



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

July 1, 2015

H.I.S Ministries July and August Newsletter, covering May and June 2015

We hope that your summer so far has been good and restful. We have taken two short trips to the Mountains to rest and catch up on our reading and studies. It has been very nice. We had some friends come and spend a day with us there a week ago, which was delightful.

We have been asked to share our opinion about the meaning of *eternal salvation*, for there seems to be many conflicting opinions even among Christians. We should not share our “*opinions*” but only what the Word of God promises to all who have come to faith in the true Jesus Christ of the Bible and who have been born again. Indeed, the question of the “*eternal security of the believer*” comes up all the time and the “*lack of security in salvation*” causes confusion and distress for many. First of all, we need to know how we receive salvation. Is it by what we do, or by what we trust? Ephesians 2:8-9 says – “*For by grace are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*” The Word of God firmly declares that *we cannot earn or merit salvation in any way*. It must be received as a free gift of God’s grace, or we cannot have it at all. For salvation to be a gift, there cannot be any payment offered for it. It cannot be purchased, even partially, for to have salvation requires a *payment for the penalty of sin* – a payment we cannot make. Only God can forgive and erase our sins. We were taught in Mormonism that salvation results from good works *plus God’s grace*. Mormons quote 2 Nephi 25:23 from the Book of Mormon that says, “*...for we know that it is by grace that we are saved AFTER ALL WE CAN DO.*” In other words, we thought we had to work as hard as we could, and if we did that, then God’s grace could be added to us. That is not what the Bible teaches! Salvation cannot be earned. Obedience to the laws of God cannot save us as Paul wrote in Romans, “*...by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin....*” (Rom. 3:20.) This also tells us that if salvation *cannot be earned by good works, then it cannot be lost by bad deeds*. All boasting is excluded! Our works play no part in either earning or keeping salvation. If after receiving salvation as the gift of God, we could keep ourselves saved by our good works, then we would have something to boast about. That would also mean that Jesus did not do it all. However, salvation can be given to us as free gift only if the penalty of our sin has already been fully paid. When Christ Jesus died on the cross He cried, “*It is finished*”, which in Greek is an accounting term, meaning that the sin-debt has been paid in full. Justice has been satisfied by full payment, and God could “*be just and justifier of him which believeth in Jesus*”. (Rom. 3:26.) On that basis God offers forgiveness and eternal life as *His free gift*. God cannot force it upon anyone, for if He did, it would not be a

gift. Neither can He pardon a person who rejects His gift, or even tries to offer his own works as a partial payment. The gift of *salvation that God offers gives full pardon of all sin, past, present or future*, and gives us eternal life with Him. There are many religions (as Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons) that deny this truth and reject salvation by grace alone when they insist that salvation must be earned by one's own good works. They accuse evangelicals of promoting "*cheap grace*" when they say that all we have to do for salvation is merely say "*we believe in Christ*" and then live as we please; and yet, still be sure of heaven. To call it "*cheap*" is really a denial of the grace of God since it implies that too small of a price was paid for it. However, grace must be free and without any price paid by man, while the price paid by God was infinite. If a person thinks his works play any part in either earning or keeping his salvation that is what "*cheapens*" grace by bringing this infinite gift down to the level of human efforts. They often reason that the idea of "*once saved always saved*" encourages people to live in sin, because if we believe we cannot lose our salvation, then we have no incentive for living a holy life. That is not true - not at all - for it is our love for the One who saved us that is the greatest and only acceptable motivation for holy living. Jesus said that a person who has been forgiven much loves much, and he who has been forgiven only a little, loves little. (Read Luke 7:26-47.) We are sinners; and when we are forgiven of our multitudes of sins, we are so grateful and want to express our love for Jesus by sharing with others what He has done for us. We also want to serve Him the rest of our lives. To know that our salvation is secure in Jesus is a much higher motivator for living a life that honors Him than doing good works out of fear of losing one's salvation. Those who teach that salvation can be lost are teaching the same error as those who teach that good works earn salvation. They deny grace if they say that *once you are saved by grace* you then must keep yourself saved by your own good works. If we could not live a good enough life to earn salvation, we surely could not live a good enough life to keep it. Believing that we can fall away makes us worse off after we are saved than before. John wrote, "*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 [present possession] eternal life...*" (1 John 5:13.) It would not have been eternal life in the first place if it could be lost. Eternal life is tied to God's promise that one who is saved can never perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16.) John 5:24 again assures us that he who believes in Jesus, hath [present tense] everlasting life, and shall not come unto condemnation". Furthermore, Jesus gave an even greater assurance when He said, "I give them eternal life and they shall never perish." (John 10:28.) If we, after receiving *eternal life*, could lose it and perish, it would make Christ a liar. We must know that after we are born again, we cannot be *unborn* from our spiritual birth any more than we can be *unborn* from our physical birth – both can only happen one time. We must give the comfort and assurance of God's promises to those who are saved, but who may feel that they may have lost hope because of sin in their lives. We know that even after we are born again and the Holy Spirit lives in us, it is possible for us to sin, but we are given the remedy for those sins in God's Word: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:7-10.) However, there may indeed be some who have just "*said*" they received Christ, but in actuality it was just "*words*" without a change in their heart. (See: Rom. 10:9-10.) In that case, they may have never been saved or "*known Him*" at all. (Matt. 7:22-23.) They did not lose their salvation; they never had salvation. Some have expressed confusion when reading beyond Eph. 2:8-9 to verse 10 that says, "*we are created unto good works, which God hath ordained that we should walk in them*". God gives us good works to do as a witness to others that salvation has changed us and can change them too. Some think the "*judgment seat of Christ*", is when their

