



January 1, 2014

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

We hope that your celebration of Christmas was a joyous one and that you too are starting a New Year with new enthusiasm and determination to make a difference for Christ Jesus in the lives of those who do not yet know Him, reminding them that Jesus loves them.

***We wish you a very Happy and Blessed New Year, 2014!***

God has truly blessed us with such a joy that words cannot adequately express it. Many, many whom we have ministered to this past year have found Mormonism to be false, and many of them have already accepted Jesus of the Bible as their Lord and Savior. We are so thankful to the Lord for helping us to introduce these lost souls into biblical studies that they have never before done, for the Mormon Church expresses doubts about the Bible and that has caused them to avoid real studies of the Word. It is an obvious trick of the devil, but we understand their mindset, for we too were fooled by the very same trick until we picked up the Bible and through studying it found the truth. Sometimes it takes years before people who have been deeply involved in Mormonism will even want to think about God or seek after Him, because they tend to, more often than not, think that it was God who deceived them rather than Joseph Smith and his successors. They all, without exception, say that when they had prayed about the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon and Mormonism, they received “*spirit confirmation*” that it was true. It is hard for them to even consider that **it was not from the Spirit of God** that they received their confirmation, but instead from ***deceiving spirits***, warned about in the Bible. (See: 1 John 4:1; 1 Tim. 4:1.) **Not knowing the Word of God kept them** (and us too when we were Mormons) **from *testing all things*** as is commanded in the Word (1 Thess. 5:21), and made them trust *false teachers and prophets of Mormonism*, for they **seemed to be** righteous men while inwardly being servants of Satan, “*deceiving and being deceived*”. (Matt. 7:15; 2 Tim. 3:13.) It is amazing how quickly those who **open their hearts to the true Jesus start seeing the difference in God’s Word vs. deceptive doctrines** they had believed and followed. This last year has proven to us again that ***nothing is impossible to our God*** (Luke 1:37). It is often **assumed** by many Christians that Mormons who are “*temple-card-holding LDS*” **are impossible to reach!** It was even told to us by some Christians **after we had left Mormonism** that the reason why they did not witness to us was that **they could have never thought that we would even consider biblical Christianity as active Mormons as we were!** We have during this past year seen six of these “*impossible to reach*” **temple-Mormons, and many others like them in the past years**, leave Mormonism and receive Jesus of the Bible as their Lord and Savior. Many of them have already become fearless witnesses for Jesus! In addition to these very devout Mormons, there are several others who have also left and become true believers in the biblical Jesus. Our ministry has been greatly blessed by the Lord who has opened their hearts to receive Him who came “to

