



H.I.S. Ministries International

He Is Savior



September 1, 2009

H.I.S. Ministries September Newsletter, covering August 2009

We are amazed how fast this summer has gone by! We did not even have an opportunity take our regular week to ten day-camping vacation away from work and the city – but we have survived and are looking forward to next summer...

We often get letters from Mormons challenging Christianity as being wrong because “*there are so many denominations*”. What they do not seem to know is that most, if not all, Christian denominations believe in the same FUNDAMENTAL doctrines that are non-negotiable and absolutely necessary for salvation. There are other biblical teachings that are important as well, and common to all Christian denominations, but not fundamentally important, and then there are others that are nonessentials – some are more or less personal choices – or issues dealing with administration and that kind of practical matters. But all born again Christians, who believe the fundamental doctrines are part of the body of Christ, the church, regardless of denominational lines.

Fundamental doctrines that all Evangelical Denominations hold in common are:

1. Belief that the Bible is the Inspired Word of God. (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21.)
2. Belief that there is one God, existing eternally in three Persons – Trinity.
3. Belief in the Deity of Jesus Christ – that He is God. (Matt. 1:23)
4. Belief in the incarnation - Jesus is God who became a Man. (John 1:1, 14.)
5. Belief in the Virgin birth (Lk. 1:35), which means that Jesus did not inherit the sin-nature of mankind.
6. Belief in the gospel, which is death, burial and resurrection of Jesus (1 Cor. 15:1-4), and that He ascended to heaven, and that He is coming again. (Acts 1:11.)
7. Belief in salvation by grace through faith, apart from any works. (Eph. 2:8-9.)
8. Belief in eternal punishment of the lost (unbelievers). (Rev. 20:12-15.)
9. Belief that those saved will have eternal life with God. (Rev. 21 and 22.)

Some not so fundamental doctrines, even though they also are important:

Baptism, divorce and remarriage, future events, meaning of election, gifts of the Spirit, women’s role in the church, etc.

Nonessentials are the issues where the Lord allows differences of opinion as long as we do not, by our behavior, offend others or make others stumble. We have the freedom in Christ, and we are not under the law. (Gal. 5:1; Romans 14:13-23.) Even observance of the holy days falls into this category (Rom. 14:5b) as well as use of musical instruments, or which reputable Bible translation is used, or even times of meetings

and methods of Christian service. Paul tells how he identified with different cultures and customs, but without sacrificing any basic truths or compromising his loyalty to Christ Jesus. When he said (1 Cor. 9:19-23) that *“I have become all things to all men, that I might save some”*, there is absolutely no suggestion that he ever compromised the truth or was part of anything sinful. He made some concessions in order to get a greater hearing for the message of the gospel, but he never allowed the truth of salvation by grace apart from law keeping to become a confusing issue as is seen, for example, over pressure of Titus to be circumcised. (Gal. 2:1-5.)

We as Christians must be in absolute agreement in the fundamentals. Each believer should also base his judgment and practice in non-fundamentals on the Word of God, and moral precepts of the Faith, and allow differing opinions to others in non-essentials. It is important that we do not apply verses out of context to our own “pet-excuses”, but always consider whether the text (in context) is speaking of the fundamentals, important truths or peripheral matters.

There also seems to be much confusion even among seasoned Christians about law and grace. Under the principle of law, a person receives what he either has earned or deserves. Under grace he is *spared from what he deserves but receives it as a gift, i.e. what he does not deserve*. Paul, in Romans 4:4-5 explains it: *“Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debts. But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness.”* Grace and law cannot be mixed – *“And if by grace, then it is no longer works; otherwise grace is no longer grace”* (Romans 11:6a). Law is a conditional covenant: God says that if you obey, He will reward you, but if you disobey, He must punish you. Grace is unconditional covenant – God will bless believers in Jesus freely. Law commands and says “do”, but grace says “believe”. Believing is our response to our Creator. A response to the totally dependable Person and His Word is the wisest decision we can make. Law leaves a person without excuse when he fails – grace provides us with an Advocate. We all are like prodigal sons – when we confess our sins, we are back in the fellowship with the Father. (Lk. 15:21-24.) Under the law the sheep die for their shepherd, but under grace the Shepherd dies for the sheep. (John 10:11.)

