



**\*He Is Savior, Acts 4:12**

**November 1, 2013**

## **H.I.S. Ministries November Newsletter, covering October 2013**

***“When the Son of Man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?”*** (Luke 18:8.) Jesus is talking about *saving faith*, not just *“faith”*, for we know that even the demons believe. **They have faith.** They know and believe that Jesus is the Son of God, they believe that He died on the cross for the sins of men, they know and believe the He rose again and ascended to heaven and that He is coming again. They know that their time is short. Demons *“tremble”* with their faith, so we know that they have *feelings* too. James wrote (2:19), ***“Thou believest that there is one God: thou doest well: the devils also believe and tremble.”*** But their belief will not save them. Saving faith is more than ***belief – it is relationship with Christ, total surrender to His Lordship over our lives.*** It is not just being able to say the right words. Most cults and New Age movements use the same biblical words, but they do not mean the same. Apostasy is indeed in full bloom. Well known *religious leaders* are striving to unite mankind with a social gospel, which is one of Satan’s ways to promote *“goodness” without Christ, without saving faith in Jesus.* They are seeking *“unity in diversity”*, which is same as *universalism.* Some call it a *church* that is *emerging*, a *“church”* that accepts just about any *belief* as long as people strive to be *good* and *tolerate* differences in faith and name the name of Jesus, regardless of doctrine. This is how the *“One World Religion”* will be established. It is a religion of Anti-Christ that is being prepared for his take-over. This could be termed *“demonic faith”*, faith that the Devil has. The responsibility of all who have surrendered their lives to the biblical Jesus is that they must teach the **true gospel of Christ without compromises.** We cannot be experts in all various cults, but if we know the Truth about Jesus, we can detect false doctrine and *correct* those who have fallen

for deception. (2 Tim. 3:16.) Our focus as former Mormons living in Utah is to help Mormons to come to see Jesus as God and help them to come to faith and relationship with Him.

***“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils [demons].” (1 Timothy 4:1.) What are the doctrines of devils? How did it begin?***

God Himself had given His instructions to the first man, Adam, therefore in order to succeed with his plan, the Devil had to first cause man to question what God had said. So the serpent said to the woman *“Hath God said...?”* [I.e. *God had said that disobedience to His command will bring death.*] (Gen.3:1-5.) The Devil refuted what God had said, and told Eve, ***“Ye shall not surely die...[but] ye shall be as gods...”*** Godhood of man is the first “doctrine” that the Devil offered to mankind, and it has advanced from that. There is not even one cult leader or false religion teacher that does not use the devil’s proven method to bring confusion and doubt in God’s Word. They all bring into question what God has said by causing suspicion and doubt to the *correctness and completeness of the Bible*. Once these false teachers can place doubt in people’s mind about God’s Word, then they can bring their own *“added words”* and lead people into *doctrines of devils*, beginning with the same ambition that the devil has – becoming a god. (Isa. 14:12-14.) There have been attempts throughout human history to take the true God away from people by replacing Him with other gods. From the Tower of Babel to our day, mankind has sought to worship other gods, *“the host of heaven”, sun, moon and stars*, carving the images of them and placing them on their temples etc., and revert to a belief in many gods. *Worship of other gods* is against the First Commandment of God (Ex. 20:3). God’s Second Commandment *forbids making images of anything in heaven above... as sun, moon and stars ... or angels*. The Devil was formerly the highest angel of God, the *“anointed Cherub that covereth”*, who was *“perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee”* (Ezek. 28:14-19), and the Lord God cast him out. Lucifer’s *iniquity* was his pride and jealousy– he wanted to be like God, and take His place in the universe. That should be a warning to all men dreaming of becoming gods. If Lucifer’s prideful desire was enough to cause him, the most powerful and wise creature of God, to be cast out from God’s kingdom, we must not in our pride desire what belongs to our Lord God alone. *Lucifer became the Devil, Satan*, and he is also known as *“an angel of light”*. (2 Cor. 11:13-15.) Lucifer wants worship, for he wants to be like the Most High God. (Isa. 14:14.) This *angel of light* is known in Mormondom as *Moroni*. [See D&C introduction page – prior to 1981 edition - that says, *“Joseph Smith received visitations from Moroni, an angel of light”*.] The Mormon Church places statues of Moroni, an *angel of light*, on top of their temples that are the *“most holy edifices”* of the Mormon Church. [There are already nearly 140 Mormon temples displaying this *angel of light* on the top of them - and more temples are under construction.] These temples are built for the purposes forbidden by God of the Bible which is

