



July 1, 2010

H.I.S. Ministries July Newsletter, covering June 2010

Summer has finally arrived – and going fast. Our plan and dream has been to be able to take some days off and go camping, “away from all the hustle”, and to enjoy the beauty of God’s creation and get some needed rest. We had made plans to go to the Berean Call’s Summer Conference in Bend, Oregon, starting on July 8th, and we had even made reservations on a Campground nearby. We had planned after the conference to continue camping for another week or so, but it does not look like we can do it now. [Sigh] Dennis has work offered to him, work that cannot wait, and when you are a self-employed carpenter as he is, you have to work when it is offered, especially considering our financial situation. Maybe after he is through with this job, we can take a few days off... We make it a request to our Lord, if He wills so.

I had a very vivid dream the other night about the shortness of our time here on this earth and I wanted to refresh our understanding about why it is so important that we all are engaged in presenting the Lord Jesus of the Bible to those who do not yet know Him. Our eagerness in introducing Him to those who do not know Him is directly related to how well we know Him and understand why He came. Without receiving Christ, those who not know Him will be eternally damned *for all have sinned* (Romans 3:23), *“the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* (Romans 6:23.) It is clear to us that if we truly understand that those without the true Jesus are destined to hell, we would not fail to introduce them to Jesus, the *“author and finisher of our salvation”*. (Hebr. 12:2.) God does not want to send anyone to hell, but if they reject the provision God has given to all in Christ Jesus, who is God, Immanuel with us, they are making the choice between heaven and hell. God has offered salvation to us as *His Gift*, if we but accept His Gospel that is so clearly presented in the Bible. The Apostle Paul wrote: “I declare unto you the Gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; **by which also ye are saved...** For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures: And that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures.” (1 Cor. 15:1-4.) In his excellent book, *“One Thing You Can’t Do in Heaven”*, Mark Cahill wrote, *“To be a missionary (witness) you do not have to cross the sea, you just have to see the cross.”* (www.markcahill.org) One thing we cannot do in heaven is witnessing for there are no unbelievers there. We will be with believers forever, but where are our unbelieving friends? Paul went on until the end of his life, **preaching the cross;** *“For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the Gospel...For preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness, but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”* (1 Cor. 1:17-18.) The Good news of the Gospel of God is that Jesus, God Almighty (Rev. 1:8; John 1:1, 14), became flesh and became our sin

offering. His life, death and resurrection proved that He is God. All that He did was “*according to the scriptures*”, what prophets of God had written beforehand so that His people, Israel, would recognize that **He is the Promised One**. He came to save His people from their sins; “*For God so loved the world that He gave His Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*” (John 3:16.) However, as a nation they did not receive Him, for their leaders erred just as Isaiah had warned that they would. (Isa. 3:12; 9:16.) Jesus warned about false prophets who will come “*in sheep’s clothing*”, i.e. looking outwardly as if they were true ones. **He said that we can know them by their fruits.** (Matt. 7:15-16.) What are the fruits of the prophets? Their fruits are their teachings. We need to be aware of what they teach and test them by the Word of God (1 Thess. 5:21). There are false prophets in many religions in this country and around the world, but since our ministry is mainly to Mormons, we point to the errors of LDS prophets’ teachings and compare them with what the Bible says about these things. I want to point out the “gospel” that the LDS Church teaches. They say that “**The fullness of the gospel consists in those laws, doctrines, ordinances, powers, and authorities needed to enable men to gain the fullness of salvation.**” (Mormon Doctrine, p.333.) What do they mean by “fullness of salvation”? They explain: “*Salvation in its true and full meaning is synonymous with exaltation or eternal life and consists in gaining an inheritance in the highest of the three heavens within the celestial kingdom... This full salvation is obtained in and through the continuation of the family unit in eternity, and those who obtain it are gods.*” (MD, p. 670.) **This is not the Gospel of God that Paul and other apostles preached** (1 Cor.15:14; Gal. 1:8-9), but a changed gospel. **Salvation is the Gift of God.** There are no “*laws or ordinances*” in the Gospel of Christ. Paul warned that adding anything to the Gospel that he and the other apostles preached makes it “*another gospel*” that brings God’s curse, not salvation. (Gal. 1:8-9; 2:16-21; 3:10-13.) Paul warned about “*another Jesus*”, “*another gospel*” and “*another spirit*” in 2 Cor. 11:4, and in verses 13-15 he revealed where this “*another gospel*” and “*another Jesus*” originated. He wrote, “**For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.**” (2 Cor. 11:13-15.) **Salvation is the Gift of God, not to be earned by obedience to “laws and ordinances”, but received by the grace of God. “For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is everyone that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified in the sight of the law in sight of God, it is evident: for The just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith...Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made curse for us...”** (Gal 3:10-13; see also Gal. 2:16-21.) “**For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that [salvation] is not of works, lest any man should boast.**” (Eph. 2:8-9.) Grace is unmerited favor. **If any “merit” would be added, it would negate salvation by grace and gift of God.** [Paul explained the same again in Romans 11:6.] If you add any works to grace it becomes wages owed. Any attempt to merit salvation or somehow try to qualify us by our works is rejection of God’s Gift and denial that what Christ did for us is enough, finished –“**paid in full**”.