“What is salvation? It's not a creed. You say, ‘Well, I believe the plan of salvation.’ You can believe the plan of salvation and go straight to hell. You're not saved by the plan of salvation; you're saved by the Man of salvation. Salvation is not a creed. It's not a code. You say, ‘Well, I believe if you live right, you'll go to heaven.’ If you could be saved by living right then Calvary was a blunder. It's not a cause. You say, ‘I'm a member of a good, fundamental, Bible-believing church.’ It's not any of these things. It's Christ! Salvation is not believing something; it is receiving Someone. The true gospel is one that centers in Jesus Christ.” (Late pastor Adrian Rogers.) (See John 1:12; 1 Cor. 15:1-4.)

“Have you noticed the difference in Christian life between work and fruit? Machines can do work, but only life can bear fruit.” (Statement by Andrew Murray.) Christ gives us His life, and then we are His disciples, and we will bear much fruit. (John 14:6; 15:8.)

A question that is often asked of us is *“Are the Lamb’s Book of Life and The Book of Life the same thing?”* To answer that I will quote Dr. J. Vernon McGee from “*May I say*” of July 2009. He wrote, *“It does not seem to me that there are two books [of Life]; they are one and the same book. We are told that at the Great White Throne Judgment, ‘I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life’ (Rev. 20:12). Now I take that the Book of Life there is not a list of the whole human race but of those that have been saved by faith in Jesus Christ, and that is the same as the Lamb’s Book of Life. The other books mentioned in this passage are the books of works, so that God will fairly and justly judge everyone. But, of course, no one is saved by [their works]. [To be saved] you have to have your name written in the Book of Life.”*
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From our mailbox:

I will include a conversation with an LDS man who is critiquing our statement of faith, found on our website (www.hismin.com), which includes the fundamentals of faith as listed above. (His comments are in italics, my answers in regular text below his.)

LDS man: *I address your reasons for calling Mormons non-Christian below. (The terms “mormon” and “Mormonism” are nicknames originally applied by their enemies. They call themselves Latter-day Saints or Latter-day Christians), the word “saint” interpreted as applying to anyone sanctified through the blood of Christ.*

My response: Mormonism, at its beginning (from 1830-1844), was closer to Christianity than it now is, and became so after 1840’s when Joseph Smith changed his doctrine of God, and started teaching preexistence of men. He said that *we had only imagined that God was God from all eternity, but that God was once a man who had progressed into a God, and that there are many Gods.* He also said that *“you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves...the same as all Gods have done before you...”* (Teachings of Joseph Smith, pp. 345-346, 370.). That is one of the major reasons why Mormonism is forever separated from Christianity!

[If you’d pick up Webster’s and look under *Christianity*, you’d see that Christianity is based on the Bible (alone) and what it teaches. Mormonism is based on teachings of Joseph Smith and his 3 additional scriptures and teachings of the LDS prophets after him. Mormonism denies the total truthfulness of the Bible, which it must do in order to make false doctrines acceptable.]

Mormonism began in 1830 with the Book of Mormon. But later Joseph Smith changed what he had started. The Book of Mormon (BoM) does not teach Mormon doctrine that God was once a man, or that there are more than one God (see Alma 11:27-31, 44; 18:26-28; Ether 8:23; 3:14-18; Mosiah 3:5-8; 5:15; 13:34-35; 15:1-6; 2 Ne. 31:21). The BoM does not teach that men may become Gods; or that Jesus is a brother of Lucifer and mankind. The BoM does not teach preexistence of men, work for the dead, temple marriage, two priesthoods or polygamy etc. etc. Today’s Mormon doctrine has very little if any resemblance to the BoM or Christianity. Mormonism has borrowed many words and terms from Christianity, but it has given them a different meaning. (“*Saint*” is one of them - Jude 3.) Things have changed in Mormonism after Joseph Smith and even recently. When I served an LDS mission (about 40 years ago), our mission president advised us that if people, whom we were trying to convert, asked, “Are you Christians?”, we should reply, *“No! We are Mormons!”* We were told to make that distinction that Mormons are not Christians, because Joseph Smith had said that *they* (all Christian sects) *are an abomination to God.* (See Pearl of Great Price, Joseph Smith, 1:19.) As to the blood of Christ, Mormonism teaches that Jesus’ *atonement, that (they say) took place in the Garden Gethsemane, provided physical resurrection to all, but exaltation, which is the Mormons version of “true salvation”, must be earned by their own works.* (See Mormon Doctrine, under Salvation, pp. 669-671.)

