



April 2, 2011

H.I.S. Ministries April Newsletter, covering March 2011

We just got back last night from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri. We had been asked by their president, Dr. Phil Roberts, to come again and teach on Mormonism. We think that we had a very beneficial time there, and we'd like to thank Dr. Roberts and his staff, especially Rusty Osborn, for organizing this meeting for Dr. Roberts. We also did a "Skype interview" this morning with Dr. Robert, who was in St Louis teaching on Mormonism. It is amazing what today's technology allows us to do, and participate "in person" even in meetings held across the nation.

Beautiful Spring weather as it is today lightens our heart and puts a "spring in our steps" too. This year Spring seems to have waited exceptionally long time to arrive – but perhaps we will enjoy it even more now that it is finally here. ☺ Or maybe not – I just heard that it will snow tomorrow...

We are continuing here with our requested explanations on **how Mormonism differs from biblical Christianity in fundamentally important doctrines of God, Jesus and Salvation**. In our February letter we covered *Mormon gods vs. biblical God*. In March letter we compared *Mormonism's teaching of Jesus vs. Jesus of the Bible*. In this April letter we turn our focus to *salvation as is taught in Mormonism vs. salvation according to the Bible*.

Salvation can come only from the True God. As Jesus said (John 17:3) *"This is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent."* Clearly in order to gain eternal life (salvation) **we must first know the only true God, and His Son, Jesus Christ, who alone is the Way, the Truth and the Life** (John 14:6). We must seek God in humility and humble ourselves before Him and believe in His Gospel which is defined and declared in 1 Cor. 15:1-4. When Jesus was asked, *"What must we do, that we might work the works of God?"*, He answered: *"This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him, whom He hath sent."* (John 6:28-29.) He will freely give **His gift of salvation** to those who believe and ask. God of the Bible says, *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."* (Eph. 2:8-9.)

Mormonism teaches, *"... it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do."* (2 Nephi 25:23.) That "grace" will never even come to fruition, for **no one has ever done all that they could have done**. Let us compare these teachings: The Bible teaches of a Triune God, who is a Spirit Being, *"from everlasting to everlasting"*. God has existed forever as three co-equal **Eternal Persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit**. The Son became a man to provide salvation to all, who, by faith, accept His salvation as **His gift**, and by so doing *"become sons of God"*. (John 1:12.) Since salvation is **the Gift of God**, there is nothing we must do to receive it, but believe from our heart. The price for **the Gift of salvation** has been paid by God Himself. (Paul explained it further in his letter to the Romans 3:24-28; 4:4-5.) In contrast to God of the Bible, god of Mormonism is but a mere former mortal man, who was married and even polygamist, who after his death had progressed, with his wives, into godhood. The Mormon Church teaches that all mankind and angels are spirit children of their god, born to him and his many wives on another planet– Jesus being the eldest among the billions of sons of this god. These Mormon concepts of God and Jesus are totally and completely different – inventions of Joseph Smith.

Salvation in Mormonism is another invention of Joseph Smith and added upon by the leaders of his church after him. They teach that their *"elder brother, Jesus", atoned Adam's transgression in the Garden of Gethsemane*, but forgiveness of personal sins is *"conditional"*, based on person's repentance and following

obedience to all the “laws and ordinances of the [LDS] gospel” (3rd Article of Faith), i.e. God’s grace will not be applicable until after **they have done all they could do.** (Compare this to Gal. 3:10 and James 2:10.) An LDS pamphlet, titled, **“What the Mormons Think Of Christ”** says, **“Christians often speak of the blood of Christ and its cleansing power. Much that is believed and taught on this subject, however, is such utter nonsense and so palpably false that to believe it is to lose one’s salvation...many believe or pretend to believe that if we confess Christ with our lips and avow that we accept him as our personal Savior, we are thereby saved. They say that his blood, without any other act than mere belief, makes us clean. What is the true doctrine of the blood of Christ? Salvation comes because of the atonement, and the atonement was wrought through shedding of the blood of Christ. In Gethsemane Christ sweat great drops of blood from every pore when he conditionally took upon himself the sins of the world, and then shedding of his blood was completed on the cross.” (Emphasis added.) Note that the Mormon Church teaches that atonement took place in Gethsemane, not on the cross. (The LDS church does not use the cross as a symbol of faith in what took place on that cross - nor do they preach the cross. Paul said, **“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”** (1 Cor. 1:18.) Paul reminds us that **“the princes of this world”** (meaning the demonic powers and the religious leaders under the influence of these powers) did not know the saving power of the cross of Christ beforehand, **“for had they known it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”** (1 Cor. 2:8.) The word “salvation” itself has various meanings in Mormonism.**