Now, if you’d ask an LDS person if he believes that we are saved by grace of God alone, he would more than likely say “*yes, of course.*” But that is not the truth, but a veiled lie. Yes, they believe that the *grace of God* is involved, but only as far as resurrection is concerned, and it can bring damnation if one is not a

Mormon. The following is what they officially teach on that subject: “...one of the untrue doctrines found in modern Christendom is the concept that man can gain salvation by grace alone (meaning in the kingdom of God) and without obedience. This [is] soul-destroying doctrine...**Immortality is a free gift...all men will come forth in the resurrection because of the atoning sacrifice of Christ** (1 Cor. 15:22)...In this sense, the mere fact of resurrection is called salvation by grace alone...Immortality comes by grace alone, but those who gain it may find themselves damned in eternity...Eternal life, the kind of life enjoyed by eternal beings in the celestial kingdom, comes by grace plus obedience...Nephi wrote: ‘Be reconciled to God; for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do.’ (2 Ne. 25:23.)” (MD, p. 671.) They teach: **“If it had not been for Joseph Smith and the restoration, there would be no salvation. There is no salvation outside of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter—day Saints.** (Doctrines of Salvation, vol. 2, pp.1-350.)” (MD, p. 670, some emphasis added to these quotes.) Comparing the teachings of the Bible to the Mormon prophets’ teachings, we can see from their “fruit” that they indeed are false prophets.

From Our mailbox:



(The following is a combination of letters received from a LDS person and my replies to her.)

She wrote: “Can you say that you really have all the answers because you read the Bible? ...Feeling safe in your belief [in the Bible] seems self-serving and narrow...One cannot rely on the Bible alone, and this is why we need a living prophet who can interpret the Bible along with modern scriptures (received through Joseph Smith). Without Joseph Smith’s first vision, one can read the Bible and interpret it differently, and assume that God is just a spirit entity, but because of what Joseph Smith saw, we know that God is a man and we were made into his image, and that we were born to God in preexistence before coming to earth. Those religions that rely on Bible alone have split into thousand of fractions, just as Joseph Smith said they have, but he said that **if God had a church it would not be split into fractions.**”