worthiness *for salvation* is determined! No, we are not saved by our works. However when we are saved, our new heart motivates us to follow Christ and do His work while time endures. When we leave this life, every Christian's works will be tried by fire at the "*judgment seat of Christ*", *before which we must all appear.* (2 Cor. 5:10.) *The Scriptures teach that good works bring rewards, but a lack of them does not the cause the loss of salvation.* A person who has been truly born again, but has not done even one good work, is still "*saved; yet so as by fire*". (1 Cor. 3:15.) In our human evaluation we may consider a person who is not showing any good works as not saved at all, but God who sees our hearts, He *accepts every born again believer* - even without any outward evidence - *into His Kingdom*. To be sure of our standing before God, we need to encourage ourselves and everyone to *examine whether we are in faith*, as Paul advised. (2 Cor. 13:5.) When we earnestly examine our hearts, we will receive assurance of our standing with the Lord and we will have peace with God. God will never take away the gift of salvation that He gave to us by His grace when we first believed and were born again.

A lady who had converted to Mormonism was asking what the LDS Church really teaches about God. She wrote: "Your website says that the Mormon Church believes in many gods. I was speaking with my LDS sister-in-law today, and she said that her husband does not know where I got the idea that Mormons believe in multiple gods? She said that it is not Mormon doctrine. I have read it from your site, where you were quoting McConkie's Mormon Doctrine, p. 577, under Plurality of Gods teaching that, but when I went to LDS own website I cannot find this source at all. Can you tell me where I can find this book/source so that I can better answer my sister-in-law. K"

Reply: This doctrine has been taught in the Mormon Church from 1844 on, when Joseph Smith officially changed the doctrine of God to "*plurality of Gods*". I am sure that you can find this book, Mormon Doctrine, even on the Internet. It was written by Mormon Apostle, Bruce R. McConkie, to teach Mormons what the doctrinal teachings in the Mormon Church are. Surely your sister-in-law, and her husband likewise, should know that the Mormon Church teaches that God was once a mortal man, and that he had parents, grandparents etc. (i.e. plurality of gods) and that they (Mormons) can become gods and organize worlds and populate them with their spirit children! Joseph Smith's doctrine of God evolved. You can see that from D&C Section 121:28, 32, written in 1839, when Joseph Smith began to speculate about many gods. If you'd also read entire Section 132, you'd see that is about polygamy and men becoming gods. Most LDS wards and stakes libraries should have Mormon Doctrine. (McConkie was an Apostle and General Authority over 40 years. He was also a son-in-law of LDS prophet Joseph Fielding Smith.) They should also have Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith. On page 345 it says, "*God was once a man as we are now... I am going to tell you how God came to be God. We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea and take away the veil, so that you may see...you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves... same as all Gods have done before you.*" Joseph Smith continued, on p. 370, "*I will preach on the plurality of Gods...when I have preached on the subject of the Deity, it has been the plurality of Gods.*" This doctrine is taught in just about every LDS Priesthood Manual and other LDS books that deal with doctrine. I am amazed that your LDS sister-in-law (or her husband), do not know that!!! Let me know if you need more information. Rauni

A doubting LDS person, who has written to me before, asked:

1. It is popular in the LDS culture to talk about social topics, as blacks and the priesthood, but avoid making them “doctrinal questions”. They say that even when blacks could not have the priesthood, it was not Church’s or their leaders’ doings, but member’s fault, for they were not ready to accept blacks as equals as far as priesthood authority was concerned. What do you think?

