together for eternity.
15. No, we do not believe that we will progress into godhood – it was the devil’s idea, not God’s plan at all. (See Gen. 3:5 and Isa. 14:12-14.) It was the devil who wanted to be like God and he tempted Adam and Eve with his own desire. We do not “*become like God*”, for God has said, “*Before Me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after Me.*” (Isa. 43:10.)
16. Paul must have received a similar question when he wisely quoted Isaiah (64:4) in 1 Cor. 2:9 “*Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.*” (See also John 14:2-3.) Paul is simply saying that we could not even come close, even if we tried to imagine the wonderful things that wait for all who have put our faith and trust in the Lord!

17. Those who end up in hell will be tormented forever and ever. (Rev. 20:10, 15; Luke 16:18-31.) (Your Book of Mormon [not that I believe it, but you might] teaches what happens in hell. See Alma 5:7; Jacob 3:11; 1 Nephi 14:3, and more.)
18. We do not believe that they teach the truth, and I believe that they know that. You figure it out.
19. The Mormon Church's "gospel" is defined as "*laws and ordinances*", but in spite of what they say, salvation does not come by obedience to "*laws and ordinances*". Our Lord nailed them on His cross (Col. 2:14) and freed us from the law that could not save. (See Gal. 2:16-21; 3:13, 24-25. Better yet, read the entire letter to Galatians.) There are no "saving ordinances" in the true gospel of Christ. Paul declared what the Gospel is. (1 Cor. 15:1-4.) It is a message of death, burial and resurrection of Jesus to be believed and received by faith as the gift of God, not of works. (Eph. 2:8-9.) Jesus alone saves, not a church, any church! (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; John 8:24.)
20. God married the first parents, Adam and Eve. During biblical times people did not get married in synagogues or in the temple. Most marriages took place in people's homes. The place of marriage is not what matters, it is the couple's commitment to God and each other that matters. Most churches have their buildings, but it does not matter where one gets married as long as the marriage commitment is made before God, in faith in Him and asking His blessings. In our modern society, legal marriages are to be performed by someone having the state given legal right to perform marriages.
21. No. Titus 3:9 says that genealogies are but foolishness, unprofitable and vain. Genealogies might provide some interesting information about our families, but they do not profit the dead.
22. Circumcision is not a "peculiar belief". It was a practice of the Jews from Abraham on. We do not have any "peculiar beliefs" – we believe what the Bible says, and what is taught to the New Testament believers, nothing more, nothing less.
23. If we study the Word of God, the Bible, diligently, we will have answers to all pertinent questions.
24. The Bible does not tell us that there are other planets with people in them, so we do not concern ourselves with that.

=====

Another LDS man wrote:  
*"I am the 1<sup>st</sup> counselor in the bishopric in my ward. I tripped over your website by accident while doing some research on the Adam-God doctrine. My bishop is always telling me that 'truth is truth' and he tells me that our stake president says 'that the truth reveals itself'. I would like to learn the 'truth'. Can all your statements and claims be verified by the sources you list? How can I verify them myself? If what you say is true, and Joseph Smith did not have the first vision (as we are told), and he is not a prophet, then the church is not the restored church and the Book of Mormon is not the word of God...  
 Can anyone access the early documents that you cite? A\_\_"*

[I have responded to him – with 9 pages of documented evidence and with a list of books and documents that he can access fairly easily.]

=====  
Please continue to pray for Heidi Albiston and for Bruce – healing and provision. Our good friend, pastor Phil Foard, is still not well. He had severe pneumonia this summer, and had to be hospitalized twice. Please pray that he will get his strength back soon. Thank you for your prayers for Dick Baer. He is doing better and his cast will be taken off in two days.

Please pray for our friend, also named Bruce, and his wife. They are having serious problems and need direction from the Lord. Judy still needs the Lord’s help and assurance during her very hard times.

Our country is in deep trouble, as we all know. But God has promised, *“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 forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”* (2 Chro. 7:14). We are His people, called by His Name, and since we are, we must humble ourselves, repent and seek His face and His direction. Also *“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem; they shall prosper that love thee.”* (Ps. 122:6.)

Next Sunday will be our 5<sup>th</sup> class at Calvary Chapel in Salt Lake City. There are several LDS people attending our class – please pray that the Lord will help them to see and understand the truth about Him and release them from their bondage and fears. Our prayer is that the love we have for them will be felt during these times – even though we understand that there is also a lot of hurt when it becomes clear how far off the Mormon Church is from biblical doctrine.

We are happy to have several former LDS members attending these classes, and being exited to learn more. We had a joy of helping one of the former LDS couples, when they first started their journey out of Mormonism and into Christianity. That was about a year and a half ago. They have brought others out of Mormonism, and they are also coming to our classes. God is good and He sends those whom He knows we can help, to us. Our Lord has arranged these “divine appointments”. We have seen a lot of these during our 24 years in this ministry.

We want again to thank you for your prayers and for help we have received from you. These are very hard times for all of us, but our trust is in the Lord and that He will provide and take care of all your needs, and all our needs.

May God be with you and answer your prayers.

In His service,

Rauni & Dennis Higley  
2890 E. Willow Bend Dr.  
Sandy, Utah 84093-2044

Website: [www.hismin.com](http://www.hismin.com). Email: [hismin@xmission.com](mailto:hismin@xmission.com)

[Donations to HIS Ministries are tax deductible, IRS code 501 © (3).]