1. **“Unconditional or general salvation, that which comes by grace alone** without obedience to gospel law, **consists in the mere fact of being resurrected.** In this sense salvation is synonymous with immortality...**This kind of salvation eventually will come to all mankind, excepting only the sons of perdition... They are resurrected, but they are not redeemed from the devil... Those who gain only this general or unconditional salvation ... will, therefore, be damned...**

2. **Conditional or individual salvation, that which comes by grace coupled with gospel obedience,** consists in receiving an inheritance in the celestial kingdom of God. This kind of salvation follows faith, repentance, baptism, receipt of the Holy Ghost, and **continued righteousness to the end of one’s mortal probation.** (D&C 20:29; 2 Nephi 9:23-24.)**All others are damned**...Even those in the celestial kingdom, who do not go on to exaltation, will have **immortality only and not eternal life**...they will be ‘ministering servants, to minister for those who are worthy of a far more, and an exceeding, and an eternal weight of glory.’ They will live ‘separately and singly’ in an **unmarried state without exaltation,** in their saved condition, to all eternity.’ (D&C 132:16-17.)

3. **“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... It is the salvation which the saints seek. It is of this which the Lord says, ‘There is no greater gift than the gift of salvation’. (D&C 6:13.) This full salvation is obtained in and through the continuation of the family unit in eternity, and those who obtain it are gods.** (D&C 131:1-4; 132.) Full salvation is attained by virtue of knowledge, truth, righteousness, and all true principles. **Many conditions must exist in order to make such a salvation available to men. Without the atonement, the gospel, the priesthood, and the sealing power, there would be no salvation. Without continuous revelation, the ministering of angels, the working of miracles, the prevalence of gifts of the spirit, there would be no salvation. If it had not been for Joseph Smith and restoration, there would be no salvation. There is no salvation outside The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.”** (Mormon Doctrine, pp. 669-671, emphasis added.)

Not only does the Mormon Church claim that without Joseph Smith there would be no salvation, they also claim that a current living **“President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints holds the keys of salvation for all men now living.”** (Mormon Doctrine, p.411.)

The Mormon Church’s second president and prophet, Brigham Young elevated Joseph Smith into a position of **“President of Resurrection”**. Brigham Young said, **“How are you going to get your resurrection? You will get it by the President of resurrection, and that is Joseph Smith, Jun. Hear it all ye ends of the earth; if you ever enter into the kingdom of God it is because Joseph Smith let you go there. This will apply to Jews and Gentiles, to the bond, and the free; to friends and foes; no man or woman in this generation will get a resurrection and be crowned without Joseph Smith saying so. The man who was martyred in Carthage Jail, State of Illinois, holds the keys of life and death to this dispensation...”** (Quoted from **“The Essential Brigham Young”**, Eugene E. Campbell, p. 99, emphasis added.)

Joseph Smith is claimed by the LDS Church to be absolutely necessary for **everyone’s salvation.** To focus on this matter again, in June 1994, LDS Church’s official magazine, **Ensign**, had an article by **BYU**

Religion professor Robert L. Millet, who quoted Brigham Young's words, "*From the day that the priesthood was taken from the earth to the winding up things of things, every man and woman must have the certificate of Joseph Smith, junior, as a passport to their entrance into the mansion where God and Christ are - I with you and you with me. I cannot go there without his consent.*" (Emphasis added. This is also found in the Journal of Discourses, vol. 7:289, and further stressed in the LDS Church's 1984 manual, "*Search These Commandments*", p. 133.)

In March 17th, 2001, the *LDS Church News* stated, "*Joseph Smith was a prophet, and all calumny and aspirations to the contrary cannot controvert that fact. Anyone who has concern for the welfare of his eternal soul should give attention to this message. Every man who has lived since the days of Joseph Smith is subject to accepting him as a prophet of God in order to enter into our Heavenly Father's presence.*"

Joseph Smith himself boasted, "*I have more to boast of than ever any man had. I am the only man that has been able to keep a whole church together since the days of Adam. A large majority of the whole have stood by me. Neither Paul, John, Peter, nor Jesus ever did it. I boast that no man ever did such a work as I. The followers of Jesus ran away from Him; but the Latter-day Saints never ran away from me yet.*" (History of the Church, vol. 6:408-409. Emphasis added.)

