



*[H.I.S.] He is Savior, acts 4:12

October 1, 2018

October 2018 Newsletter, covering September 2018

We wish you a happy fall and enjoyment coming from a bit cooler weather and colorful leaves we see covering the hills around here. It has been harder to go any further up in recent weeks to see nature's display of God's "paintbrush" touching the trees and hills for there has been an incredible amount of forest fires, as many as 9-10 at the same time, and fire departments have been asking people not to be in their way. There has been no rain here the entire month of September and very little during the entire summer – so everything is extremely dry,

Our friends, former LDS, Sam and Becky White's brand new beautiful home in Woodland Hills, along with other homes in that area and beyond had to be evacuated about 2.5 weeks ago. News last night announced that people now can go back to their homes there, but with a warning that the danger is not over yet and that they may have to vacate their homes again, should the fire again get any closer. That is very hard for families: what they can take with them is basically what fits in their cars. We pray that this will soon be over and that most of the homes will be preserved.

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We have been asked again and again to explain "**why we are against Mormons?**" and **why we do this work about Mormonism? And what are the real differences between what the Mormon Church teaches on the topic of eternal salvation and what we "offer" or say concerning eternal salvation?** They insist that if there are no real differences, why don't we just leave them and Mormonism alone? **They assure us that "they believe in the plan of salvation" and in Jesus Christ, their spirit brother from the preexistence – and ask: isn't that enough?**

Firstly: We are NOT against Mormons – quite the contrary – we are for Mormons! We have on our website www.hismin.com expressed that we inform and are engaged in this work because we love them and that we, from our whole heart, desire that they too would be saved. **No one is saved by a plan of salvation, but only by the Lord of salvation who is God who became a man and died for our sins, and is not "a spirit brother from the preexistence".**

I would like to remind all of us that **the LDS Church teaches that true salvation is only available through the Mormon Church, and that those married in a temple will become gods.** I will quote from their doctrinal encyclopedic book, Mormon Doctrine, here so that you can see **what is their doctrine of salvation.** (These same doctrinal teachings are also available in many General Authorities' sermons and teaching manuals through the years.)

#1 "Unconditional or general salvation which comes by grace alone without obedience to gospel law, consists of mere fact of being resurrected... [is] synonymous with immortality... this is not the salvation of righteousness, the salvation which the saints seek. Those who gain this general or unconditional salvation will still be judged according to their works and receive their places in a terrestrial or a telestial kingdom [i.e. not in celestial kingdom]. They will therefore be damned...

#2. Conditional or individual salvation comes by grace coupled with gospel obedience...[but without an eternal or temple marriage] though in the celestial kingdom [they] will not go on to exaltation, [they] will have immortality only, and not eternal life...they will be ministering servants for those who are worthy of far more...They will live separately and singly in an unmarried state without exaltation... to all eternity.

#3. "Salvation in its true and full meaning is synonymous with exaltation or eternal life and consists in gaining an inheritance in the highest of the three heavens within the celestial kingdom...this is the salvation that the saints seek... This full salvation is obtained in and through the continuation of the family unit in eternity and those who obtain it are gods.... Without the atonement, the gospel, the priesthood, the sealing power, there would be no salvation. If it had not been for Joseph Smith and the restoration, there would be no salvation. There is no salvation outside The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints." (Mormon Doctrine, pp. 669-670, emphasis added.)

About salvation by grace alone the Mormon Church says, "One of the untrue doctrines found in modern Christendom is the concept that man can gain salvation (in the kingdom of God) by grace alone and without obedience. This soul-destroying doctrine has the obvious effect of lessening the determination of an individual to conform to all the laws and ordinance of the gospel... Immortality is a free gift and comes without works or righteousness of any sort; all men will come forth in the resurrection, because of the atoning sacrifice of Christ. In and of itself the resurrection is a form of salvation... In this sense, the mere fact of resurrection is called 'salvation by grace alone'... Immortality comes by grace alone, but those who gain it may find themselves damned for eternity. Eternal life, the kind of life enjoyed by eternal beings in the celestial kingdom comes by grace plus obedience... Thus Nephi wrote, "...for we know that by grace that we are saved, after all we can do. (2 Nephi 25:23.)" (Mormon Doctrine, p. 671, emphasis added.)

When witnessing to an LDS person about the biblical gospel, we need to know a few fundamental Mormon teachings and facts – i.e. that, 1) Mormonism teaches of a totally different God the Father, who is a former mortal man [who also has a god above him], 2) and that they teach of a different Jesus, who is one of god's sons from preexistence, who was chosen by a "council of gods" to become a savior instead of his brother, Lucifer, who also "contested" for that position of savior (see *Gospel Through Ages*, p. 15), 3) the gospel of Mormonism consists of "obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Mormon Church" (see 3rd Article of Faith), and is thus "another gospel" (2 Cor. 11:4), 4) that obedience to these LDS laws and temple ordinances promises that they too will become gods.