LDS man, quoting from our statement of faith: *“We believe in the divine inspiration of the whole Bible and therewith the infallibility of the Holy Scripture which is God's Word.”*

He commented on that, saying: *I respect your freedom to believe that the bible is without fault, however believing this does not make you more of a Christian than those who believe it has lost some of its original purity to false translation and was in need of restoration through a modern prophet, Joseph Smith.*

My response: The Bible is the infallible and proven Word of God, all of it. *God’s Word is Truth.* (John 17:17; Ps. 100:5.) *Jesus said that even heaven and earth will pass away, but His Word will not.* (Matt. 5:18.) Our Old Testament (OT) is the same as the Septuagint, Greek Translation of the OT. That was the translation all of the New Testament writers quoted from, and by so doing testified of its truth. Jesus or his apostles never questioned the correctness or completeness of the written Word of God. (See Luke 24:25-27, 44 etc.)

LDS man, quoting from our statement of faith: “We believe in the eternal Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.”

He critiqued on that, saying: *God is a divine triumvirate of three wonderful and unique beings united in purpose and love of mankind.*

My response: Triune God is three Eternal Persons, but One God— **not compiled from a group of many Gods – or “triumvirate”.** (See 1 Tim. 2:5.) Paul warned about people who will come and change God into a man, like they are. Paul wrote (Romans 1:21-23) that they, “*became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man...*” **That is exactly what Joseph Smith did in 1844 – 14 years after he had started Mormonism. He led Mormons after other gods, what is warned of in Deut. 13:1-5 .**The penalty in Israel for leading men after other gods was death! Incidentally, Joseph Smith was put to death, killed, about 2 months after he had started this false doctrine of God being once a man. Joseph Smith said that *God was once a mere mortal man*, who lived and died and after that evolved, progressed into a God. That, of course, means that he cannot be “**Eternal God**” for if he was once a mere man, **he was not then God.** The LDS Church also teaches that Jesus is one of the billions of sons of this God and his many wives and a brother of Lucifer, all angels and mankind. So the “Jesus” of Mormonism is not Eternal God either as the Bible teaches He is. (Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Ps. 90:2.) Mormonism teaches that in order to *become a God*, one has to be first born into mortality and receive a physical body, then he has to die and be resurrected, and progress into godhood...Since the God of Mormonism was a man who died, he obviously was a sinner too, for the *wages of sin is death*. (Romans 6:23.) The Holy Ghost of Mormonism cannot be a God if Mormon teachings are systematic and true, for he has not received his body, at least not yet. It is taught in Mormonism that a physical body is mandatory for godhood, so how can the Holy Ghost of Mormonism be a God? It is also taught that Satan does not have a body, nor ever will, and thus he cannot become a God.

The Bible teaches from Genesis through Revelation that **there is but one God.** (Isa. 43:10; 44:6, 8.)

“*For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word (Jesus), and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.*” (KJV, 1 John 5:7; see also Deut. 6:4; Mark 12:29.) Ps. 118:27 says that “*God is the LORD*”, which in Hebrew reads, “**Elohim IS Jehovah**”. (Not two Gods, but One God.) *Jehovah* (YHVH in Hebrew) is the name of God: one name for one God. (Ex. 6:3.) [Note: When you read in the OT the word **LORD**, **all capital letters**, in Hebrew the word is YHVH, name of God.] Deut. 6:4 says, “*The LORD our God, the LORD is One.*” (In Hebrew it reads, “**YHVH our Elohim, YHVH is ONE.**”) [**Elohim is a plural form of a Hebrew word for God, “Eloah”, -im ending (Elohim) indicates plurality of Persons, i.e. it declares Triune God, whose name is YHVH.**] “*God is not a man*”. (Numb. 23:19; Hosea 11:9; Isaiah 31:3-4.) *No one has ever seen God as He is, for God is Spirit* (John 1:18; 4:24; 1 John 4:12.) **God became a man in Jesus to reveal God to us.** (John 1:1, 14; Col. 1:15.) **Jesus, God, became a “likeness of men”** (Phil. 2:6-7). *God, who is Spirit* (John 4:24), *does not have a body of flesh and bones* (Luke 24:39).