What is the Mormon Church's teaching of hell and who will go there?

From Mormon Doctrine, pp. 349-351, we read (emphasis added):

*"That part of the spirit world inhabited by wicked spirits who are awaiting the eventual day of their resurrection is called hell. Between their death and resurrection, these souls of the wicked are cast out into outer darkness...into hell... Hell will have an end...After their resurrection, the great majority of those who have suffered in hell will pass into the telestial kingdom; the balance, cursed as sons of perdition, will be consigned to partake of endless wo with the devil and his angels. Speaking of the telestial kingdom the Lord says, 'These are they who are thrust down to hell. These are they who shall not be redeemed until the last resurrection...until fullness of times.' ...Statements about everlasting and endless hell are to be interpreted in the same sense as those about eternal and endless punishment (what they mean is that it is only called 'endless or eternal' because it is God's punishment - but that it will, nevertheless, end). "**Who will go to hell?**... Among them are sorcerers, adulterers, whoremongers...Such is also a fate of liars, of all those who preach false doctrines, of those who believe the damnable doctrine of infant baptism ... 'The sectarian world are going to hell by hundreds, by thousands and by millions', the prophet [Joseph Smith] said. ' (History of the Church, vol. 5, p. 554.)...Speaking of this hell...those going to telestial kingdom have come out of their hell...Thus, for those who are heirs of some salvation, which includes all except sons of perdition, hell has an end."*

However, the Book of Mormon teaches of everlasting hell (Jacob 3:11; Alma 5:7), and says that it is the devil who lulls them into carnal security saying that *all is well in Zion, and flatters them away telling them that there is no hell* (See: 2 Nephi 28:21-25).

To comfort his followers who were concerned about hell, Joseph Smith assured them with these words, "*I see no faults in the Church, and therefore let me be resurrected with the Saints, whether I ascend to heaven or descend to hell, or go to any other place. And IF we go to hell, we will turn the devils out of doors and make a heaven of it. Where this people are, there is good society. What do we care where we are, if the society is good?*" (History of the Church, vol. 5, p. 517. Emphasis added.)

The Patriarch of the LDS Church, Eldred G. Smith, gave a speech in BYU (March 10, 1964), where he said, "*The Lord has told us of three degrees of glory. There are three 'heavens', as it is often referred to. We call them the telestial, terrestrial, and the celestial. I cannot for a minute conceive the telestial being hell either, because it is considered a heaven, a glory. The Prophet Joseph Smith told us that if we could get one little glimpse into the telestial glory even, the glory is so great that we would be tempted to commit suicide to get there.*" (Listed under Brigham Young University Speeches of the Year, as *Speech on Exaltation* given March 10, 1964, Provo, Utah, BYU Press, 1960-1966.)

The LDS Church refers to 2 Cor. 12:2-4 in order to "prove" by the Bible that *there are three heavens*, asking, "*didn't Paul say that he was caught up to the third heaven?*"

[This incident is assumed to be the time mentioned in Acts 14:19, when Paul was stoned and left as dead.]

The Bible uses the word "heaven" to refer to three areas of space above, as do people even in our day when looking up to the sky. There is 1) an immediate *atmosphere* above us where also the birds fly, then 2) above that is *airless area*, we call *space*, where sun, moon and stars are, and 3) the *heaven*, higher than that,

where God's throne is. The Bible does not teach of three "heavenly kingdoms"! The only place in the Bible where the words "celestial" and "terrestrial" appear are in 1 Cor.15:40. ("Celestial" means heavenly. "Terrestrial" means earthly.) "**Celestial**", is translated from a Greek word 'epouranios', meaning "**heavenly**" or "**abode of God**". "**Terrestrial**" is translated from a Greek word "epigeios", which means "**worldly**", "**earthy**" or what is "**in earth**", **not heaven by any means**. "**Telestial**" is not a known word at all. Joseph Smith coined a word "**telestial**" for his "**lowest of three heavenly kingdoms**", but it is not a known word anywhere excepting in Mormonism. **There are not three heavens for mankind's future – only God's heaven**, and then **there is hell**, "**the lake of fire**" for all who have not accepted **God's gift of salvation**, and whose names were not written in **the Lamb's Book of Life**. (Rev. 20:15.)