2. Also I’d like hear how Christians explain spiritual experiences had by many Mormons, especially with regard to Temple work.

Reply: 1. Racial doctrine has been taught in the Mormon Church from the beginning (1830) until 1978. The Book of Mormon teaches that when people disobeyed, *God caused a curse to come upon them and their skin turned black.* (2 Nephi 5:21-23; Alma 3:6.) [They, however have allowed darker skinned “Lamanites” (American Indians) to have the priesthood, but not African blacks until 1978.] This had nothing to do with people’s readiness to accept blacks. Before 1978 LDS apostles and prophets adamantly taught that blacks could not have the priesthood. [I can give you sources for these teachings.] Just to summarize this teaching I will quote from Mormon Doctrine (printed prior to 1978) that says, “*Those who were less valiant in the preexistence...are known to us as negroes... under no circumstances can they hold this delegation of authority [priesthood] from the Almighty... Negroes are not equal with other races...It is the Lord’s doing, is based on eternal law of justice, and grows out of the lack of spiritual valiance...*” (Mormon Doctrine, 1966 ed., printed 1970, p. 527.) This was what was taught to us by the high leadership of the Church when we were LDS. It was the leadership of the LDS Church that was not ready to accept blacks into the priesthood!

2. The Bible teaches that the Devil is *the god of this world* (2 Cor. 4:4) and he and his demons are busy at work in deceiving those who are willing to go along with un-biblical doctrine and who do *not resist him* as is commanded. (See James 4:7.) The Devil is a deceiver and liar, and he is able to make his ways seem pretty wonderful and even spiritual. If we do not *test his teachings* by the Word of God, the Bible, he can fool us, big time. (Been there and experienced that.) Our war is spiritual against unbiblical doctrines brought by false prophets. The devil and spirits that follow him can fool those who do not know the Word of God well enough to be able to test their doctrines and resist them. The Bible commands that we “test the spirits whether they are of God”, and the reason is given, “*because many false prophets have gone out into the world*”. (1 John 4:1; 1 Thess. 5:21; 1 Tim. 4:1-2.) We are commanded to STUDY the Word of God so that we will not end up “*ashamed*”, and in ignorance follow false prophets and what they teach. (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16.) [We were ashamed for following false doctrines for so long, but we have, by studying the Word of God, been able to correct our beliefs to what the Bible teaches.]

You asked about “*spiritual experiences*” regarding to temple work. Mormons, after receiving their *own endowments* (temple ordinances), are commanded to continue going to a temple to do “*work for the dead*”, which is the same ordinance-work as they had received for themselves. This is taught to be “*necessary to our salvation... that they without us cannot be made perfect – neither can we without our dead be made perfect.*” (D&C 128:15.) This doctrine is another denial of biblical salvation by grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ, who is God who became a man to die for us. (John 3:16; Eph. 2:8-9.) Since God of Mormonism is a false god, so is “*Jesus*” of Mormonism “*another* (different) *Jesus*”, warned of in 2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15. The gospel of Mormonism is “*another gospel*” brought to Joseph Smith by an angel (Moroni or Nephi?), warned against in Gal. 1:8-9. If we follow these erroneous doctrines, we will be deceived and can mistake “*spirits*” that give “*good feelings*” as from God. Mormons say that they can “*feel the spirit*”, but I assure you that it is not the Spirit of God. Demonic spirits can give “*good feelings*”, which, in connection of Mormonism, promote their false doctrines. Mormons talk about “*spiritual experiences*” (I did, when I was LDS), but they cannot be from God of the Bible, since God would not be behind this kind of work. I hope this helps. Please write again.

An LDS person corrected us and said: “Our scriptures do not teach that God was once a man and that men can become Gods. Our doctrines are based on our scriptures, not on speculations by individuals, even if that

individual is/was an apostle or prophet. Our recent past president, Gordon B. Hinckley, said, when he was interviewed about this teaching that we do not believe that nor do we teach it. Please be honest and only say what we do teach and believe, rather than proclaim rumors and misinformation!