LDS man continued: “*The notion of God as a single being, manifest in three hypostases (Greek) is akin to the Hindu notion of God the unknowable source-energy and consciousness being manifest in every entity of creation (in Hinduism everything is an avatar of God). This concept was not revealed by Christ, but developed in the Nicene council. This is a Luciferian concept in its origin and one which Mormons reject. It derives from the “secret doctrine” taught by masters to pupils in remote monasteries of the Himalayas for thousands of years (see Helena Blavatsky and the Theosophists). It is a technicality which has huge theological implications. Mormons maintain that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are separate beings but united in purpose and desires for the salvation of mankind. They form a single-acting body called the Godhead. The Father is the father of the spirits of mankind and angel-kind. Jehovah or Christ is His firstborn Son according to the spirit and his Only-begotten Son according to the flesh. He is the best and most humble of Father’s children and was chosen eons before the earth was*

made to be on the right hand of the father as a member of the Holy Triumvirate or Godhead. The Holy Ghost was a similarly righteous spirit that the Father chose to be part of his heavenly council. These three work together in perfect unity of purpose to bring to pass the eternal life of as many of Father's children as will repent and accept the Atonement accomplished for them by the Son."

My response: What you say above is perfect nonsense! **Christianity is based on the Bible, and it teaches that God is ONE! God is Spirit! Jesus IS God Almighty** who became a man. (Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Matt. 1:23; John 1:1,14; Rev. 1:8) **This is taught throughout the Bible.** The Word of God, the collection of 66 books, has been there for thousands of years, and it reveals the truth about God and salvation. **Nicene Council was called together to clarify what the Bible teaches,** for by then (325 A.D.) there were many heresies popping up, teaching similar things that paganism was teaching – *namely that God is not eternal* (which is Joseph Smith's doctrine too), *and that Jesus is not God.* In those times most people did not have access to the Bible; **it had to be declared publically so that all would know what the Bible says about God, Jesus and salvation.** **There is nothing secret in Christianity.** **Jesus said that He has not spoken anything in secret.** (See John 18:20; Isa.45:19; 48:16.) **It is Mormonism that has introduced "secret doctrines" and secret rituals in their temples.** These Mormon doctrines and rituals compare with ancient paganism. It is also taught in the Mormon temples that it was *Michael, aka Adam, who was one of the makers/organizers of this world, and thus God,* and it is taught there that Lucifer is a brother of mankind. That is pure heresy, paganism. Mormonism continues teaching in their temples that **Adam is an organizer/maker of the world, and thus God.** See also in D&C 27:11 & 116. It says that **Adam is Michael, the Ancient of Days.** The Bible teaches that **Ancient of Days is one of the titles of God.** (See Daniel 7:9 and compare with Rev. 1:8, 13-14.)

LDS man, quoting from our statement of faith: *"We believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was begotten of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, and shed His blood to save mankind."* **(He adds that he agrees with our statement!!)**

My response: **I do not think that you meant to agree, for MORMONISM teaches that Jesus was NOT begotten by the Holy Ghost, but by a physical, resurrected man, who came to Mary to conceive Jesus' physical body, "the same way that mortal men are begotten by their mortal fathers."** (See Mormon Doctrine, p. 546-7; 742; also Ezra Taft Benson's book, "Come unto Christ", p. 4.; Journal of Discourses, vol. 1; p. 51.) **Thus Mormon-Jesus was NOT born of a Virgin as the Bible says.** (Matt. 1:18-23.) **But the true Jesus of the Bible is God, born of a Virgin.** Jesus is 100% Eternal God and after His birth to humanity, He is also 100% man, who died for all who believe that **He is God who took their sins upon Himself.** (John 8:24; John 3:16.)