The Mormon Church has refuted the clear biblical teaching of salvation by grace alone and says:
"*...one of the **untrue doctrines found in modern Christendom is the concept that man can gain salvation (meaning in the kingdom of God) by grace alone and without obedience. This soul-destroying doctrine has the obvious effect of lessening the determination of an individual to conform to all of the laws and ordinances of the gospel ... Immortality is a free gift and comes without works of righteousness of any sort; all men will come forth in the resurrection because atoning sacrifice of Christ. In and of itself the resurrection is a form of salvation meaning that men are saved from death, hell, the devil, and endless torment... the mere fact of resurrection is called salvation by grace alone ... Salvation in the celestial kingdom of God, however, is not 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 ... Thus Nephi wrote: 'Be reconciled to God; for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do.'*** (2 Nephi 25:23.)" (Mormon Doctrine, pp. 670-671. Emphasis added.)

The 12th President of the LDS Church, Spencer W. Kimball, also wrote, "***One of the most fallacious doctrines originated by Satan and propounded by man is that man is saved alone by grace of God; that belief in Jesus Christ alone is all that is needed for salvation... Church members are fortunate indeed to have scriptures brought forth in this age which clarify this and other doctrinal questions beyond all doubt. One passage in the Book of Mormon...to stress and induce appreciation for the gracious gift of salvation offered on condition of obedience – is particularly enlightening:*..."for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do." (2 Ne. 25:23. Emphasis added.) (From "Miracles of Forgiveness", p. 206-7.)**

Here we see the ultimate impossibility offered to Mormons: Not only do they have a **God who is not God at all**, and **Jesus who is not true Jesus of the Bible**, but even the "grace" offered to them will not apply **until they have done all they can do!** This "**grace**" is null and void from the start! Think about it: Is there anyone who has ever done **all they could have done** even during one day of their lives? And then, if they have repented, asked and received forgiveness for their sins, and if **they sin again**, "**shall former sins return**" (D&C 82:7), says Joseph Smith's revelation. Mormonism in its doctrinal teachings requires perfection, which is impossible for any person. President Joseph Fielding Smith wrote, "*Those who gain exaltation in the celestial kingdom are those who are members of the Church of the Firstborn; in other words, those who keep all the commandments of the Lord... The higher ordinances in the temple of God pertain to exaltation in the celestial kingdom ... In order to receive this blessing, one must keep the full law, must abide the law by which that kingdom is governed...*" (Doctrines of Salvation, vol. 2:41-42. Emphasis added.) Our Lord's brother James wrote of the impossibility of salvation by the law when he said, "**For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.**" (James 2:10.) We need God's grace in Christ, not the law, for if we depend on the law then Christ will be of no value to us. (Gal.5:2.)

[Late President Gordon B. Hinckley had said that there are teachings in the Mormon Church that **can be learned only in their temples**; the places where Mormons are prepared to become gods and goddesses. **It is only in the temples that they can learn the secrets of Mormonism that, as they teach, prepare them for exaltation, which means godhood.** Those Mormons who have not received their temple-endowments and who have not married in a temple, cannot even plan on going to the celestial kingdom. **Mormon temples are only for their "worthy members"** as is their celestial kingdom.]

The Bible is clear: "***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 by the law in the sight of God**, it is evident: for, **The just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith**: but the man that doeth them shall live in them. **Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law**, being made curse for us.” (Gal. 3:10-13. In order to reason with Mormons and witness about law vs. grace - we must know Paul’s letter to Galatians well.)

Jesus came to save sinners. **“I am not come to call righteous, but sinners to repentance.”** (Matt. 9:13.) Who are these sinners that Jesus came to call? **All of us.** **“All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”** (Romans 3:23.) **We are saved by God’s gift of grace through faith** so that **no one can boast.** (Eph. 2:8-9.) How do we come to the saving faith of God? Paul answered that in Romans 10:17, **“...faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.”**

There are **no laws or ordinances in the gospel of God.** What the Gospel is, is **declared** in 1 Cor. 15:1-4, where Paul said, **“I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; by which ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you...For I also 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.”** **That is the gospel.** The Gospel is a message of good news that changes lives. (Eph. 2:8-10) Paul warned about those who bring “another gospel”. (2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15.) He warned that changing the gospel in any way makes it “another gospel” that brings God’s curse on those who preach it or accept it. (Gal. 1:6-9.) Paul wrote, **“But though we, or an angel from heaven [Moroni?], preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”** (Gal. 1:8-9.) Paul continued, **“A man is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified...I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by law, then Christ is dead in vain.”** (Gal. 2:16, 20-21.)