contacting the dead, and dealing with “familiar spirits”, doing *work for the dead*. (Deut. 18:9-11; Lev. 19:31; 20:6). “*How do the Saints expect the necessary information by which to complete the ministrations for the salvation and exaltation of their friends who have died? By one holding the keys of the oracles of God, as a medium through which the living can hear from the dead... [this] was introduced to the modern world by Joseph Smith...*” The Mormon temples are built “*for the express purpose that the living might hear from the dead...*” (See Journal of Discourses, vol. 2:44-46.) Only the most faithful and obedient Mormons can attend their temples and receive the endowment rituals for the living and for the dead. There they are sworn to secrecy under the penalty of death (although demonstrations as to how a person’s life may be taken were removed from the rituals in April of 1990). Once they are sworn to secrecy through the most solemn oaths, there is a special bind that has been placed on them, their undergarment being a constant reminder of these oaths. God, through Isaiah gave a solemn warning against those who advocate consulting spirit mediums and wizards in behalf of the dead... “*if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them...the prophet who teaches lies, he is the tail. For leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed*” (Isa. 8:20; 9:15b,16.) It is much more difficult to get the temple-endowed Mormons to listen to God’s truth and separate themselves from this deceptive religion and work, but with prayer to the God of the Bible we have seen *impossible becoming possible*.

Paul wrote another warning concerning the devil’s deises and said, “*But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ Jesus. For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted...* (Paul continues explaining where these unbiblical doctrines originate, saying) For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.” (2 Cor. 11:3-4, 13-15, NKJV.) We must likewise, with much prayer, be reminding our Mormon friends and relatives that Jesus whom the apostles preached is God who became a man (John 1:1, 14; 8:24; Matt. 1:23), NOT “*another Jesus*” as is presented by Mormonism, “*a man who became a god*”, a created being, Lucifer’s and mankind’s brother. The true Gospel of God that apostles preached is *a message of death, burial and resurrection of Jesus in our behalf* (1 Cor. 15:1-4). As John commanded, we must test the spirits that give “*feelings*” or “*testimonies*” of falsehoods (1 John 4:1) for God’s Holy Spirit would not give testimonies of another Jesus nor of another gospel, different than what Paul and other apostles preached. Paul further warned, “*Thou we, or an angel from heaven (Moroni), preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.” (Gal. 1:8.) *The end of all false**

***apostles who teach another Jesus and another gospel under another spirit will be according to their deceptive works - the same as Satan's end. They will end up in the lake of fire. (Rev. 20:15.)***

[The “LDS gospel” is the gospel of “**laws and ordinances**” of the Mormon Church. (3<sup>rd</sup> Article of Faith.) The “LDS gospel” **is not a message of death, burial and resurrection of Jesus to be received by grace through faith as God's gift** (Eph. 2:8-9), **but godhood to be earned** through temple work and a lifelong service to the Mormon Church.]

Many have departed from their previous Christian faiths and joined Mormonism or other “isms”, thinking that because they use the same words, they also mean and believe the same. These false teachers use Christian terms but they have cleverly twisted the meaning of fundamental Christian doctrines of **Deity of Christ, His Virgin Birth, His death on the Cross for sin, Salvation by Grace alone, His coming again**, and they have gained the trust of the gullible and are leading them to everlasting damnation. **As we learn the depths of these deceptive doctrines, we must ask the Lord to help us to rescue them and bring them to the truth of His Word, the Bible and be saved.**