Note: There are no laws or ordinances in the Gospel of God taught in the Word of God, the Bible. Paul DECLARED to all what the gospel is, (1 Cor. 15:1-4) "Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved if you hold fast that word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain. 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." But when the salvation by grace through faith alone, [i.e. what God of the Bible offers to all mankind] is mentioned to Mormons, they generally agree that grace has a part in salvation, but only after they first have done "all that they can do" (2 Nephi 25:23), thus LDS salvation is not a gift at all, but a reward for obedience and works done by them.

There was a long time in our life when we too believed and obeyed all of the above – all that Mormonism teaches and requires. After learning the truth of God through His Word, the Bible, we now consider that time in Mormonism as a time when God had put us in school to prepare us to minister to Mormons, and we thank Him for that. Apostle Paul is our hero and example in many ways. We too had been zealous for Mormonism, both Dennis and I serving missions for the LDS Church, and working hard to convert Christians to Mormonism, as Paul had been very zealous for Judaism without yet recognizing that Jesus was their long waited King who will sit on David's throne (Luke 1:31-33), and he persecuted those who were converting to Christ. Paul was one of the most educated Pharisees, and he honored his Jewishness highly. (Phil. 3:5-6), "I am of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee." In addition, Paul was a Roman citizen by birth. [That was a rare honor that meant that his father had already earned Roman citizenship, which worked for Paul's advantage many times]. Paul was schooled under the famous and respected Pharisee and Rabbi, Gamaliel (Acts 5:34), who taught Paul not only the scriptures (Torah) and history and traditions of the Jews, but in addition to that, also about the cultures of the world around them. Later, after Paul had converted to Christ (please read Paul's story from Acts 22 through 26), and when he was speaking to the proud and learned philosophers in Athens (see Acts 17:16-34), he was able to demonstrate that he was familiar with their culture, letting them know that he had even studied their poets and understood their writings and their beliefs (paganism). He was able to show them that though they had many gods and that they

believed their poets' sayings that they are "*offspring of gods*", they had missed the Truth about One God they had named the "UNKOWN GOD" that Paul now declared to them. He taught them about this God who had made the world and everything in it and that *this True God is Spirit and that He is not far from them, and of whom they should seek.* Paul made the truth about God known to them, promising (Acts 17:30), "*Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent.*"

When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, but some also believed and wanted to hear more. (Acts 17:31-34.) Did you notice that they listened to Paul because he had let them know that he was familiar with their culture and beliefs? Regardless of mocking and resentment he received from their philosophers he was ready to help them all in their unbelief. He preached to them Jesus and the gospel of God. (1 Cor. 15:1-4.)

When we as Christians want to reach Mormons for the truth about Jesus and the Gospel, we too need to show that we know where they are in their thinking and belief, and that we are willing to endure even their mocking and resentment in order that they too would come to the knowledge of the Truth!

When we were believers in false gods and "another Jesus" of Mormonism, *we too did it in ignorance of God's Word, the Bible, that teaches who He is and what He has done for all who believe.* We identify with Paul who confessed (1 Tim. 1:13) "*I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, insolent (arrogant) man, but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.*" We like Paul have also confessed that we were very wrong when we had promoted and taught Mormon teachings, but we too did it in ignorance of truth.

We would like to say to our former LDS friends and all Mormons what Paul said to his fellow Jews when he, after coming to faith in Jesus, was pleading with them about this very same concern we have for Mormons. He wrote, "*Brethren, my heart's 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. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.*" (Romans 10:1-4) We, with Paul, understand that when we didn't know the true God and were worshippers of false gods and "Jesus" of Mormonism, we too did it in ignorance of God's Word that teaches who He is and what He has done for all who come to Him and believe – that when we believe **we receive His righteousness, not our own.** (John 14:6; Eph. 2:8-9.)

Question: *I am a convert to the Mormon Church, but I have not been to a temple yet, though I am planning on a temple marriage - soon. I have been told that after going to a temple, I must wear under garments with emblems sewn on them. My fiancé is a temple Mormon and wears them, but I have not had a nerve to ask her what they are and what they mean. I have a feeling that they do not want to talk about these issues, so I am asking you, a former Mormon. Could you inform me why they wear garments, and what do these emblems mean?"*