LDS man, quoting from our statement of faith: *"We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died in the place of each individual sinner and that all who believe in Him as their personal Savior are justified through His shed blood and become a child of God."* **He says that he "agrees with one caveat". He explains what he, as a Mormon, believes:** *We began as children of God, born of the father as spirits before we come here. We lost that status through sin. We are redeemed and become children of God again in Christ when we are saved by him through our acceptance of his atoning sacrifice. God cannot and does not create anything in a sinful state. Children are born mortal (through Adam), but pure from sin. We become sinful and "die unto God" through our own choices. We come alive again to God through the atonement of Christ, becoming His adopted sons and daughters by virtue of his blood. He will one day return us to the Father.* "

My response: We did not "begin" as children of God! **We did not preexist.** We are Adam's posterity, **born as sinful beings** (Ps. 51:5; Romans 5:12, 16). We must be *born again* by receiving Jesus, who is God and our Savior. When we receive Him, **we BECOME sons of God.** (John 1:12.) Before our faith in the True Jesus, we are only "children of the flesh", Adam's descendants. **"They which are the children of the flesh, these are NOT the children of God..."** (Romans 9:8.) We did not come from heaven. **Jesus said that He alone came from heaven, from above, we did not!** **"Ye are from beneath: I AM from above; ye are of this world, I AM not of this world...if ye believe not that I am He** (God), **ye shall die in your sins."** (John 8:23-24.) Only God can forgive sins. (Mark 2:7.) Mormon-Jesus is a counterfeit "Jesus". That "Jesus" cannot save. There are many

false Jesus' presented by various religions, who are not Deity, as was warned of by Jesus Himself. (Matt. 7:22-23; 24:4-5; 23-24; 2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15.) Jesus said that *unless we believe that He is God, we will die in our sins*. Salvation is the *Gift of God, to be received, not to be earned*. (Eph. 2:8-10.) We do good works AFTER we are saved, not to become "more saved", but because we are saved.

LDS man, quoting from our statement of faith: "We believe in the pre-millennial appearance of Jesus Christ for the Rapture of His Church (all born again believers)". **He adds that he agrees, but explains:** *The rapture is simply put an event in which the faithful of God will be caught up with him in the clouds and will descend with him in glory when he comes. It comes not before the great tribulations, but after them.*

My response: I do not expect you to know about or understand pre-Tribulation Rapture, but that is what we believe the Bible teaches. (See 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 5:2-6, 9-11; 1 Cor. 15:51-53.) God's wrath will be poured out on the world during the Great Tribulation, but His own are not "appointed" unto His wrath (see verses above). He will remove His own before that *Day of The Lord*, as He removed Enoch before the flood (Gen. 5:24; 7), when God destroyed all but 8 people. (1 Thess. 5:9; Zeph. 1:15-18.)

He continues: "You say that Mormons believe in a different Christ than you do. It is true that the Mormon concept of Jesus as a spirit-child of God who rose through humility and devotion to become a member of the Godhead is different from your concept of an eternal Trinity in which an unknowable God makes itself known in three hypostases or avatars. I will not argue that these concepts are different. I would argue that the bible does not support your concept. Rather it says that we are the "offspring of God" (Acts 17:28-29)

My response: Various "religious" people often talk about, "*The universal fatherhood of God and the universal brotherhood of men*"? It sounds warm and fuzzy, but it is lacking any truth. God is not the Father of all people; God is the Father of those only who are born into His family. But you may say, "*But didn't God create all human beings?*" Yes, He did. "*And, you may ask, if God created all human beings, wouldn't that make God the Father of all human beings?*" No, it makes God the Creator of all human beings. There's a difference between fatherhood and creation. God created rats, roaches, buzzards, lions and rattlesnakes. He's not their father. God becomes our Father, not by creation, but by conception, when we're born into His family. That new birth happens when we receive Jesus, accept Him as our Savior and Lord and are born again. (John 1:12; Eph. 2:8-9. Jesus said *we must be born again* in order to enter heaven. (John 3:7.) In Acts 17:28-29, that you refer to, Paul is quoting Greek poets (Epimenides of Crete and Aratus of Cicilia), but he is not saying that they (unbelieving pagans) are God's children. What he is saying is that they are the *creation of God* and thus eventually responsible to Him – and as Paul continues in v. 30 – when they were ignorant of God, God overlooked, "*winked at; but now (when they have heard the gospel) He commandeth all men everywhere to repent.*"