My reply: Yes, the Bible does indeed have all the answers and we can be safe in our belief in God of the Bible. Jesus said, “...*narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. Be aware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing...You shall know them by their fruits.*” (Matt. 7:14-15.) If you inspect Joseph Smith in the light of the Bible, you will find him to a false prophet. He did not see God as God is for the Bible tells us that “*no one has seen God at any time*”, for “*God is Spirit*”. (John 1:18; 4:24.) Jesus came to declare and reveal God to us so that we would not be lead astray by false prophets. Jesus commanded the *study of the scriptures* (John 5:39) and said that by so doing we will be lead to eternal life. Paul’s instruction to Timothy (and to us too) was, “***STUDY to show thyself approved to God, workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth***” (2 Tim. 2:15.) He was saying that by earnestly studying the Word we will be led to the correct understanding of God’s truth and that without knowing the Word of God, we’d end up *ashamed* and follow “*every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive*” (Eph. 4:14). Paul also reminded Timothy that “***All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.***” (2 Tim. 3:16.) The Bible is our

“measuring rod” by which we will be able to test all teachings and “doctrines” (1 Thess. 5:21) and test false prophets that Jesus had said will come to deceive. (Matt. 24:4-5.) From the Bible we learn that **God is not a man** (Numbers 23:19) but Spirit (John 4:24) and that we did not preexist, we did not come “from above”, but we are from this earth. Jesus alone came *from above*, and He said, “**unless ye believe that** [He is] “**I AM**” [God], **ye will die in your sins**”. (John 8:23-24.) Only God can forgive sins. (Mark 2:7.) Religions that base their faith in the Bible are in general terms called “Christianity”. (I.e. Catholic and Protestant Churches.) Problem with Catholic churches is that they have added to the scriptures that forbid adding, taking away or changing the Word (Deut. 4:2; 12:32; Rev. 22:18-19; Prov. 30:5) and because of that their members are led astray by their leaders. God had warned about those who do not speak according to God’s Word. (Isa. 8:20; 9:16.) Most of the Protestant churches teach that we receive full salvation by the grace of God and that it is the gift that cannot be earned or added to by our own works. (Eph. 2:8-9; Romans 3:21-28; 4:3-5.) We cannot buy our way to heaven, nor can we do enough good works to get there. There is only one way, and that is Jesus, who is God with us. (John 14:6; Matt. 1:23.) The differences among Protestant churches are not *in doctrinal essentials*. As you say, there are many “interpretations” of some parts of the Bible, but they are mainly on issues that do not have any effect in our salvation, as for example the “Rapture of the Church”, i.e. believers being *caught up to meet the Lord in the clouds* as is taught in 1 Thess. 4:13-18. Some teach that it will happen before the Tribulation period, also called *The Day of Jacobs Trouble* (Jer. 30:7; Matt. 24:15-31); some believe that it will happen in the middle of the Great Tribulation; and some think that it will not happen until after the Tribulation. Agreeing or disagreeing in this or other similar issues will not affect one’s salvation at all. All who are spirit-born believers in Jesus Christ, who is God with us, (Matt. 1:23) will be caught up before the tribulation starts, (which is our personal belief in this matter) regardless of where they stood on this interpretation. (We’ll just explain it to them on our way up ☺.) But there are essential doctrines that determine whether a person is saved or not. They are: **WHO IS GOD? WHO IS JESUS? HOW ARE WE SAVED?** False gods, false “Jesus” and a different gospel do not have the power to save anyone. Jesus said that! We must KNOW who God is, and who Jesus is and what is the gospel (John 17:3; 8:24; Gal. 1:8-9; 1 Cor. 15:1-4) before we can be saved. If one follows false concepts of God, he has been “*led after other gods*” (Deut. 13:1-5; Isa. 43:10; Ps. 90:2), other than the God of the Bible. If “any God” or “any Jesus” would do, then Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, Jehovah’s Witnesses etc. would be saved too. That is Universalism, and false. The Bible says that only Jesus who is God can forgive sins and take us to the Father. (John 8:24; 14:6.) Most Mormons we know are good people as people go, but they are not Christians because they believe in other gods, and follow “*another Jesus*” and “*another gospel*” (2 Cor. 11:4). “The Mormon-Jesus” is not eternal God, as Isa. 7:14; John 1:1, 14 say, but a created being, a spirit-brother of all, including angels and Lucifer. God created man (Adam) in His image. Since **God is Spirit** (John 4:24) it is obvious that *the image of God* is not a physical image any more than the **real you** is your bodily image. The real you is your spirit and soul, right? Jesus, who is God, became a man (John 1:1, 14). He, **God, became a likeness of men.** (Phil. 2:5-7.) Jesus is the **Virgin Born Son of God, God who is Spirit.** The LDS teaching of the physical conception of Jesus by their physical man-God, is blasphemy and denies the Virgin Birth. Mary was a Virgin when Jesus was born. When you talk about God, without knowing who the real God is, you are not referring to the same God at all regardless of your usage of the Bible. **The Bible is the Word of God, God who is not a man** (Hosea 11:9) and applying the words of the Bible to Joseph Smith’s god(s) will not work any better than using the Koran when referring to the God of the