We have two Sunday evenings left of our 10-week course on ***Understanding Mormonism***, and we are sure that those who have faithfully attended are soon ready to put their learning in use and with love and patience lead the captive out of bondage. It has been a blessing to us to see them **loving the lost** so much that they have been willing to sacrifice their Sunday evenings, spending 2 plus hours in class and many more additional hours in reading all the written information we have given to them after each class. **We continue to pray the Lord's blessings on them and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts for their faithfulness to Lord Jesus who died for Mormons and for all the lost who desire to be saved.**

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### **An LDS believer asks:**

*“In the LDS funerals we are often told that when young people or LDS missionaries die, they will go on a mission in the spirit world to convert dead people there to Mormonism. Our Church teaches that when children or older people die, they go to meet their loved ones who have passed away and have been waiting for them in the heavenly kingdom. We believe that “families are forever”, so it makes sense to me. I have heard similar stories from Christians too. I have read about one pastor who died in a car accident, and said that he met some of his relatives on the ‘heaven's gate’ but about 90 minutes later he was sent back to earth to tell his story and that beyond this life there is heaven. There was also a story recently told about another pastor's little son who died, and he met his grandparents and other relatives in heaven, and that they all had wings, some had small and some had large wings. He too was sent back to earth to tell his story and sell books that will bring others to faith that there is heaven. What do you think? Is this true or not?”*

### **Just my thoughts on his questions:**

The Bible is our only source for Truth about God, Jesus and salvation, and what happens after this life. From the Word of God we know that born again believers, at the very moment of their death, **will be present with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8)**. Thus they cannot be meeting with the relatives at 'heavens' gate'. There are no stories in the Bible of dead coming back to tell about heaven or heaven's gate. We read about Lazarus, who was dead for 3 days, and when Jesus raised him from the dead, he did not tell stories of where he had been during that time. Jairus' daughter likewise was raised from the dead, and she did not tell of her "experiences" either...However, there is one story that seems to come close to experiencing something beyond this world, but not permitted to talk about. [It may have been when Paul was stoned and left as dead. See: Acts 14:19.] Paul said that he was "**caught up into Paradise**", but about what he heard there, he said "it was not lawful for man to utter." (2 Cor. 12:4.) Paul never again mentioned it, he only **preached the Word of God and Christ crucified** (1 Cor. 1:17-23). For these reasons I do not believe these stories to be real. Dead do not come back – they do not come back as spirits or ghosts either as some say. While this pastor you mentioned, or another pastor's little boy, may have thought that what they saw was a real experience of heaven, may have been a dream while unconscious. They may have been thought to have died, but their brains were not "dead", but still functioning, and what they thought was an experience of heaven, was a dream. **Many people who have come out of a deep coma have told of dreams that also seemed like real experiences.** It is quite possible that a pastor getting into a car accident and realizing possibility of dying, he would have thought of going to heaven. Same with the other pastor's little son, who likewise had been told stories of **winged angels** and relatives who have passed and are expected to be in heaven where they will eventually see them again. These pastors are traveling across the nation sharing these "experiences" on TV and radio, and saying that through their experiences they are *bringing people to faith in Jesus*. I see a danger in this for the Bible does not allow anyone to add to God's Word and what He has chosen to reveal to us. (Rev. 22:18.) Even bringing people to faith in Jesus should not be based on dreamed experiences of heaven or hell, but solely on the Word of God. (Romans 10:17.) **Just about every cult we know of has started with claimed dreams or visions that were presented as additional information from God that He did not tell in His Word.** I am not suggesting that these pastors are trying to get a following for themselves with these stories, but yet I see them as perhaps suggestive to others, and some gullible people may take their own dreams as some kind of revelation or instructions from God. **We believe that the Bible is complete, inerrant, God-inspired true and holy Word of God, nothing to be added.**

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**Questions an LDS man has sent to us :** We have received several long letters from a Mormon, a very nice man, I may add, who has told us how much he appreciates the Mormon Church and teachings that families are forever. He has related stories about his family life and said that he and his wife are active temple attending Mormons and that they appreciate good moral teachings of the LDS Church, but that he longs to hear more talks about Jesus in the LDS services and less about Joseph Smith, but agrees that there may never be a right balance

between Jesus and Joseph Smith in the Mormon meetings. His wife does not quite agree with him, but allows him some freedom to occasionally attend a Christian church as well. His letters are long as are most of my previous answers to him, thus I only summarize what has been said. My letters seems repetitious, but often that is what it takes to help them to see the truth and consider the scriptural facts. He has not responded to my last answer that I will include here. I hope he is still thinking about these very important issues.