LDS man continues and says that we are, 1. "*gods and children of the most High,*" (Psalm 82:6, John 10:34) and, 2. "*heirs of God*" (Romans 8:16-17). How can we be children and heirs of the most high and gods (lower case implies that we are lesser and imperfect gods beneath the Father, gods in embryo) if we are a different kind of being altogether than He is?"

My response: 1. Please read Psalm 82 in its entirety! It does not say that they are gods, but that they are wicked judges, that were "called gods" because they were interpreters of God's law, and had life or death judgment in their hands, which is judgment of God, according to His law in the Old Testament. This word, "gods", in Hebrew is *elohyim* (lower case), which (*elohyim*) is also translated in Ex. 21:6 and 22:8 as "judges". By the way, in England judges are still called the *Lords*. They also have the House of Lords, and it comes from this same meaning that judges are interpreters of God's Law, but they are not, nor will they become, in any sense of the word, gods.

2. You can appoint your pet animal as your heir, if you so desire, but that would not make it a human. We become *heirs of God* through Christ when we are adopted into God's family, through our new birth. (John 1:12; Roman 8:15). **There is only one God,** (James 2:19). **We will not become Gods.** (Isa. 43:10) **That was the lie presented to Eve in the Garden of Eden.** (Gen. 3:5.) **Who presented this lie? Satan, who is the father of lies.** (John 8:44.) **He wanted to be like the Most High God** (Isa. 14:12-14), and he is looking to get followers for his plan, for his dream was and is godhood!!! **We must test all things, by the Word of God.** (1 Thess. 5:21) **We must test the spirits that give "feelings" and "testimonies",** spirits, that through false prophets teach *doctrines of devils* (1 John 4:1; 1 Tim. 4:1). **A suggestion of godhood is one of the doctrines of the devils! God is Spirit and we must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.** (John 4:24.)

This LDS man ended his letter with his testimony:

"I bear my most heartfelt and solemn witness that Original Christianity was restored through the prophet Joseph Smith. I believe that he saw the Father and Son in 1820 in a forest now known as the "sacred grove". I believe that he translated the Book of Mormon from ancient records of the Americas and through it and other revelations restored the ancient and pure Gospel of Jesus Christ. I believe that Christ directs his modern day church by revelation through living prophets and apostles. I respect your position and your free will to have it. I am confident that your position is sincere and based on careful study. I respect you for wanting to rescue Mormons from what you believe to be false doctrine. I invite you to read the Book and Mormon and ask God if it is not a true second volume of scripture (the bible being the first). Surely God will not lead you astray. If you read and pray to Him with a sincere desire to know, then He will tell you one way or the other if it is true."

My response: I bear you my solemn witness that Mormonism is false. It started with *"an angel of light"* appearing to Joseph Smith and deceiving him to follow his plan. (2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15.) **The Bible says that NO ONE HAS SEEN GOD AT ANY TIME.** (John 1:18.) **The Bible likewise says that God is not a man.** (Numbers 23:19.) **Joseph Smith simply lied – or he was fooled by Satan, big time. The Bible is the Truth.** (John 17:17.) **It is God's Word, and a title of Jesus** (John 1:1; 14). **God holds His Word even higher than His Holy name.** (Ps. 138:2.) **Everything that Mormonism teaches about God, Jesus and salvation is against the Bible. The gospel of Mormonism is "another gospel"** (2 Cor. 11:4) – it consists of *"laws and ordinances"* of the LDS church. **There are no laws or ordinances in the Gospel of God.** (Gal. 2:16-21.) **Presenting another gospel and another Jesus will, sooner or later, bring God's curse to those who believe it, teach it, or preach it, and definitely not salvation.** (Gal. 1:8-9; 2 Cor. 11:4; 13-15.) **Surely you have the freedom to believe what you have chosen to believe, but know that Mormonism is NOT the truth from God.** If you'd love the truth, then you would forsake what is not the truth. **Loving the Truth (which is also one of the titles of Jesus)** (John 14:6), is a necessity for salvation. **Paul writes about those who "received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause** (because they did not love the truth) **God shall send them a strong delusion** (i.e. God gives them up to their falsehoods), **that they should believe the lie; that they might be damned who believed not the truth..."** (2 Thess. 2:10-12.) **I believe that you are sincere and I appreciate that, but you are sincerely wrong. I am praying for you! -- Rauni**

