



April 1, 2016 - (Ps. 14:1 -☺)

\* He Is Savior, Acts 4:12

## H.I.S. Ministries April 2016 Newsletter, covering March 2016

He is risen, He is risen indeed, and we are forgiven. Praise to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

***“For God so loved the world that He gave His Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”(John 3:16.)***

We as believers in Christ are so blessed to know Him and that He lives, and that all Scriptures were written about Him. We see that those who had been with Him throughout the 3 years of His ministry did not yet understand what His death was all about and thus when He was crucified, they were crushed, confused and saddened. ***“For as yet they did not know the Scripture (Ps. 16:10), that He must rise again from the dead.” (John 20:9.)*** But He had commanded them to ***“search the Scriptures for in them you have eternal life; they are they which testify of Me.”*** (John 5:39.)

We as gentile believers first learn from the New Testament that it is the whole Word of God, the Old and New Testament, that teaches us who God is, who Jesus is and what He came to do for us. ***“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”*** (Rom. 15:4.) Also from Luke’s Gospel (especially from chapter 24) we learn that knowledge of eternal life requires our understanding of the whole Word. It was after Jesus’ resurrection that two of His grieving followers [Cleopas and perhaps his wife Mary - John 19:25] were on their way from Jerusalem back home to Emmaus when Jesus discreetly joined them and started to converse with them. He didn’t reveal Himself to them until they, through the Scriptures, came to recognize who He was. Let’s read this and see how profoundly important the knowledge of the Word of God (that is also a title of Jesus, John 1:1, 14.) was, and has to be to all of us as well.

Starting from Luke’s Gospel, 24:13 (NKJV) and onward, we read, ***“Now behold, two of them (followers of Jesus) were traveling that same day (Sunday) to a village called Emmaus which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. And they talked together of all these things which had happened...and while they conversed and reasoned, Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were restrained so that they did not know Him. And He said to them, ‘What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?’ Then the one whose name was Cleopas, answered and said to Him, ‘Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days? And He said to them, ‘What things?’ And they said to Him, ‘The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet***

mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened.' [This other one with Cleopas more than likely was his wife Mary, who had been at the foot of the Cross with other women. (John 19:25.) Cleopas and Mary were from Emmaus, and they were now going back home, heartbroken and confused for they had seen the One whom they had hoped and believed was the Messiah, crucified.] When Jesus asked them, "**What things?**", they explained to Him what they had believed about Jesus, and said, "... certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but Him they did not see. Then He said to them, '**O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?**' And beginning at Moses (Torah) and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself." (Lk 24:13-17.) [They had not understood the Scriptures that He must rise again from the dead. (John 20:9.)] Jesus therefore literally took them through the Old Testament Bible study, explaining to them that all the Scriptures are about Messiah [Him.] [**Here the Resurrected Word is explaining His written Word!**] They did not need the New Testament (for it was not written yet) to learn about Him and know Him, for all in the Old Testament was written [about Him] for our learning. (Rom. 15:4.) **Jesus taught, during their walk from Jerusalem to Emmaus, what the Scriptures say about the Messiah, the coming Redeemer of Israel, and how all that was written was now fulfilled.** [Early on our Christian life, through Chuck Missler's Bible studies, we learned to appreciate the Old Testament's clarity and how it is all about Jesus.]

Jesus began with Genesis 3:15 – teaching that Messiah was going to be the **Seed of the woman**. (In Galatians 4:4 we see it fulfilled.) Genesis 12:1-3 predicts that He will **descend from Abraham, Jacob and Isaac**. (Matt. 1:1 and Luke 3:34 witness that He did.) Genesis 49:10 reveals that **He must be from the tribe of Judah**. (Luke 3:33 reports that He is.) Micah 5:2 predicts that Messiah will be **born in Bethlehem**. (Luke 2:4 reports that He was.) Isaiah 7:14 says that **the Lord Himself will give a sign - Messiah will be born of a virgin**. (Luke 1:31 reports that He was.) Hosea 11:1 tells that his parents will **flee to Egypt** to protect Him. (Matthew 2:15 reports they did, and that He came from Egypt.) Psalms 78:2 tells that when He comes, **He will speak in parables**. (Matthew 13:34 reports that He did.) Isaiah 61:1-2 says that Messiah will be **anointed to heal the brokenhearted**. (Luke 4:18 reports about that.) Isaiah 53:3 predicts that **His own will reject Him**. (John 1:11 records that "He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.") Isaiah 53:7 predicts that when He is afflicted, He will be **silent before His accusers**. (Mark 15:5 reports that He did not answer them.) Psalms 22:1 predicts that **He will be forsaken by God**. (In Matthew 27:46 Jesus cries from the cross, "**My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?**") Isaiah 53:9 prophesied that He will **die with the wicked, but His grave will be with the rich**. (Matthew 27:57-60 reports that it was so.) Psalms 49:15 predicts that He will be **redeemed from the grave**. (Mark 16:6 reports, "**He is risen. He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.**") The Word of God, from Genesis "**through the maps**" – it is all about Jesus.