Salvation is the gift of God to anyone who asks and puts their faith and trust in **Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life** (John 14:6). Romans 10:9-10 says, **“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.”**

We say with Paul, our **“hearts desire and prayer to God for [Mormons] is that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.”** (Romans 10:1-4.)

When we come to KNOW the Only True God and Jesus, whom He has sent (John 17:3), and when we accept Him and become God’s children through a new birth, He gives us a new heart and our desires and motives change, and little by little, we are molded into His likeness. We do not have a desire to sin any longer - even though we still periodically may make wrong choices. (See: 1 John 1:9.) We, like Paul, have to remind ourselves **Who is the One Who shall deliver us from sin** - and we too **“thank God through Jesus Christ, our Lord”**. (Romans 7: 14-25.) [For more information and discussion, please write to us: hismin@xmission.com.]

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From our mailbox: (A letter from an LDS man);



“Dear Dennis or Rauni,
I’ve read your account of leaving the Mormon church, but I guess I’m missing one piece to fully fathom it. After all your service in the Mormon church, you developed many (VERY MANY) reasons to leave the Mormons - but I missed the part where God told you to join or leave it so I can not understand why you became a Mormon to start with? Did you have a genuine conversion to Mormonism by experiencing God or not? If yes, then did God change his mind and tell you to become a protestant (which flavor are you)? I’m just interested by the whole thing. If you never really had that experience, then I guess I understand you leaving and becoming a protestant (since protestants don’t believe God speaks to mankind any more). However, I don’t see why you didn’t become a

Catholic instead - at least you'd be more consistent. And I really find it unusual you didn't end up atheist like most ex-mormons. Ah well, I guess you have your reasons (probably lots)...T"

My response:

Thank you for wanting to know why we left the Mormon Church. Since you say that our report you had read left you still questioning, I will try to answer this for you for both of us: Dennis was born and raised LDS, having six generations of active LDS before him in his family. He was always an active member – from childhood on. He served his mission and after that he was soon called into leadership positions as an Elder’s Quorum President (in 3 wards, as we had moved). He also held various teaching positions, as Executive Secretary for the Bishop, and lastly many years as a Stake High Councilman. He believed Mormonism completely, for it was all he knew. He had no knowledge or understanding of biblical Christianity, having only studied the Bible *according to Mormonism*, and that without questioning Mormonism, even when he saw that the Bible and Mormonism did not agree. I was a convert to the Mormon Church in Finland. Before that I was a member of the State Religion, which is the Lutheran Church, and simply means that a person born there is automatically Lutheran. You asked, *why I became a Mormon to start with, and if I had a genuine conversion to Mormonism by experiencing God?* I had no idea how to “*experience God*”, but the Mormon missionaries told me that I was to pray if the Book of Mormon is true and if Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, and **if the feeling I get is a good feeling** or a “*burning in my bosom*” (a very strong feeling), that would be the sign to me that Mormonism is true. I was a biblical illiterate – I did not have a knowledge of the Bible to know any different at that time. I did not even own a Bible when I met Mormon missionaries... I can now say that **had I known the Bible, I would have known that it does not ask anyone to pray about the truthfulness of any book or a prophet, but instead it commands people to test, to “prove all things”** (1 Thess. 5:21) **by the Word of God** (the Bible), to “*study to be approved to God*” so that we will not end up ashamed, and in ignorance following false prophets. (2 Tim. 2:15.) **The Bible also commands that we test the spirits, so that we will not be led astray by demonic spirits that can give very positive and good feelings.** (1 John 4:1; 1 Tim. 4:1.) The Word of God informs us that our *hearts are deceitful* (Jer. 17:9), and that our feelings can lead us away from truth if we do not test them carefully. I did not know that the Bible warns about those who will come and preach “another Jesus”, “another gospel” and have “another spirit”. The Bible says that these teachings originate with “*false apostles, deceitful workers, who transform themselves into the apostles of Christ*”, **but actually are ministers of Satan.** (2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15.)