seek and save that which was lost". (Luke 19:10.) What Apostle Paul had written so long ago is encouraging and very fitting to our situation also. In 2 Corinthians 4 Paul had said, "Therefore seeing that we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not: but have **denounced the hidden things of dishonesty**, not walking in craftiness, nor **handling the Word of God deceitfully**; but by manifestation of the truth **commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.**" When we left Mormonism, we **denounced the hidden things of dishonesty** that is part of how Mormons handle the Word of God, and we committed ourselves to the **Truth of our Lord Jesus**, and making the gospel message plain became our solemn responsibility. There are **no hidden things in the Gospel of Christ or secret ceremonies for salvation** to be received. There can be no dishonest manipulation of the Word of God, just plain truth, and so we too, with Paul, *commended ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.* There can be no *tricky arguments* or *twisting* or **handling the Word of God deceitfully**. It was very similar in Corinth during Paul's time as it is in *Mormondom* in our time. They also mixed law and grace. Paul continued, "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom **the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not**, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." If the true gospel is **hidden** to the lost, it is because they have accepted and believed "**another gospel**" that Satan, **the god of this world**, has presented to them through his servants, who, by **handling the Word of God deceitfully** are **veiling the truth**. (2. Cor. 11:4, 13-15.) The **light of the gospel is shining**, but because the truth is veiled they cannot see it. Just as the Lord called Paul to preach the gospel, the Lord, in our time, is calling those whom **He has rescued** from error, to preach the gospel to them who are in darkness. So as Paul said, "we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the **light to shine out of darkness**, hath shined in our hearts, to give **light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**" (2 Cor. 4:1-6.) The Gospel is about **Christ now in glory**. He is the One who died, was buried and who rose again and who is at the right hand of God in heaven. That is the simple and plain gospel, declared in 1 Cor. 15:1-4. Jesus Christ alone is the object of our faith. He is the glorified Son of God in heaven. Thus preaching the gospel *is all about Jesus, and He glorified*. When the Word of God is presented *just as it is written*, it is not hard to understand. It becomes "**hidden**" when the Word is not taken as it is, but twisted and given to it "**hidden meanings**". When the truth is preached in its simplicity, the Spirit of God shines in our hearts and convicts us that we are guilty sinners in need of Jesus as Savior and Lord. This is what happened to Paul on the road to Damascus. God shone His light in Paul's heart and he realized that the One he had persecuted and hated was his Savior and Lord. As he learned and discovered the truth about the Lord Jesus, he went out to spread **the light and knowledge of the glory of God as it is found in the face of Jesus Christ**. It happened to us, Dennis and I, and we have been spreading the light (now for 30 years) **that is found only in the face of Jesus Christ**. Many of these seekers of truth that the Lord brought to us this last year were where we had been: blinded "*temple-card holding Mormons*", that often are considered to be next to impossible to bring out of their blindness to biblical truth. But just as the angel had told Mary when she questioned, "*For with God nothing shall be impossible.*" (Luke 1:37.) With this knowledge in our hearts, we approach the New Year with hope and His promise to continue to be with us as we do His work. Salvation depends on God's grace and our faith in the atoning death, burial and resurrection of the Jewish Messiah, Yeshua, who is our Lord and Savior.

To those of us who may periodically question their salvation and their relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, we'd want to remind you that when we, in faith, have asked Jesus to become our Lord and Savior, we will be, in that instant, *eternally saved*. (John 1:12.) Requirement for salvation is **belief in the Gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-4), from**

**your heart, and confession of that belief.** That is all the “*work*” that is required of us. (John 6:28-19.) Paul, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, promised, “***If you 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. For the scripture saith, whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed.***” (Romans 10:9-11.) To further assure that salvation, thus received, is eternal and cannot be lost. Apostle John assured us, “***These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God: that ye may KNOW that ye have eternal life...***” (1 John 5:13.)

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### **From our mailbox:**

*“I grew up a Mormon and through the grace of God I was delivered and I am now a Christian. I have done a lot of research myself, and I have purchased numerous books of LDS history, published by the church, hoping to help my LDS family, for I know that they would not read or trust anything that is not “Church own material”. Through my own research it has become evident to me that this religion is a farce and a work of Satan that leads to everlasting destruction. My parents and siblings remain as devout Mormons, regardless of what I have tried to show to them. As I have grown in Christ I have become more and more concerned about their eternal destiny and I try to take every opportunity to share the truth with them. With that in mind I want to ask what materials have you found to be the most successful in opening their eyes and hearts so that God can work in their hearts and bring change to them? I know that God works in His own time, but I want to do everything I can to witness effectively to them and lead them to Christ of the Bible, who is God with us. What in your experience is the most effective approach to witness to them? I know that everyone is different, but is there **any one thing** that would have more profound impact on believing Mormons? There are so many problems in Mormonism to present, but they seem to tune me off when I try to present any of them. I would appreciate any advice you can give. I am thankful for your ministry. I have heard of many who have come out because of your witness. Please help. J\_\_\_.”*

