



November 1, 2015

* He Is Savior, Acts 4:12

H.I.S. Ministries November Newsletter, covering October 2015

When Calvary Chapel did not have a place for our Mormonism class to meet during Sunday morning or early afternoon hours, we assumed that we could not hold our class at all because we only have space for 10 people or less in our home. We asked the Lord to confirm to us what He wanted us to do.

Only a few days later Dennis received a call from an airline pilot, Jeffrey Gullickson, who has been receiving our newsletters for several months and who had read in our last month's newsletter that we, perhaps, could not do our classes. He offered his very large home for our classes. We did not know him personally - Dennis had only met him once last year at a project where he was giving some advice to another contractor. Jeff is a Christian brother, who indicated that he is also interested in learning how to understand Mormon-beliefs. So we started our ***Understanding Mormonism*** classes on 10/25/15 at his place. We have 24 students enrolled for the class. Only 17 made it for not all of them were able to find this home. In Salt Lake valley, there can be and are, more than one street by the same name. In recent years some suburbs have separated as their own cities, and the name of a city or zip-code has to be listed in order to find the correct address. Jeff's home is in Cottonwood Heights, between Millcreek and Sandy cities. Millcreek has a street with the same name as Jeff's street in Cottonwood Heights. Confusing, to say the least. Those who had entered his street name into their GPS as in Salt Lake City instead of Cottonwood Heights, GPS directed them to the Millcreek area which is an older area than Cottonwood Heights, and they got lost for about an hour trying to figure this out. We were sorry for they got lost due to **this error that was not their fault**. We hadn't thought that this could even happen, but it did to those who are quite new to Salt Lake City and its many suburbs. **We hope they will forgive us, and that they all will come next Sunday, 11/01/15, when we will start with actual Lesson #1. And we hope that they continue coming the following Sundays.** 😊

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A few days ago we received a question from an LDS man, who is not happy about what we do as a ministry. He asked why we critique Mormon scriptures but not the Bible.

I replied: Jesus said about the Word of God, the Bible: ***"Thy Word is Truth."*** (John 17:17.) ***"Every word of God is pure: He is a shield unto them that put their trust in Him. Add thou not unto His words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar."*** (Prov. 30:5-6.) Without a standard of perfection to measure all God's teachings against, it would be impossible to separate truth from falsehoods. **The Bible is the flawless Word of God. It is our source of absolute truth and therefore our standard for testing.** Our commitment is not to relay on opinions of men, but only on God's revealed truth and His instructions. ***"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good*** (i.e. truth)." (1 Thess. 5:21.) **In other words, the only way we can distinguish between truth and error is by testing and comparing every teaching against the teachings of the Bible.**

"These (the Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11, KJV.) God

says that testing all teachings shows a noble character! Thus testing all Mormon scriptures, and teachings of Joseph Smith, is acting in obedience to God's Word. Paul warned, ***"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. 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, you may well put up with it... 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 is according to their works."*** (2 Cor. 11:3-4, 13-15, NKJV.) We are testing every "Jesus Christ" we hear preached (there are others besides Mormons that preach of a different Jesus) to make sure that He is **the same Jesus Christ** taught of in the Bible. We are likewise testing every "**gospel**" presented to make sure that it is **the gospel taught in the Bible**. (1 Cor. 15:1-4.) We are testing *the spirits* who "testify" to make sure that it is **the Holy Spirit of God** taught about in the Bible. (1 John 4:1.) We are testing teachings and motives of those who may **appear righteous**, making sure that they are not **deceitful workers** who are masquerading as **ministers of righteousness**. If we do not know what the Bible teaches, we could easily be fooled by appearances and messages that may even sound similar, but are not founded in Truth. Paul wrote to the Galatians that had been led astray by *another gospel*, and gave them a serious warning: ***"I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the Gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven (Moroni?), preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed (eternally condemned)." (Gal. 1:6-9.)*** We are just presenting evidence that Mormon scriptures **do not pass the test of preaching the same Jesus or the same gospel as the Bible**. The LDS Church's **3rd Article of Faith** declares that Mormon-gospel is "**laws and ordinances**" of the LDS Church! **It is a different gospel**. The Book of Mormon is **another testament of another Jesus Christ than the gospel and Jesus taught in the Bible**. Even if *an angel from heaven* did appear to Joseph Smith (**so he said**), the Bible instructs us to **know the gospel presented there** (2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Cor. 15:1-4), and if we are presented a *different gospel*, **we are not to accept it**. Reading what Paul wrote to Galatians about accepting "**another gospel**", we can see that since **the LDS gospel is not the biblical gospel**, those who accept that gospel without repentance from it, are eternally condemned.