Answer: First you need to know that before you get your *recommend-card* allowing you to enter a temple, you have to meet with your bishop and then also with your stake president, who, if you pass all their more than a dozen questions about your beliefs and worthiness, may declare you "*worthy*" to enter a temple to receive your *endowments* (that is by going through rituals similar to Masons). After that first visit to a temple, you must wear – day and night, 24/7, temple underwear, they call temple garments, next to your skin for the rest of your life. **Emblems on them are actually Masonic emblems.** On the left breast is a sign of a **compass**, and on the right breast is a sign of a **square**, and over the navel is a **straight line** and similar also over the right knee. Where did this practice originate? Twelve years after starting his church, Joseph Smith became a Mason(in March 16th of 1842) and that is when he learned the Masonic rituals, including death penalties associated with them. From all that we have experienced, and also read and seen in the Church's history, we believe that he had an "*aha-experience*" at that time, for he had had a hard time keeping his polygamy secret for it was illegal in all of United States. About six weeks after he had learned about *Masonic secret-ceremonies, rituals, emblems and death penalties*, he introduced these ceremonies to a selected group of Mormons (who were also involved in polygamy) as a *revelation from God* and placed his fellow Mormons under a death penalty if they revealed what these ceremonies and rituals included.

(Our temple attendance and experiences there were from mid 1960's till 1982. Demonstrations of how life can be taken (i.e. death penalties) were performed in Mormon temples nearly 150 years. Demonstrations of death penalties were discontinued in April of 1990!)

Markings on the garments, as well as rituals connected to them were all copied from Freemasonry . Masons got very angry at Joseph Smith for “stealing”, as they said, their ceremonies and emblems, and Mormons were not allowed to become Masons for nearly 150 years, not until 1984.

On our website; www.hismin.com/understanding-mormoism/mormonism-and-masonry we have detailed information on Mormon-Mason connection. Please check them out.

I hope and pray that you will not go through a temple and that you and your fiancé will learn the biblical gospel and salvation in Jesus Christ of the Bible, and get married in a Christian marriage. I would be happy to tell you all about it – for as you know, we were once Mormons, married in a temple, but are now believers in Jesus Christ of the Bible with a Christian marriage.

We want to thank all of you who pray for us and support our ministry as your confirmation from the Lord that our ministry is directed and supported by Him. We send nearly a thousand newsletters monthly –all by request – some by email, some by postal mail. We try to keep costs as down as possible. All ministries have expenses. All our help comes from the Lord, but you are His people who do it for Him. We have to let you know that we have not received much support in the last few months, and we have not been able to be of help as we’d like to, but Dennis has had work enough to be able to buy many needed books, most of them sent to Australia to this new group of former Mormons needing them as they now are studying the Bible together and worshipping the True Lord Jesus. (We wrote about them again in our last month’s letter.) A couple of weeks ago, when talking with Becky, our dear former LDS friend, Dennis mentioned (not asked!) that we were all out of Study Bibles to give to Mormons we talk with, and she immediately sent enough funds for us to buy four lovely leather-bound NKJV Study Bibles, and we thank her very much. For many years we have not been this low in materials to give out. We constantly get requests like this one from yesterday, “Dear people, regarding your EXCELLENT booklet, *The Truth About Mormonism*, how do I order more? ‘And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven given that has been given among men by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12’.” I sent a reply: Just ask and you will receive – send your mailing address and how many of them you’d need– and we will send them immediately. I received his postal address (out of state) and I mailed today his requested dozen of them. God is good, all the time.

We are again asking health and wellness prayers for Judy, Max, Kathy, Kalli, Sandy, Tom, Sharon, Dave, Dale and some unnamed ones. We ask prayer for comfort and help for several LDS persons who are having family troubles in going forward with their departure from Mormonism. Their lives are being ripped apart – they want to follow Jesus and Truth, but that may not come without hard cost of losing their loved ones in this process. There are many others we pray for daily, and without naming everyone, we ask you to join us – for the Lord knows them all.

I have had also some serious health issues lately and Dennis has his heart issues too – so please mention us too in your daily prayers – and we thank you for caring and we know that Lord hears and responses.

We were blessed to see (livestream) Jan Markell’s Olive Tree Ministries Conference from Minneapolis MN this weekend. Her quest speakers were Amir Tsarfati (Israel) , J.D. Farag (Hawaii), Jack Hibbs (Calvary Chapel, CA), Eric Barger (Take Stand Ministry) and Billy Crone (Las Vegas NV). Messages were inspiring and comforting. (1 Thess. 4:13-18.) We thank the Lord for this spiritual treat for us and for all who were there and also joined in via the Internet.

If you have questions or comments, please contact us by email (hismin@xmission.com) or by phone (801. 943-5011 or by postal mail, 2890 E Willow Bend Dr., Sandy, UT 84093. Our website: www.hismin.com
May the Lord be with you all and bless you.

Rauni & Dennis Higley

Thought for the month: Lord’s command in Acts 17:11 and 1 Thess. 5:21 is to examine everything and believe that what is true.

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