### **Reply:**

Thank you for writing. There might not be any “*one thing*” that could cause a Mormon to think and reason. However, we have discovered that the best approach might be to try to find out what particular Mormon teaching is the most important *to them*. To most it is their belief in the *preexistence*. To some it may be the *work for the dead* (as it was to me when I was a believing Mormon), but there could be also other issues that they desperately cling to. Asking questions on that line might lead you to see which “*buttons to push*” and what evidence from the Bible you can use to show them “*that it is not so*”. In our experience, LDS teaching of the preexistence by far has been on the top for most. This Mormon belief that God (and His wives) are our **heavenly parents** and that Jesus is our elder brother and also a brother of Lucifer **denies biblical doctrine of absolute Deity of Jesus, and makes him a created being**, “*another Jesus*”, warned of in 2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15. This teaching also makes all mankind equal to Jesus in the preexistence. They teach that the only difference between mortal men and Jesus is that God the Father came to Mary and physically conceived Him (as Mormon Doctrine, p. 547 says). Pointing this out can help Mormons to **rethink who Jesus of Mormonism really is, and come to see that is not what the Bible teaches. The Bible says that He is Eternal God, Emmanuel, the Creator of all, including angels (John 1:1-3, 14; Col. 1:16) and thus not our brother.** When you see that they are starting to get it, you may want to ask: ***Where did this preexistence doctrine come from if not from the Bible; it is not even in the Book of Mormon?*** The answer is: From Joseph Smith. Interestingly he did not even come up with this idea until about a decade after he had started his religion! At that point would be good to read together with them John 8:23-24 and also 3:13, 31 and ask what do these verses mean? Clearly Jesus is the only one who existed before becoming a man. We did not. He alone came from heaven. - When we have gotten to that point with *a believing LDS*, we have noticed an obvious *pause*... and that pause gives an opportunity to look more into the Word of God to read from it who Jesus really is: **He is God with us.** (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14; 8:24, 58, etc.)

The fact that most Mormons are not anxious to study the history of their own Church is by itself an indicator that they may already suspect that there could be problems in the Church, but they fear that if they study and **find out for sure** that Mormonism is false, it would change everything in their lives, their position among their friends and peers, and they do not want change...

However, you need to be bringing them to a realization that **Truth about God is connected to eternity, never ending eternity**, and that there is no second change after death. (Hebr. 9:27.) One of our friends who witnesses to Mormons often has written a little card she hands out to them. This card asks, **“Would you rather KNOW NOW or after you die, that the ‘TRUTH’ you were told, was really a LIE?”** On the back of this card she lists several scriptures – as Isa. 45:5; Hebr. 9:27; Romans 3:23; 6:23; 10:9-10; Luke 13:5; John 3:16; 14:6. You could use this approach or you could ask, “Hypothetically speaking, IF Mormonism is not true, would you want to know?” Repetition is often necessary for emphasis. So read again **John 8:23-24, where Jesus refuted the preexistence by saying that He alone came from heaven, mankind did not** (v.23), and after saying that He added (v.24) that **if we do not believe that He is God, we will die in our sins**. Only God can forgive sins! (Marl 2:7.) No one will go to heaven without believing that Jesus is Almighty God. (Rev. 1:8.) **We must be born again**. (John 3:3-7.) In summary of the above: **Jesus is not a created being. He is not an elder brother of mankind and a brother of Lucifer as is taught in the Mormon Church. He is the Creator of “all things, visible and invisible”**. (John 1:3; Col. 1:16.) False gods and “Jesus” who is less than God Almighty cannot save anyone. **“... faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”** (Rom. 10:17.) **When we talk to Mormons, we must always back up what we say by the Bible**. We often ask LDS people : **Does Truth matter to you? Would you be willing to change and follow what is TRUTH IF Mormonism is not it?** Let me know if these suggestions helped you to express your love and concern for your family and get your conversation started about the true Gospel. In Christ, Rauni