We can find Jesus in every book of the Bible. Let's review them one by one as He must have done during their walk from Jerusalem to Emmaus:

In Genesis He is the Seed of the Woman. In Exodus He is the Passover Lamb. In Leviticus He is the High Priest. In Numbers, He is as Pillar of Cloud by day and of Fire by night. In Deuteronomy, He is the Prophet like Moses. In Joshua, He is the Captain of our salvation. In Judges He is our Judge and Lawgiver. In Ruth He is our Kinsman Redeemer. In Samuel, He is the trusted Prophet. In Kings and Chronicles, He is the Reigning King. In Ezra He is our faithful Scribe. In Nehemiah He is the rebuilders of the broken down laws. In Esther, He is our Mordecai. In Job He is our Giver of Life. In Psalms He is the Lord our Shepherd. In Proverbs and Ecclesiastes He is our Wisdom. In Song of Solomon He is our Lover and Bridegroom. In Isaiah He is our Prince of Peace. In Jeremiah He is a Righteous Branch. In Lamentations He is a Weeping Prophet. In Ezekiel He is that Wheel turning and the One who gives life to dry bones. In Daniel He is that Fourth Man in the fiery furnace. In Hosea He is that Bridegroom that has married an unfaithful wife. In Joel He is the One who baptizes with the Holy Spirit and fire. In Amos He is the Burden bearer. In Obadiah He is the Mighty Savior. In Jonah He is the great foreign Missionary. In Micah He is a Messenger with beautiful feet, carrying the Gospel. In Nahum He is the Avenger of God's elect. In Habakkuk He is the great Evangelist crying for revival. In Zephaniah He is the Restorer of God's love. In Haggai He is the cleansing fountain. In Zechariah He is the Merciful Father. In Malachi He is the Son of Righteousness, rising with healing in His wings.

Matthew says, I saw Him, He is the Messiah. Mark says, I saw Him, He is the wonderworker and the healer. Luke says, I saw Him, He is the Son of Man. John says, I saw Him, He is the Son of God. In Acts they all declare, He is the ascending Lord who sends the Holy Spirit. In Romans Paul says He is the Justifier. In Corinthians, He is the Gift of Spirit. In Galatians He is a man who sets us free. In Ephesians He is the Christ of heavenly riches. In Philippians He is God who meets our every need. In Colossians He is the fullness of Godhead. In Thessalonians He is the soon coming King. In Timothy He is the Mediator between God and man. In Titus He is a faithful Pastor. In Philemon He is the friend who sticks closer than a brother. In Hebrews He is the Blood that washes away our sins. In James He is the first fruits ready for picking. In Peter He is the Chief Shepherd. In Letters of John He is the everlasting Love. In Jude He is the Lord coming down with ten thousands of His Saints. In Revelation He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. He is all of them. John sees Him as a Lamb as though it had been slain. When we all will be gathered to Him, we cast our crowns at His feet crying, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing." Do you know this Jesus? To KNOW HIM is to have eternal Life with Him.

We all who know Jesus and belong to Him, have a story to share about the Cross of Jesus and that He died for us so that we can become God's children who will never perish but have everlasting life with Him. (John 1:12; 3:16.) That story is the same Gospel that Paul declared. He said "I declare to you the Gospel, which I preached unto you, which you also received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved...For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures." (1 Cor. 15:1-4, 17.) "...if Christ is not risen, then your faith is futile; you are still in your sins." But we know that "Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in the newness of life." (Rom. 6:4.) Paul preached the Cross of Christ as Power of God to Salvation. He said, "For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the Cross of Christ should be

**made of no effect. For the message of the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but unto us who are the saved, it is the power of God.** (1 Cor. 1:17-18.)