Jesus warned that growing deception is one of the *signs of the end times*. ***"Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when these things will be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and the end of the age?' And Jesus answered and said to them: 'Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying 'I am Christ', and will deceive many... For false christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, so as to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand."*** (Matt. 24:3-5, 24-25, NKJV.)

"But there were also false prophets among people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them (they deny Him by presenting another Jesus, who is not God, but a created being), and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you in deceptive words (with stories they have made up), for a long time their judgment has

not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.” (2 Peter 2:1-3, NKJV.) ***“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone into the world.”*** (1 John 4:1.) Joseph Smith fails the test of a true prophet (see Deut. 13:1-5; 18:18-20) and so do these spirits that ***“give feelings or testimonies”*** of teachings that are against God’s Word, the Bible. [We believe that many Mormons have experienced “feelings” they call “testimonies”, without realizing that they have come from the deceptive spirits. We know, for we have experienced that ourselves.] **The Holy Spirit of God will not testify of books that disagree with God’s Word, the Bible, or of prophets or churches whether they are true, He will testify of Jesus.** The Lord said, ***“But when the Helper (the Holy Spirit) comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.”*** (John 15:26, NKJV.) **We have tested the Book of Mormon and found it not true, and thus we know that a spirit that testifies that it is true surely cannot be from God.** ***“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because the narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few that find it. Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits...”*** (Matt. 7:13-16.) We believe that Joseph Smith is one of *these false prophets* that Jesus warned about. Jesus says that ***many will follow false prophets through the wide gate that leads to destruction. “Fruit” of a false prophet is doctrine he teaches as if from God, but he lies.*** Isaiah warned, ***“...If they do not speak according to this Word (the Bible), it is because there is no light in them...The prophet who teaches lies, he is the tail (as scorpion’s poisonous tail). For leaders of this people cause them to err. And those who are led by them are destroyed.”*** (Isaiah 8:20; 9:15-16, NKJV.) When Mormons come to see that the LDS scriptures do not agree with the teachings of the Bible, we pray that they will turn away from this ***wide gate and broad way leading to destruction and be among the few that find the narrow gate that leads to eternal life.*** We are warned that ***“...when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who will not know God, and those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.”*** (2 Thess. 1:7-9, NKJV.)

If the Book of Mormon and Mormon scriptures are proven false (and they are), then it is impossible to know the true God by Mormon scriptures. If the Book of Mormon proves to be another gospel (and it is), then it is impossible for anyone to know the true gospel and find the true Jesus Christ by it. This is why everyone belonging to the LDS Church must test the Book of Mormon and its historical claims along with the *Mormon-Jesus and gospel*, ***“and come out from among them”***, as 2 Cor. 6:17 says. Our desire for Mormons is the same as Paul’s desire was for his unbelieving Jewish brethren. Paul wrote, ***“Brethren, my hearts’ desire and prayer to God is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.”*** (Romans 10:1-2.) ***“For weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”*** (2 Cor. 10:4-5.)

We are not fighting against the LDS people but against the teachings of Joseph Smith, his Book of Mormon and other Mormon scriptures. We believe these teachings are *strongholds set up against the knowledge of God* of the Bible. It is our mission to *pull these strongholds down* using the truth of God’s Word in hopes that some might be saved.

Mormon apostle Orson Pratt said this about the Book of Mormon: **“If true, it is one of the most important messages ever sent from God to man. If false, it is one of the most cunning, wicked, bold deep-laid impositions ever palmed upon the world, calculated to deceive and ruin millions who sincerely believe it as the Word of God, and will suppose themselves built upon the rock of truth, until they are plunged, with their families, into hopeless despair.”** (Divine Authenticity of the Book of Mormon, pp. 1-2. Emphasis added.)