Bible and Christianity. And by the way, Joseph Smith's words that "If God had a church it would not be split into fractions", prove that Joseph Smith's church is "not God's church", for in less than 180 years the church he started has split over 200 times – many of them existing in Utah, but some also across the nation.

This same writer continued and defended Mormon polygamy saying, "If polygamy was given as God's blessing to Abraham, do we not have faith that if practiced today, it would be living on God's level of righteousness?"

My reply: "You err not knowing the scriptures" (the Bible), but instead you believe on Joseph Smith's deceptive words, when **he counted practicing polygamy as righteousness**. In D&C 132:37 Joseph Smith said, "Abraham received concubines, and they bore him children; and **it was counted unto him for righteousness...**" What does the Bible say about Abraham's righteousness? "**Abraham believed God, and IT** (his faith) **was counted unto him for righteousness.**" (Romans 4:3; Gen. 15:6.) You refer to Abraham as a polygamist and that polygamy was ordained by God as a blessing to him! Not true. Abraham had a son by Hagar, *Sarah's maid* – but she remained as Sarah's maid. (Gen. 16:1-16; 17:15-21.) That Abraham would have a child by Hagar was Sarah's idea, not Abraham's, and absolutely not God's. **God never commanded polygamy**. Abraham married again –but not until after Sarah's death. (Gen. 25:1.) God later refers to Isaac, Sarah's and Abraham's son, as his "*only son*", for **Isaac was the son of God's promise and plan for Abraham. Ishmael was Sarah's attempt to "help God"** to fulfill His promise of a son to them. She wanted to have a son (for her) through Hagar. (Gen. 16:2.) There are still, many thousands of years later, consequences of this Abraham's misstep. Arab's, Ishmael's descendants, hate Isaac's posterity, and are constantly warring against Jacob's (Isaac's) descendants. Just about daily we read about this in our newspapers or see in our TV news! – God's plan was not polygamy, but one man and one woman in a marriage relationship. God gave Adam one Eve. When God destroyed the world by flood, He gave Noah and his three sons one wife each. Polygamy was, and still is, a pagan idea. God is patient with mankind and forgives our sins if we repent, but you cannot find anywhere in God's Word that He commanded polygamy. As a matter of fact, it was Lamech (Cain's grandson), who was the first one to have two wives. (Gen. 4:19.) From that practice came many other evils. In Deut. 17:17 God reminds that kings are to be examples to their people, and having more than one wife is not according to His will. God, through Paul, instructed Timothy and Titus that converts to the gospel must not have more than one wife if they are to be Christian leaders. (See 1 Tim. 3:2 and Titus 1:6.) There were no civil laws in these countries forbidding polygamy – only God's laws were against it, and since the world they lived in, and we still live in, does not operate according to God's laws, much that is practiced and taught in the world is not according to the will of God. We study the Bible to learn what His will and plan is for His own. Joseph Smith wrote in his **Articles of Faith** that they (Mormons) believe in "*obeying, honoring and sustaining the law*" (12th Article of Faith). However, there was a law against polygamy in United States when Joseph Smith started polygamy and it was one of the main reasons for the so-called "persecution" against Mormons. Joseph, of course, lied about it – denied that they practiced it. It was not until Brigham Young brought his followers to Utah that they finally (in 1852) admitted to being polygamists. Those Mormons who did not practice polygamy in Illinois stayed in Illinois, and they were not persecuted. They stayed and lived peacefully in Nauvoo – including Joseph Smith's legal wife, Emma,

and their children. The oldest of them, Joseph Smith the 3rd, later became the leader and Prophet of *The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* (now called *The Community of Christ church*).