Why is the Cross such an offensive object in the LDS community we live in? Having lived as a Mormon in this community before finding the Truth about Jesus, we learned that displaying or wearing a cross was frowned upon and discouraged. We understand now that Satan has a good reason to hate the cross, for **it was upon the Cross that Jesus redeemed us from the grip of Satan. Christ Jesus who is the awaited Messiah of Israel paid our sins by giving His life on the cross.** By His resurrection He proved that He indeed is who He said He is, **God Almighty – for God alone can forgive sin.** (John 8:24; Mark 2:7.) He paid the price for our sin and claimed for Himself the **souls who have received Him, and all those who yet will receive Him as their only Savior.** (John 14:6.) ***“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*** (Rom. 6:23.) What do we have to do to become saved? Jesus said, ***“This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.”*** (John 6:28-29.) **Eternal life and salvation is received by acknowledging and believing that Jesus indeed is God who became a man and died for your sins, and when we repent from our unbelief and sin and ask Him to become the Lord of our lives we will be, in that instant, born again, and become a child of God who will never perish.** (Read: Rom. 10:9-10; Eph. 2:8-9; John 1:12; 3:3,7,16;10:28.)

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**From our mailbox:** In our last month’s newsletter we answered two questions Sarah had sent. **She sent us two more:** ***“#1. Why have you dedicated your life to the downfall of the Mormon church? I am more interested in that than anything. I mean if you do not believe why not just walk away and be done with it? Why do you write these letters and even go as far as created a website that is all about Mormons and how awful their religion is? What is your motive behind all of this? #2. I also recall a scripture that states something along the lines of: You will know them from the fruits of their labor. I have been LDS most of my life. I believe the church is full of good people that do good works. I do not see any evil that comes from the labor of its people. I do respect your opinions and would hope to receive a reply. You have obviously perked my interest and I would also like to know the sources of your statements. Sarah J.”***

**My reply: Question # 1.** We are telling our story and *the truth about the Mormon Church* simply because we care about Mormons. They are *good people* who think that they are following true prophets and true gospel, but they, as we were too, are deceived. We are providing information that can save them from eternal destruction now that we know the truth about Mormonism. Let me ask you a question: If you saw a blind person walking toward a danger he could not see or did not know was right ahead, wouldn’t you run out and warn him about it? That is what we are doing. We are simply warning and providing information that we didn’t have before, but now, after finding out the truth about Mormonism, we are convinced that God’s command to us is to share what we know with anyone and everyone who wants to know, just as you want to know. God says in **Ezekiel 33:7-9** that once you are warned and know the truth, **you must warn others.** If we do not warn, God holds us responsible of their destruction. We share information and leave it up to them to heed our warning and check things out from LDS writings **and compare what they have been taught to the Bible that is God’s Truth.** (John 17:17.) We are not asking you or anyone to just take our word for it. We provide references to LDS teachings and encourage them to study them, and **compare all doctrinal teachings to God’s sure Word, the Bible.** ***“Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but no one is entitled to***

*wrong facts.*” When we were faithful Mormons, we did not have the right facts – and when we finally studied and compared to the Bible what we had been taught, we had to separate ourselves from the LDS Church. Since then we have desired to share what we know with all Mormons who want to know. Your #2 question is about *the fruit of their labor*, about *good works* that members of the Mormon Church do. *Goodness* of an individual is an evidence of a character more than of their religion. I know atheists whose works or “fruits” can outdo many religious people’s *works* be they Mormons or part of any other religion. The “*fruit of Mormonism*” reflects the doctrine they teach, thus we must compare their teachings to what the Bible teaches. When we do, we’ll see that the Mormon Church teaches doctrines that are against the Bible and will lead their people to eternal damnation rather than salvation. For example, the gospel of Mormonism (3<sup>rd</sup> Article of Faith) is “*another gospel*” (i.e. different than the biblical Gospel), and that brings *God’s curse, not salvation*. (See Gal. 1:8-9.) They also teach of “*another Jesus*” (different than biblical Jesus who is *God with us*. Matt. 1:23.) “*Another Jesus*” cannot not save anyone. (See 2 Cor. 11:3-4, 13-15; John 8:23-24; 14:6.) Jesus of Mormonism is a created being, a brother of mankind, Lucifer and all angels. Jesus of the Bible is the Creator of “*all things, visible or invisible*”, thus He could not be a brother of humans or angels. (John 1:1-3; Col. 1:16.) Mormonism also teaches that God the Father was once a mortal man and is now a god *with body of flesh and bones* (D&C 130:22). Thus he cannot be *eternal God* as the Bible teaches God is (Ps. 90:2), but “a god” who has not always been God. In addition to that, Mormonism teaches that men can become gods. God says that there were no Gods before Him, nor will there be after Him. (Isa. 43:10; 44:6, 8b.) God of the Bible declares that He is NOT a man. (Numbers 23:19; Hosea 11:9; Job 9:32, etc.) Jesus said that *God is Spirit* (John 4:24), and that *Spirit does not have flesh and bones* (Luke 24:39). This is just a brief comparison of the most important doctrines we learned as Mormons, but found out that it is not what the Bible teaches. We had to do what Joshua told his people when they were faced with false gods of Canaan – “*Choose you this day whom you will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*” (Joshua 24:15.) Mormons might be as good people as people can be, but they are also *deceived people* who are blindly following their “*prophets*” and leaders without testing if what they teach is according to the Word of God, the Bible. There are many other religions in this world, filled with *good people* who are likewise blindly following what they think is “*truth*” without testing their teachings as the Bible commands that we’d do. (See 1 Thess. 5:21; 1 John 4:1; 1 Tim. 4:1.) Jesus warned, “*Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name... therefore do not go after them.*” Luke 21:8.) The Bible tells us that we are not saved by our works, not even by “good works”. (Isa. 64:6; Matt. 7:22-23; Eph. 2:8-9.) We are saved by Jesus of the Bible alone. (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Tim. 2:5.) I pray that you will have a desire to come to know the Truth, i.e. the True Jesus. In 2 Thess. 2:10-12 Paul talks about those who do not *love the Truth that would save them*, but who have accepted *the lie* that will eventually condemn them. Please check these things out, for we do not know how much time anyone will have. “*The Holy Spirit says, Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts in rebellion.*” (Hebr. 3:7-8.) - I hope to have more discussions with you. I have biblical and LDS resources right here at home and I can help you and answer to your questions. – Rauni