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*"Error is like leaven, of which we read, 'A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.'" **Truth mixed with error is equivalent to all error, except that it is more innocent looking and, therefore, more dangerous. God hates such a mixture!** Any error, or any truth-and-error mixture, calls for definite exposure and repudiation. To condone such is to be unfaithful to God and His Word and treacherous to imperiled souls for whom Christ died."* (H.A. Ironside, quoted from The Berean Call's Daily – 8/11/09.) **Evil will almost always wrap itself in a garment of "good" or "truth", and thus the devil uses "truth" and "good" to hide his plans and to promote his false teaching. We must not be ignorant of his devices.** (2 Cor. 2:11.) **The knowledge of the Word of God is our shield and protection against doctrinal errors.**
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There are many of us facing the storms of life, but let us not focus on them, but on the One who can calm all storms. Let's not allow anything, be it health, job, finances or relationships, distract us from our devotion and service to our Lord Jesus. In John, chapter 16, Jesus talked to his followers about work of the Holy Spirit that He will send after He has gone to the Father. (John 16:7.) He promised that their sorrow, because of His departure, will turn to joy when they fully understand, for it is the Holy Spirit that will guide them to all truth. Jesus said to them (and what He spoke to them, He is speaking to us), "*These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have tribulation: but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*"(John 16:33.)

Jesus taught how we are to pray (Matt. 6:9-13), but before this time (John 16:24), He had not taught them to pray in His name. He is our Advocate before the Father, and if we ask anything according to His will, it will be done.

It is important to understand how we ought to pray: We need to start our prayer with praise and worship and thanksgiving of all things, be they good or bad. We need to confess our sins, repenting from them and thus purifying ourselves before the Lord. Then we can lift up our brothers and sisters in Christ, who are in need of God's help and provision. Our daily confession and repentance is important so that we can have a fellowship with the Lord. John wrote, "*...the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. IF we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*" (1 John 1:7-9.) John wrote to the believers for whom Jesus had died. Because He died for our sins, our past, present and future sins are indeed forgiven, but we still need to confess our sins of each day, so that He can keep on cleansing us. Some have called this John's admonition the "*Christians' bar of soap.*" We have the promise from Jesus that our sins, all of them, are forgiven IF WE CONFESS THEM.

Please pray for Heidi and her family. Heidi's time here might not be very long. They, as a family, sense the love of the Lord and they trust in His purposes, for nothing takes place in the life of a believer without it being filtered through the Lord's hands. We do not always understand why – but even that time will come. "*For we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.*" (Romans 8:28.)

Please pray for Dale and his wife that they too have understanding, and that they will feel the Lord's love even in their hard time. Dale is still in the ICU, and has had several surgeries. As it looks now, he will be paralyzed from the waist down. He was not expected to live, so this is a praise. We are waiting to see the Lord's new plan for Dale – for Dale is a true and faithful servant of the Lord.

We praise the Lord for Gene's fast healing from his by-pass surgery, and Bruce's remission from his cancer.

We are planning on starting to teach again our *9-12 week course, comparing Mormonism and Christianity* - planned starting date is 9/13/09. Please be in prayer for us and those attending. It might not be a large class - after all these years of teaching it, we might soon run out of interested students ☺ – or maybe not...

We want to thank the Lord for His provision for our needs and needs of this ministry. The Lord has provided again this last month. He does it through his own – and we thank Him and thank you for responding to Him. It is exciting to be in a faith ministry, full of surprises that only the Lord can bring. Please know that you who have responded to the Lord's leading are appreciated. You are in our daily prayers.

We thank the Lord for allowing us to serve Him and you.

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