We cannot stress enough how important it is for all Mormons to test the Mormon scriptures and teachings by the Bible. The consequences for them and their families are eternal. Our earthly lives are short, even if we live to be 100, compared to ***never ending eternity***. There is no second chance after we die. (Hebr. 9:27.) *“Today is the day of salvation.”* All we have is “today” – we do not know about tomorrow. ***“The Holy Spirit says, ‘Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion...”*** (Hebr. 3:7-8.)

Ability to think and reason is one of the abilities that God created in mankind when He made us into His image. Isaiah pleaded, ***“Come, let us reason together.”*** (Isa. 1:18.) Jesus promised, ***“If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.”*** (John 8:31-32.)

“For thou shalt be His witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard.” Acts 22:15.

We will not be witnessing in heaven. This is our earthly duty and privilege. None of us know how many months, weeks, days or hours we have left. We must seize the opportunities that God gives us to share His truth with the lost.

Another LDS man wrote: *“You say that you believe in God, that you believe in Jesus and in the Holy Ghost. That is three Gods, isn’t it? I believe that too. I believe that both the Father and Jesus are physical, resurrected men, and that Holy Ghost is a spirit man. It is taught by the Mormon Church and also in the Bible. You say you believe in the Bible, so do I. I know what I believe. I have faith and I have a testimony of my faith. But as I understand, you believe in a different God than I do, for you believe in Trinity that was invented in the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D. where about 300 bishops decided what Christian doctrine of God was to be – i.e. that God is one personage, not three. I believe in my facts of these and other LDS doctrines. Your selective quotes from the Bible do not impress me, nor change my mind. Tell me what makes you an “expert” in Mormonism and why do you attack Mormons and try to convert us from Mormonism to your brand of Christianity? – G.B.”*

Reply: The most important issue when communicating about faith or religion is **God we are talking about, who He is.** Since our knowledge and understanding of God is not the same, we cannot really communicate or agree about faith in God either. Faith has to have an object – which to us is God of the Bible. Faith is not *“faith in faith”* or *“faith in subjective and changeable feelings or testimonies”*. The problem is that **what Mormonism teaches about God does not come from the Bible, but from Joseph Smith, who invented his gods – not in the beginning of Mormonism (1830), but over a decade later (1844).** The Bible, from Genesis through Revelation, teaches that *God is not a man* (Numb. 23:19; Hos. 11:9; Job 9:32), *God is Spirit.* (John 4:24.) ***There are three Persons in the nature of One God.*** The Second Person in Godhead, whom we know as *God the Son*, became a man to take upon Himself the sins of all who *acknowledge Him as God, who alone can forgive our sins* - when we come to Him in faith. (John 8:24; 14:6; 6:28-29; Mark 2:7.) Jesus emphasized that ***God is Spirit, and we must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.*** (John 4:24; 14:6.) *“Spirit does not have flesh and bones”.* (Luke 24:39.) Because *God is Spirit*, after Jesus’ incarnation, the entire *Godhead dwelled in Jesus*, as Col. 2:9

confirms. It would not be possible if God was not Spirit. Jesus became a man to declare to us *who God is*. (John 1:18; 3:16.) The *Council in Nicene* was called together to reject a heresy, known as **Arianism**, which denied the divinity of Jesus. ***The Nicene Creed*** (“*creed*” comes from a Latin word “*credo*”= *I believe*) ***formally proclaimed the deity of Christ, and His equality among the Persons of the Trinity. The Council reached that conclusion from the Bible, and what it teaches about God.***

You asked what makes me an “expert in Mormonism”. I have not said that I am *an expert*, but that I have studied Mormonism for a long time (20 years as an active, believing Mormon, and continuing 30 years after leaving Mormonism, comparing Mormonism to biblical Christianity). [A brief story about Dennis and I can be read from our website: www.hismin.com/content/about-us.]