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God had been so good to us. He has blessed us and provided for our needs by Dennis’ work, and ministry’s needs have been met through your help. We thank the Lord for you and for all that He does. He has given us courage and strength to continue even when I have not been well. I am still waiting to have my doctor appointment to determine what must be done with my thyroid tumor. Our dear friend, Dick Baer, called a

couple of weeks ago to share information he has found about tumors and cancers and that they could be cured without surgery, with ultra-sound! Dennis ordered this book that Dick recommended and as soon as we receive it, we will talk to my surgeon about this possibility. My primary care doctor moved out of state and I am waiting to see a new doctor on May 12<sup>th</sup> – that was the earliest appointment I could get. We are asking the Lord’s direction on this health-issue as in all things. Our ministry has been very busy and the Lord has blessed us to see good results from our work. Ruth and Brent, an LDS couple from Idaho, who contacted us the first time, just before Christmas. We sent them *package of DVDs, CDs, and books*, and they have been diligently *studying themselves out of Mormonism*. We sent them also a John-study MP3 and they are now *born-again* believers in Christ! We praise the Lord for their desire for truth and their faithfulness. They let us know a couple of weeks ago that they have asked their names to be removed from the LDS Church. They need prayer for their adult children are not happy about their decision, at least not yet. We sent them additional copies of our “*What is the Truth About Mormonism*” they wanted to have to share with their family. Please pray also for Sarah and Dave, formerly very active Mormons with seven children. They all are now born again believers in biblical Jesus, and are experiencing a strong opposition from their extended Mormon family. - We are working with many Mormons who fear what will happen in their lives if and when they get courage to stand for truth. Coming out of Mormonism in these strong LDS areas, especially in Utah and Idaho, can be very hard and even scary. We depend on your prayers for them and for us so that that we will have God’s wisdom to answer them correctly and lead them to Christ.

We thank the Lord that Caryl Matrisciana is healing from her *terminal cancer*. She is even making plans to take groups of people to Israel this next fall! We thank the Lord also for Judy getting healed from strokes she had during her brain surgery a few months ago. She has been in therapy and is getting better - slowly but surely. Please continue to pray for her. We ask also prayer for Jennifer Cantrell and her pregnancy that may have some potential problems. Dale, Sharon, Dick, Patty, Max, Pat, Merridy, Tom, Dave and David H. are thankful for your prayers for their healing and courage to face their various trials. It is wonderful to know that as we ask you to pray, you will remember these people in your conversations with the Lord. He knows exactly what their needs are, and He responds to your prayers in their behalf accordingly. (1 John 5:14-15.)

With thankful heart for the Lord’s call for us to this work and for His care,

Rauni & Dennis Higley

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Thought for the month: “*It does not matter what a person believes. What matters is: IS IT TRUE?*”

“*We are not made righteous by righteous deeds; but when we have been made righteous, we do righteous deeds.*” (Martin Luther) (Rom. 10:4; Eph. 2:8-10.)

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