Reply: All my years as a Mormon, including my years of working for the Church as a translator and interpreter of doctrinal teachings, it was stressed that *the most important doctrine to be revealed to the world by our living prophets is who is God, for God of Christianity (Trinity) is false.* The most often quoted teaching/doctrine was what Joseph Smith revealed just about 2 months before his death, leaving it as his final testimony of who is God that he believed in and whom he served. He said, *“God himself was once a man as we are now...That is the great secret... I am going to tell you how God to came to be God. We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea, and take away the veil, so that you may see...It is the first principle of the Gospel to know for certainty the Character of God... and that he was once a man like us; yea, that God himself, the father of us all, dwelled on earth, the same as Jesus Christ himself did; and I will show it from the Bible... Here, then, is eternal life – to know the only wise and true God; and you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves...the same as all Gods have done before you...To inherit the same power, the same glory and the same exaltation until you arrive at the station of God, and ascend the throne of eternal power, the same as those who have gone before.”* (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pp. 345-347, emphasis added.) Even though this teaching is not in the “Mormon Scriptures” as it was given by Joseph Smith, it has been *foundational to the theology and teachings of the Mormon Church since 1844*, and it has been taught from that time on by all Mormon apostles and prophets. It agrees with D&C 130:22 as well as with D&C Section 132. We know that this teaching is not in harmony with the Book of Mormon because Joseph Smith’s beliefs evolved from 1830 till his final beliefs about God, as we see from this discourse quoted above. His Book of Mormon was *monotheistic*, and he had not even claimed to have seen a vision of God the Father until many years after writing the BoM. In 1840’s he began teaching polytheism, saying *“I will preach on plurality of Gods...when I have preached on the subject of the Deity, it has been the plurality of Gods...”* (Teachings, p. 370.) Doctrine of preexistence is based on plurality of Gods, and men becoming Gods and populating their worlds with spirit children, the same as their heavenly Father and mothers who gave birth to us, their spirit children. Apostle Orson Pratt, one of the first apostles of Joseph Smith, wrote, *“We were begotten by our Father in Heaven; the person of our Father in Heaven was begotten by still more ancient Father, and so on, from generation to generation, from one heavenly world to another still more ancient, until our minds are wearied and lost in multiple of generations and successive worlds, and as a last resort, we wonder in our minds, how far back genealogy extends, and how the first world was formed, and the first father [God] was begotten.”* (The Seer, p. 132.) Another Mormon Apostle, George Q. Cannon, wrote about *“True Evolution”*, saying, *“We hear considerable amount about evolution. Who is there that believes more in true evolution than the Latter-day Saints? – the evolution of man until he shall become a god... That is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, believed by the Latter-day Saints.”* (Gospel Truth, p. 9.) Just about every LDS leader from 1844 on has taught and believed this. If this is not believed by Latter-day Saints, then tell me why do they do temple work, and perform eternal marriages, etc. and teach that Jesus is our *“elder brother”* from preexistence, as is Lucifer and all angels? These teachings are connected to multiple gods and men becoming gods. Yes, I have read Gordon B. Hinckley’s denials of this doctrine from the Time Magazine and San Francisco papers, and his interview with Larry King. Mr. Hinckley obviously forgot that the very same year, 1997, when he publically denied these doctrines, the Church’s Priesthood manual taught it. In that teaching manual, *“Teachings of the Presidents of the Church”*, Chapter 4, on page 29, begins with a statement by Brigham Young, *“...God the Father was once a man on another planet who ‘passed the ordeals we are now passing through; he has received an experience, has suffered and enjoyed, and knows all that we know regarding toils, sufferings, life and death of this mortality.’”* This same chapter 4 concludes with a statement, “THE DOCTRINE that God was once a man and

has progressed to become a God is unique to this Church." (P.34 – emphasis added.) This is the DOCTRINE and teaching of the LDS Church, and it will continue to be, though they may play it down when speaking to non-LDS public. LDS president, Gordon B. Hinckley, simply lied when he denied that this is the doctrine of the LDS Church. - If you need more references to this doctrine, please write again.