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#### **A Mormon Question:**

*“Tell me how anyone can know what is truth and how to be acceptable to God without living prophets? Israel had prophets, and that is why God restored the true Church through Joseph Smith and gave us living prophets, one at a time, so that they can lead us in these latter-days. I see that Christianity is in confusion and lost. That is why Joseph Smith went to a grove and asked God which church or if any one of them was right, and God answered him that they were all wrong and an abomination to Him. Let me ask what did you do after you left the True Church? Which one do you think is the right church? There are so many denominations and they all use the same book, the Bible, but they do not believe the same. Pretty incredible, is it not? I believe we need Joseph Smith and living prophets after him!”*

**Reply:** Defining the words is the only means which Truth can be identified. An ancient Chinese proverb says, **“wisdom begins with understanding of the words we use.”** Words do carry a meaning! Understanding the **Word of God is the key. The Bible is the Word of God** and we need to study it (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16) to know what the doctrine of God is, what He has said and what He requires. The Old Testament prophets were the spokesmen for God. Prophets declared to people in words what was/is God’s plan and His will concerning His people. Prior to the completion of the Old Testament, God spoke to Israel, His chosen people, through the prophets. There were times when there were more than one prophet at the time (as Daniel, Ezekiel, Jeremiah), and there were times when there were none. God called prophets to foretell events as well as lead the people in way of righteousness, to do God’s will. (The prophets were not leaders of the people as judges were in that time period, or later as kings were.) The role of a prophet ended in John the Baptist. (See Matt. 11:13; Luke 16:16; Hebr. 1:1-2.) Our Bible is God’s Word. It contains both the Old Testament and the New Testament. There are no new prophets in the New Testament. Some are called “*prophets*”, but they are not prophets in the same sense as in the Old Testament. They are not presenting new information or new prophecies, for God has

already revealed all we need to know. These who are called “*prophets*” in the NT are **Spirit inspired teachers and interpreters of God’s Written Word**. **Nothing that any gospel teacher or a prophet says can contradict God’s Written Word**; they are to share God’s Truth as found in the Bible and lead the people in the ways of God. This is another reason, among many, why **Mormonism cannot be from God of the Bible since they claim “new revelation.”** That is in direct contradiction to the last verses of the Bible (Rev. 22:18-19) and exposes them as “*false prophets*,” which, by definition, is **anyone who leads people away from God’s Word and faith in the Jesus of the Bible**. The truth is that Joseph Smith did not hear from God, nor from Jesus of the Bible, but from *an angel of light*, who brought him “**another gospel**”, “**another Jesus**” confirmed to people’s minds as “*true gospel*” through “**another spirit**”. (Read **2 Cor. 11:3-4, 13-15**.) Paul also warned in Galatians 1:8-9, that **if anyone, even if it be an angel, brings any other gospel than what he and other apostles have preached, they will be cursed by God**. I find it interesting that what was introduced by Joseph Smith, was, by his own admission, brought to him by *an angel* who is known in Mormonism as *Moroni, and angel of light*. (See introduction to D&C, prior to 1981 edition, that says exactly that.) Mormon Doctrine, p. 35 (an Encyclopedic volume of doctrines of the Mormon Church), admits that **an angel of light is the Devil**. Note that when Joseph Smith declared “**his gospel**”, he said, “...**if any man preach any other Gospel than which I have preached, he shall be cursed.**” (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 366.) [This is an amazing and the most revealing statement about false gospel of Joseph Smith!] You said that *the Christian denominations all use the Bible but they do not believe the same!* You are mistaken in that. **All Bible-teaching protestant Christian denominations teach the same about fundamental doctrines that affect our eternal salvation. They all teach that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ who is God**. (Eph. 2:8-9; John 14:6.) They may differ in some practices that do not have anything to do with salvation, such as baptism, tithing, regular attendance to meetings, restrictions on food or drink, whether priests should wear a robe, or any other more or less cultural issues. **These are “non-essentials”, and not part of the gospel that saves!** In other words, **salvation comes through Jesus of the Bible alone** (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Cor. 15:1-4), and **not from works we do** (Romans 4:2-7; Eph. 2:8-9), nor through any church or organized religion, no matter how great they might appear. Faith is the only “**work**” required. (John 6:29.) We all need to be studying the Bible, the Word of God, and by so doing we will know His will and His plan and purpose for our individual lives. There are no “*true churches*”, i.e. no true organizations, for the **True Church is the Body of Jesus Christ, consisting of all born again believers in Christ as eternal members of it, regardless of where they go to church**. (Col. 1:18, 24.) As Christians we only declare biblical teachings, not our own. It is God who determines the outcome of every life. I hope this answers your questions. Rauni