I take comfort in The Word of God that says that even though I made a huge mistake by joining Mormonism, God has made *my 20 years of learning what Mormonism is* to now **work for good**, as He promised through Paul in Romans 8:28. Paul was a scholar of Hebrew Scriptures and very zealously obeyed the Jewish law. He had studied under the best Hebrew scholars, such as Gamaliel. (Acts 22:3; 5:34.) I too was zealous for Mormonism, which was to me all I knew. It took many, many years for me to understand what Mormonism really is; namely **that it is anti-biblical doctrine**. Researching Mormon history was part of my work I did for the Mormon Church. I had access to a lot of materials most Mormons have never even known exist. My work as a translator and interpreter for the Church actually required research if I wanted to do my work well, which I did. When comparing (finally) what Mormonism teaches about God, Jesus and salvation to the Bible, I was faced with the fact that if the Bible is true, then Mormonism is a huge lie. Eventually Dennis and I together decided to immerse ourselves in an in-depth study of the Bible, its history and its preservation. That was great. We obtained the Interlineal Bible with Hebrew and Greek texts, dictionaries and commentaries by the very best Bible scholars and all the best translations of the Bible to test if it was translated correctly. We have continued our daily Bible studies now nearly 30 years and we both can testify that it is the **WORD OF GOD**, final and infallible and that it stands forever as it promises in Isa. 40:8. Jesus said that *heaven and earth will have to pass away before even one “jot or tittle”* (a smallest parts of a letters) **of His Word will pass away.** (Matt. 5:18.) Heaven and earth are still here, so we can trust Jesus’ promise concerning the **Word of God** to remain true. *The Word of God* is one of His names and titles. (John 1:1,14; Rev. 19:13.) We can, like Paul did, thank the Lord for His foreknowledge and direction that enabled us to be prepared for the work of this ministry to Mormons, learning of Mormonism from deep inside of it **while we were totally ignorant of God’s truth**. We both can individually say with Paul, *“I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; who was before a blasphemer, a persecutor... but I obtained mercy, BECAUSE I DID IT IGNORANTLY IN UNBELIEF. And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of which I am chief. Howbeit for*

this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on Him to life everlasting. Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor, and glory for ever and ever. Amen.” (1 Tim. 1:12-17.)

You assumed that we have become “**Protestants**” of a sort after leaving Mormonism rather than becoming Catholics! By “**Protestant**” you mean *not Catholics*? Yes, in that sense we are “**protestants**”, for we for sure are not Catholics, but neither do we profess “**any other flavor**”, which I again I assume you mean *identification by one or the other “denomination”*. **We identify ourselves by the Word of God and in that sense identify with those denominations that are scriptural and follow the Bible. We are born-again Christians who believe in the Bible as our only guide for life and eternity.**

Contrary to your understanding, **God does continue to speak to mankind through His Word that covers past, present and future.** It takes us past the **Last Judgment** (Rev. 20:12-15), **to the New Heaven and New Earth.** (Rev. 20: 11-15; 21-22.) **After that is Eternity! God has spoken, He has revealed His plan and given His instructions in His Word on how to have everlasting life, but without studying it and instead just relying on feelings millions have been led astray. Sad story for them.** -Please feel free to write again. I'd be happy to talk with you. Sincerely, Rauni Higley



We want to thank you for supporting us through prayer and giving to help us continue providing DVDs, CDs, books, Bibles and other materials to bring Mormons to the knowledge of the truth and become God's children. We have been blessed to witness this transformation in many lives, and we want to thank you for your partnership with us in this work for His glory.

We are asking you to pray for healing for Heber and Dale and strength for Sharon. There are many others who have asked for prayer in their behalf. The Lord knows them and their needs when we just mention their names in prayer. Pray for Max, Dick and Patti, Bruce, Judy, Grace, Rachel and Lisa. There are many Mormons also to whom we have given answers to their doctrinal questions or challenges and we ask that you pray for an open heart and mind that will allow them to think and reason. Please pray for Kevin in Alaska, who has taken on a huge task of helping Mormons there to come to understand and accept the truth of God, Jesus and salvation, and separate themselves from Mormonism. When Kevin first time wrote to us a couple of months ago, he was just beginning to understand what Mormonism is, and he is hearth-broken for his Mormon friends he has made there, and their eternal destiny in hell if they do not come to the Real Jesus.

I am asking prayer also for my health. I have had continued pain in my stomach for months and there will some testing done next week in St. Marks Hospital. Please pray that it is not anything that requires further treatments. I am putting my trust in the Lord – if He wants me to do this work, He will heal me.

May the Lord bless you all, is our prayer for you.

Rauni and Dennis Higley

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