(I will continue answering this LDS person's letters next month.)

=====

We thank the Lord for providing help through you. **Our computer and printer bill is paid!!! Thank you!!!!** Last month we asked you to pray for our finances, for we had to buy a new computer and printer, and **the Lord again answered our prayers. He is so good. His promises are true.** Paul wrote, "*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus... And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*" (Phil. 4:6-7, 19.) We can count on our Lord, and His own who pray and step up to help. **THANK YOU!!! God bless you all.**

We sent a special prayer request to you for our dear friend Max, who was flown from Vernal to University of Utah Hospital in Salt Lake City on 31st of May. He had lost a lot of blood (internal bleeding) and they gave him 10 pints of blood. He was in dire situation for many days, but our prayers were answered positively on his behalf. We thank you very much for praying! Max is home now and doing OK and slowly gaining his strength back.

Other prayer requests we included in our last newsletter have been also been answered – and in all health problems there has been an improvement, even if not complete healing - yet. Please keep Max, Bruce, Dick, Jim, Dale and Heber still in your prayers.

Please pray for a young couple's marriage that seems to be falling apart. They have a 2 year old son. It is so sad to see families break up. She is a former LDS, from a prominent LDS family – and if there will be a divorce, her life will be even more difficult, as you may well understand.

We have received many letters this month from former LDS persons who have a fear of losing their salvation. Being secure in salvation is a very hard issue for them to accept when they have been taught all their lives that salvation is based on their own works, and that they would never be able to know if they have done enough – and if their good works outweigh their bad ones. Even after they have come to know the true God and Jesus of the Bible, the grace of God and sure salvation is still a difficult concept for those who have been LDS. Maybe next month I will copy some of their letters for your information so that you may gain help if similar questions are presented to you. The fact is that when we receive salvation in Jesus of the Bible, **He will never leave us nor forsake us.** (Hebr. 13:5.) "*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 eternal life.*" (1 John 5:13.)

=====

Note from Micah Wilder and Adam's Road Band:

"The Christian band and ministry Adam's Road will be returning to the Salt Lake area for the complete month of September 2010, sharing song and testimony of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. With their testimonies of having all come from the LDS religion into the Truth in Christ and a belief in His Word, the Bible, they give encouragement to Christian's wherever they perform that witnessing to the LDS people is not in vain and that the Word of God never returns void. All their venues are free of charge and they will also be offering a free copy of their new album release 'Enemy of the Cross' wherever they perform. They are supported through the prayers and contributions by the Body of Christ. For event information visit www.adamsroadband.com."

Please pass this word around to all Christian pastors and ministries so that the testimony of Jesus will become known all throughout Utah and that they may find opportunities to share every day of their visit to Utah during the month of September. This will be their third year of presenting Adam's Road music in Utah.

God bless you all.

In Christ, serving Him in Utah with grateful heart,

Rauni & Dennis Higley

2890 E. Willow Bend Dr., Sandy, Utah 84093

Tel. 801.943-5011 – website: www.hismin.com

Past Newsletters: www.hismin.com/newsletter.html

Thought for today:

***"Every Christian is either a missionary or an impostor."* Charles Haddon Spurgeon (Quoted from Mark Cahill's book, *One Thing You Can't Do In Heaven*, p. 15.)**

Gifts to H.I.S. Ministries are tax deductible – IRS code 501 (c) (3)