I converted to Mormonism in Finland. I served my LDS mission there and after my mission I came to Salt Lake City, Utah. I was employed by the Mormon Church as a translator, interpreter and a language coordinator. I worked in that capacity over 14 years. My assignment was to translate doctrinal lesson manuals for the use of Sunday School, Priesthood, Primary and Relief Society, and articles for the Church’s magazines. I also translated the Temple ceremony and all wording used in various temple ordinances. I translated (simultaneously) General Conference sessions for 14 years, etc. The work that I was assigned to do involved a lot of research work **from authentic, original LDS sources** to make sure that doctrine would be understood correctly. Over the years I discovered a lot of contradictions and I ended up wondering, *“If the Church and its doctrines were revealed to Joseph Smith, and other prophets after him by a real God, why so much of it does not agree with previous “revelations”, requiring doctrinal changes? When asking about that, the members are often told, “do as you are told, none of your business whether [it is] right or wrong.”* (Heber C. Kimball) There indeed has been many doctrinal problems requiring changes, but yet LDS prophet Woodruff assured, ***“The Lord will never permit me or any other man who stands as President of this Church to lead you astray...If I was to attempt that, the Lord would remove me out of my place, and so He will any other man who attempt to lead the children of men astray...”*** (D&C p. 292.) For example, **President Brigham Young taught over 25 years that Adam is God, that he is the father of all human spirits as well as father of Jesus Christ, both in spirit and in body, “and the only God with whom we have to do”**. But President Spencer W. Kimball declared Adam-god doctrine to be a false doctrine. Not only that, but Brigham Young’s teaching was contrary to what **the Book of Mormon teaches** (see Alma 11 and 18), **namely that there is but one God and that He is spirit. 14 years after writing the BoM (1844) Joseph Smith started to teach plurality of Gods (polytheism) , and said that God was once a mortal man, just as we are now, and that God had become a God by following similar laws as he was now teaching to Mormons. Joseph Smith taught (1844), “...you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves... the same as all Gods have done before you.”** (Teachings of Prophet Joseph Smith, pp. 345-346, 370.) I hope this helps. I would be happy to elaborate and answer any other questions you might have.

We thank you for your faithful prayers and support of this ministry. We simply could not do it without you! It means very much to us as we work diligently to fulfill God’s call for us. We inform and ask LDS people to check out whether what they believe about Mormonism is really truth. We are not asking them to just take our word for it, but we are asking them to really investigate if what they believe about Mormonism is indeed truth, because checking it out and investigating it, systematically, would not harm if it were true. It is

deception that requires people ***just to believe and not test***. The Mormon leaders are actually instructing their members to not question their teachings, or search out “***historical facts***”, ***but rather to just have faith***. I will quote what The Salt Lake Tribune reported about what LDS apostle, Dallin Oaks (currently second in seniority to become the president and prophet of the LDS Church), **had said when he spoke at the Symposium on the Doctrine and Covenants**. “***...the Church leaders should not be criticized because they are the Lord’s anointed, even if that criticism is true... He also cautioned Mormons not to rely on historical facts but on faith in their beliefs in the authenticity of the Church. He said, ‘Our individual, personal testimonies are based on the witness of the spirit, not on any combination or accumulation of historical facts’.***” (I have this Tribune’s article quoted in my files. Emphasis added.) [The leaders could as well be saying, “*Don’t bother to seek what facts are— just have faith*”.] We find this very interesting in light of Dallin Oaks’ former professions before being called to be an apostle of the Mormon Church. **He had been President of Brigham Young University and later a Utah Supreme Court Justice. Think about how ignoring facts would have been accepted in his court?** What if he had said in his court, “***Let us not rely on facts about this criminal case, but tell me how do you feel about this case?***” [The LDS people consider *their feelings as proof of truth. They testify that the Church is true and the Book of Mormon is true, because they feel that it is.*] This might be why many Mormons do not find it necessary to test their church for truthfulness, or question their leaders’ or their integrity and honesty.