June was an exciting month. We even had company from Atlanta, GA. Our dear friends and supporters, Greg and Jennifer Cantrell, and their 3 adorable children, Garrison, age 7, Kaitlyn, age 5 and Caroline, age 3, came to see us. They had traveled since the last week in May in their motorhome seeing historic sites and monuments across the country and finally arrived to our home on June 7th after spending some time in Yellowstone National Park. We had a great time with them and appreciated their visit very much. Summer months tend to be a bit slower in the ministry, but not this summer. God has given us many opportunities to share the biblical gospel with active LDS persons and relate our story to them, and why we left and also why we love and care about LDS people. We care because we want them to know the truth about God, Jesus and salvation so that they can be with the Lord (and with all of us too) for eternity. On the backside of our Ministry cards we have a question, "*Would you rather know NOW or after you die, that the "TRUTH" you were told, was really a lie?*" We often follow with another question, "*If Mormonism is not the truth, would you want to know?*" We want them to know the doctrinal truth found in the Bible alone. "*The Mormon story is also our story*", and we understand the difficulties that come from friends and family when they separate themselves from Mormonism after they have discovered that *the "truth"* they thought they had and with all their hearts had believed, *was indeed a lie*. Dennis and I also went through years of rejection and heartbreak from family and friends, but after we knew the Truth, we had to follow the biblical Jesus and the Truth found only in His Word, the Bible, regardless of the cost. We tell them our story and our concern for them. The biblical truth is *the Story of Jesus* who came to save us from our sin. "*Another Jesus*", a different one than is taught in the Bible, is a *counterfeit Jesus* and he cannot save anyone. (2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15.) Jesus of the Bible is God, not a brother of mankind. Jesus said that men did not come from heaven. He said that *He alone was from above for He is the I AM (God)*. He said, "*Ye are from beneath; I AM from above: ye are of this world; I AM not of this world...if ye believe not that I AM (God), ye shall die in your sins.*" (John 8:23-24; 14:6.) If we do not know the real Jesus (Matt. 7:21-23), our sins will not be forgiven and we will NOT go to heaven. *Only God can forgive sins.* (Mk 2:7.) We must come to know that Jesus is not our brother, but *God Almighty* (Rev. 1:8) who loved us so much that he became a man to die for our sins. (John 3:16.) Just this last week Dennis read an obituary in SL Tribune that referred to the Mormon doctrine of preexistence and what they believe about Jesus. It was an obituary of a young LDS woman who had died in a car accident. It said that "*she returned home to her brother Jesus and her Heavenly Father.*" This is why we talk to Mormons about the TRUTH of God for without knowing who Jesus is, they are not going to heaven. We have no guarantees of tomorrows. This life can end suddenly, as it did for this young LDS woman, without warning. We cannot miss our opportunities to ask Mormons who they think Jesus is and do they want to know the Real Jesus, and go to heaven when they die. (Matt. 7:21-23.) When a person *who knows the Real Jesus* passes from this life, we know that he/she will immediately be with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:6-8), and we will be with them in eternity – even as soon as when the Lord comes. (1 Thess. 4:13-18.) Our dear friend, Rich Brown, who died in skiing accident just 4 months ago, is one of them that we know is with the Lord now and we, with his lovely wife Suzi, can hardly wait for the Rapture when the Lord will come and take the rest of His own there too. That will be a happy day! "*Even so, come Lord Jesus*" (Rev. 22:20.) Sudden death is hard for those who are left here, even if for a short time, and we pray every day and even many times a day for Suzi, that she will sense the Lord's love for her and that she also knows that she has friends who deeply care about her.

We are asking prayer also for those friends who are ill. Please lift Caryl Matrisciana to the Lord's throne for comfort and that her cancer pain would lessen. Also please pray for Michael (Jamie's and Chris' son), Dick and Patti, Max, Pat and Merridy, Dale and Sharon, Aira, Sam, Heber, Tom and Dave. They all have health problems. Please pray for me also for I will have to have another thyroid surgery at the end of July.

We just received an urgent prayer request from our longtime friend, Judy, for her son, who has a desperate family situation that needs to be solved immediately. Our friend Bruce likewise needs the Lord's help and direction to have his beautiful book of God's creation published. It is getting harder and harder to get a Christian book published that gives *God's creation story* with beautiful pictures. Most publishers want to publish books that promote evolution rather than creation, for they think that they will sell better.

We want to thank you, our friends, for your prayers for us and for our ministry work. All the help that you give, and that without asking, is greatly appreciated. Your help is a testimony to us of your closeness to God and that you hear from Him, for many of our needs are only known to our Lord, but you have often stepped in *just in time* and helped us. We could not do this work without the Lord's people. We know that what you do to assist us in this, the Lord's work, will be rewarded according to your needs, be they relational, financial, or any other need you may have in your life. God is good, and He is not a debtor to men, but rewarder of them who seek Him. (Hebr. 11:6.)

We are serving the Lord with gladness,

Rauni & Dennis Higley

Website: www.hismin.com (still under restoration and improvement after hackers got to it). You can contact us by email: hismin@xmission.com or by phone: 801.943-5011.

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Thought for our troubling times from pastor Butch Paugh: "*That which we tolerate today we will embrace tomorrow*". G. K. Chesterton once said, "*Tolerance is the virtue of the man without convictions*." I would add *that tolerance and compromise is the creed of a coward. There seems to be very little most will not endure (i.e. tolerate and compromise with) to preserve their paycheck or keep "peace" in their lives...*

<http://www.newswithviews.com/Paugh/butch112.htm>