**I again wrote to him a short time ago:** I see that you are coming along and observing some things more clearly, **but I also see that you have not yet figured out that the Jesus talked about in the Mormon Church is not the same Jesus as taught in the Bible.** The name is the same, stories are the same, miracles He performed are the same for LDS stories of the life of Jesus are taken **from the Bible**, but **Who the LDS Jesus is**, is different than what the Bible teaches. Let me explain: **God the Father of the biblical Jesus is Spirit rather than a former mortal man as is taught by the LDS Church.** **You have confirmed that you believe the LDS teaching that Jesus was born as a spirit baby of heavenly father and mother in the preexistence.** You have also confirmed that Jesus is your elder brother and brother of angels, Lucifer included, and that about 2000 years ago this heavenly father, an exalted god-man, came to Mary and conceived Jesus' physical body, ***"same way mortal men are begotten by their mortal fathers"***. (Mormon Doctrine, p. 547.) Have you noticed that **your prophets** have taught that ***Jesus was NOT BEGOTTEN BY THE HOLY GHOST*** (Ezra Taft Benson, *Come Unto Christ*, p. 4) **regardless that the Bible says that He was?** (See Matt. 1:18; Luke 1:35.) **Think about this seriously. The Bible says that He alone came from heaven, mankind did not, and that we will die in our sins if we do not believe that He is God.** (John 8:23-24.) **He is literally "God with us".** (Matt. 1:23; Isa. 7:14; John 1:1, 14.) **He created all things** (John 1:1-3), both ***"visible and invisible"*** (i.e. angels too). (Col. 1:16.) **Jesus, who is God became a man to die in our place, for only as a man He could die, and only as God He could forgive our sins.** (Mark 2:7.) **He was not begotten by a physical god-man, but He was begotten by the Holy Spirit, just as Matt. 1:18-23 and Luke 1:35 say. God is Spirit** (John 4:24) and **Spirit has not flesh and bones.** (Luke 24:39.) **What is taught by the Mormon Church about Jesus is literally *an identity theft* – they have taken His name, stories about His life from the Holy Bible, but their Jesus is not the same Eternal Person as Jesus of the Bible, who is God. The most important question to you is: Who is God the Father, and Who is Jesus? If you believe in a "wrong father god", god who was once a mere human, then "his son" is not the Jesus taught in the Bible either. Some "other gods" or "another Jesus" will not suffice when our eternal life is in question, and **these truths determine where we will spend our *never-ending eternal life*. We all will live eternally. During this short life we must decide where - it will be either in heaven or in hell.** "Other gods", "another gospel" and "another Jesus" (2 Cor. 11:4; 13-15) believed in ignorance of biblical revelation, may make one comfortable during this temporary state of life, but not after this life is over. **You say that truth about the Mormon Church is seen in that it teaches good morals, good behavior, and about good family life, but you must be aware that these are all basic biblical principles, taught in all Christian churches. The Mormon Church has not monopoly on good living. However, our good living does not earn to us eternal life with God, only Jesus who is God can give that.** (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Eph. 2:8-9.) ***"Jesus became the Son of man that you*****

*might become a son of God. He took your sins that you might take His innocence. He became guilty that you might become acquitted. He was filled with despair that you might be filled with joy. He took your shame that you might take His glory. He suffered the pains of hell, that you might know the joys of heaven. He is the God-man who loves you and wants to save you.”* I pray that you will consider all this and start studying the Bible, book by book, verse by verse. Please write again, and let’s talk more. Sincerely, Rauni.