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We thank you, our partners and supporters, who pray for us and for our ministry and help also in our finances to keep this ministry going. Without your assistance, we could not give and send away every month many Bibles, important LDS books (to clarify that LDS teachings are in opposition to the Word of God) and DVDs and CDs and Bible-study MP3s, etc. to help those we are guiding out of Mormonism and **into God’s Word**. Without that guidance getting them out of Mormonism does not have any eternal gain for them. Without guiding them to Truth of God, they would still be lost. As many of you who have been our partners for a long time know, our commitment to the Lord from the start was that we do not sell anything for gain, **we only ask our Lord to provide for our needs, and we leave it up to Him to prompt His own to help. He has done that**. Our ministry’s needs have been met, even though just barely 😊, and Dennis has been blessed to have enough work to provide for our personal needs. What more can we ask of the Lord! Thus we thank you for your generosity and **we pray every day for you as our partners in this work**. The Lord sees your needs, whatever they are, and He will bless you in that particular area of your life.

We have been invited to come in January to speak on Mormonism during 3-day Pastors’ Conference in North Carolina. Please pray that the Lord will help us to encourage and excite all attending pastors to become strong

and powerful witnesses to Mormons in their communities and be better prepared to teach their congregations the facts about Mormonism. Knowing the facts and having loving boldness to declare them will prevent the growth of this counterfeit religion in the cities and towns where they serve the Lord. The Mormon Church claims to convert annually nearly 300 thousand from Christian churches and become followers of Joseph Smith's religion. They are able to do so because of lack of correct information about Mormonism. The Mormon missionaries are trained to use biblical terminology when speaking of *their god, Jesus and salvation*, thus making their teachings sound Christian when in actuality Mormonism is opposing God, Jesus and salvation taught in the Bible.

We are thankful that the Lord has directed many questioning Mormons to seek answers and help. We are working hard and enjoying it. Rewards that come from seeing them "*coming to the Light of Jesus*" are tremendous blessings of joy to us. We are in constant contact with several young Christian ladies attending Universities across the nation. They have been attracted to young Mormon men, attending the same colleges. As I wrote in our last month's newsletter, young Mormon men who have served their 2-year missions look very attractive to these Christian ladies. These young men can quote the Bible, they are well dressed and groomed, and they are experienced on how to convict young people who perhaps are not as well versed in the Bible as they seem to be as they present that Mormonism is a "better form of Christianity". There needs to be classes for young Christians, at least before they enter a college to make sure that they know that not all who can quote the Bible are Christians, and also how to detect counterfeit religions. Knowing the Word of God and Christian doctrine is the key.

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Please pray for Max and Pat, Bruce, Dick and Patti, Dale and Sharon, Sean, Debbie for their health issues. Please pray especially for Merridy who will have to have another surgery on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January to correct what was done wrong in previous surgeries. She has lived with pain for a long time.

We begin our New Year praising God's Holy Name and ready to continue to serve Him till he comes or calls us home. God is good. God is faithful.

Serving Him with gladness, Rauni & Dennis Higley

Email: [hismin@xmission.com](mailto:hismin@xmission.com); website: [www.hismin.com](http://www.hismin.com) Tel. 801.943-5011

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**Thought for the month: *Knowing Truth helps no one if it is not clearly proclaimed.***

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