We have written much in the past months about our foundational faith in the Old Testament as well as in the New Testament and how all of God’s Word replays in our personal lives. God does reveal Himself and what He is doing, in our day, through His Word, just as He did before through Israel. The land of Israel is His and the Jews are His covenant people, even when they are in unbelief. We read from the Word that they will one day return to faith in God. (Remember the Prodigal Son – he left his father, but never ceased to be the son of his father. He too repented and returned. Luke 15:11;32.) From time to time, we receive e-mails from people who asks us what we believe about Israel. **We answer that we believe God made an everlasting covenant with Israel. We do not believe the church replaces Israel.** We believe there is biblical, prophetic significance with Israel today. We believe that individual Jews need to hear and accept the Gospel just like every non-Jewish person does. **The Bible is clear that Israel is the apple of God’s eye** (Zech. 2:8) and as believers, we have been *grafted in*. We believe Satan hates the Jews and also true Christians with a special vengeance. We, Gentiles, after receiving Jesus, are also His, “*being grafted in among them*” as “*wild olive tree*”, into the true olive tree. Thus we share in the favor of God that was originally given to Israel, and **is still held by the believing remnant of Israel**. God set Israel apart to have a special place in nearness to Him. They were God’s ancient, chosen earthly people, but when they rejected their Messiah, *some of these branches were broken off and lost their possession. The Gentiles were then grafted into the olive tree and became partakers, with believing Jews, of the root*. The root points back to Abraham, with whom this all began. (Gen. 12:1-3.) We must never have superior attitude towards the Jews. If we do, we forget that **it was God chose them**; and this relationship begins and ends with God. Paul writes about this in Romans 11. Yes, the Jewish branches, some of them, were broken off *so that other Gentile branches could be grafted in*. It was because of *Israel’s unbelief* and not because Gentiles had any special claim on God – it came because *they demonstrated greater faith than Jews did*. (Luke 7:9; Acts 28:28.) We are commanded **to stand in faith**, or we would be broken off too. We see a lot

of prideful attitudes among Christians towards the Jews, and **that is a dangerous things.** (Rom. 11:17-26.) **God has not forsaken, nor will He ever forsake, His people Israel.**

We sent an urgent prayer request about a month ago for Judy Bollinger who had a surgery (twice) for bleeding in her brain. While in surgery, she had a stroke and was hanging between life and death in ICU for many days. She is now paralyzed on her left side and has been in therapy for about 2 weeks. **We are asking that you'd plead with the Lord for her recovery, and also for her third brain surgery that will take place in a few days.** This time they will do the surgery through her eye! Sounds awful. **She just called (10/31) asking that we'd pray that it will go well and that she will not have another stroke.** As you may recall, Judy is a former Mormon, who had brought her sister, Grace, and cousin Mickey, to the Lord some years ago. We praise the Lord that her son has now accepted the Lord, and we are asking that you'd pray with us that her daughter and son-in-law would come to know the Lord also. They have a little 2-year old son - Judy's only grandson – and she misses him so much. **We have confidence that the Lord is hearing our prayers.** (1 John 5:14-15.)

Our partner in our ministry, Chris Hohnbaum, asked that we ask you to pray for two of his good friends, Mike and Jim, who are both very ill with cancer. Jim is a believer now, but Mike has refused to believe regardless of Chris' long time witness for the Lord. We also continue to ask prayer for Dick, Patti, Max, Pat, Cary, Merridy and Dale. We pray for those who take care of Dale who is paralyzed from neck down. His wife, Sharon is at his side 24/7, and she needs encouragement and strength. Tom, Dave, Heber and Bruce need encouragement in their various trials. We ask prayer for several LDS people that we are working with, who are coming out of the *Mormon Illusion*, but are having a hard time with their LDS spouses and other family members who are rejecting them. We do understand their struggles and heartbreaks, and so does the Lord. He was rejected by His own, who did not receive Him either. (John 1:11; Isa. 53:3.) We also ask for the Lord's comforting presence to be with Suzi to lift her sadness. It has been 8 months since her husband's accidental death, and coping with missing him and loneliness is very hard for her. We all love her very much and continue to pray for her and with her.

May the Lord bless you and keep you till He comes to receive us all to Himself.

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We have, from the beginning of our ministry, operated on the belief that God will provide as we seek His face and serve Him with our full heart. He speaks to His own about how they can help. Thus we do not make appeals for financial help, although our ministry operates primarily on donations. Dennis works in carpentry to provide for our personal expenses, and also when necessary, also for ministry's expenses.

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Thank you, and May God bless you for your partnership in this ministry for the glory of God.

[At the beginning of January 2016 we will be sending receipts for your gifts given during 2015 for your income tax filing.]