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**[Sigh] It seems that no matter how often LDS believers have been shown from the Word of God that Jesus of the Bible is God who became a man, not a man who became a god, still somehow it does not register in their minds that the Bible clearly says that Jesus is God, uncreated, Eternal Being, “from everlasting to everlasting” (Ps. 90:2), the Creator of all, men and angels included, thus He could not be their brother! He became a man, but He never “became a god”, as Mormonism teaches, for He always was and always is God! (Rev. 1:8.)**

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October has been very busy month for us. We have had more phone calls from LDS persons and requests on scriptural counseling than during some previous months. We are thankful that the Lord has opened their hearts and minds to ask and given us His grace to help them. His promises are true. **He has said that the Holy Spirit will bring all that we have studied to our remembrance when we need it.** (John 14:26.) That also reminds us that if we have not studied, He would not be able to bring these things to our remembrance. We must study continually. ***His Word is Truth.*** (John 17:17.)

We have continued to be in touch with Emily. (We have mentioned her in our last 5 or 6 monthly newsletters.) She is studying hard for this is her last year in Harvard. In addition to her studies, these last several months have been emotionally hard for her. Her boyfriend she loves very much, is a Mormon, and when he finally called me in August, after Emily’s many requests, he was not willing to hear the truth, not at all. At that time it seemed to me that there was no hope for their future together, but just about 10 days ago, he contacted me again and indicated that he now wants to begin conversations with me (via emails), comparing doctrines of Mormonism to Biblical Christianity. I did say to him that **it is the Bible alone that determines what doctrinal Truth is.** If he cannot trust the Bible (a matter that he has expressed), then he must first study the facts about the history of the Bible, how it has been preserved, etc. and that it is the proven infallible Word of God. It is very important that I will be able to answer him properly and accurately. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will give me the words that I need to say. He is a very intelligent man, but deceived by Joseph Smith and all of Mormonism. Andrew graduated from Harvard last Spring and is now working on the West Coast so communication with him and Emily is by phone or emails also. I am asking your prayers for him and Emily also.

We are finishing our 10-week class on Mormonism 11/10/13. We have re-written most of our papers we give after each class, so it has been very busy 2.5 months. We have 36 topics we cover, and we give about 200 pages that these people need to study, in addition to all scripture references that are part of each paper. We are confident that all who have attended faithfully every week will be great and knowledgeable witnesses to their Mormon friends and relatives as

well as to Mormons they will meet in coming months and years – the work we all will do until the Lord comes and takes us home.

Please pray also for Eddy as he witnesses to his RM Mormon friend, Scott, and to his new friend, Jim, who is a former JW and interested to know about the biblical Jesus. We are very happy about Eddy's fast growth in God's Word. He and his girlfriend, Jacqui (a new Christian), are studying the Word together with a help of MP3 Bible studies we are sending to them. They alternate New Testament and Old Testament books. When Eddy called a couple of nights ago, he said that he is so excited about the Book of Daniel they are studying now. That is so wonderful to hear.

Please pray for Dick and Patty, Max, Merridy, Pat, Dale and Sharon. Our friend Bruce has been very ill after his trip to Canada, and he is asking prayer that medicine his doctor has put him on for 3 months will work. Debbie is getting better, but healing from cancer is a slow process, so we must remember her too in our daily prayers. Heber needs the Lord's comfort in his difficult circumstances. There are a few others who need the Lord's blessings. He knows who they are and what their needs are. ***"And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us. And if we know that He hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desire of Him."*** That is His promise. (1 John 5:14-15.)

We are very thankful to you, our dear praying friends and supporters. There are times that we are *"tempted to worry"*, but we have come to realize that ***worry is a responsibility God did not intend us to have.*** (Phil. 4:6-7, 19.) His past provisions for our needs and for our ministry's needs are our guarantee of future as well. When God calls people to do His work, He also provides. He provides through His own people. Your prayers and assistance makes this work possible. He is saying to you as well as to us, ***"Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the LORD; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass."*** (Ps. 37:3-5.) The Lord will bless you according to your needs and desires of your heart.

In His love,

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### **Thought for the month:**

***"It is possible to have works without true, genuine faith, but it is not possible to have a true and genuine faith without works."***

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