

February 1, 2006

H.I.S. Ministries February Newsletter, covering January 2006

We hope that your New Year has started well and will be blessed by our Lord.

We have had an unusual amount of difficulties lately. We must keep reminding ourselves that if we do not have opposition in ministry work, we are not making a difference. This month of January has reassured us that perhaps we are making a difference and that we are in a war. We know that we are on the enemy's territory, and I do not mean just Utah, because the entire world is devil's territory, temporarily, till the Lord comes and takes it from him. The devil did not like what our Lord came to do, and he does not like what we do, or what you do, when we represent Him. We do not hear much these days about the devil and the opposition he presents to those who are laboring in the field and are the Lord's own. There are many who count themselves believers in Jesus, but deny the existence of the devil. Amazing, is it not? The Bible talks about the devil, Satan, demons and our adversary from beginning to end. The "devil" is mentioned 62 times in the New Testament, demons ("devils", KJV) 70 times and adversary 20 times. Satan is mentioned 52 times. He did not stop his deceitful work 2000 years ago. He seems to be busier now than ever. He knows that his time is very short. We as people are no match for him, but we have God's counsel on what we must do in this war. We are told to put on the whole armor of God, and use the sword of the Spirit, which is the entire Word of God. His command is, *"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints and for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, which I am ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."* (Eph. 6:10-20.)

Where do we get this armor Paul is taking about? We get it through daily study of the Word of God. Knowing the Word gives us discernment between truth and error. We are thus "wrapped around", protected with His truth and with His righteousness and prepared to share the gospel. Our faith in Him shields us from the attacks of the devil. Our surety in our salvation acts as our helmet so that we do not fear for our lives no matter how fierce this battle gets. Our weapon is the Word of God, truly a double edged sword, cutting through all lies about God, Jesus and salvation that people have swallowed. Our sword

must be sharp, and by daily study we keep it sharp - if we do not, it becomes dull and we are not able to speak boldly as Paul says we ought to.

This war is getting very intense. There are so many confusing methods presented that can cause many to compromise and even tolerate erroneous doctrine.

Please pray that we all will stand boldly, exactly as Paul wrote in this letter to Ephesians .

>From our mailbox:

I will include the following letter **from an LDS man** because it represents typical misunderstandings of what the Bible teaches and what Christians believe. I will number his arguments and my corresponding answers to him:

"1. So, you do not like Mormons! 'Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.' Titus 1:15

2. Your website is devoted to putting down the beliefs of Mormons. You do this to with the presumed intention of leading people away from the Mormon Theology toward the truth. So if the Mormons are wrong, who then is right?

3. You offer no alternative religion for anyone to adhere to. The Mormons are easy targets because they make firm decrees about what they believe. If you were to do the same, there would be hundreds devoting their website against your beliefs. I am sure the best alternative that you have to offer is that it doesn't matter what church you go to or what you believe as long as you confess that Jesus is Lord, etc.

4. If this is what you believe, then I suggest you focus on that and let the good Mormons worship their Lord how they wish. I would follow the bible and "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Phillip 2:12)

5. But I know that you are not interested in salvation. You persecute the Saints of God and fulfill the scripture in 2 Tim 3:12, 'Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.' _____ J.D."

My reply:

1. J.D., I do want to thank you for your letter. It is always interesting and good to hear from Mormons. You think that we expose Mormonism, because we do not like Mormons, right? Not so. **We love Mormons. It is their beliefs that we do not like, because they are not biblical. My husband's family and relatives are Mormons,** and we have many dear friends still in "Mormondom" - and **we love them all.**

I am not sure what exactly you are trying to say here with this scripture from Titus 1:15, but I agree that *all things indeed are pure to the pure in heart*. The reason behind this entire letter of Paul's to Titus was the rise of false teachings and declining morality in the area. Paul was writing to tell Titus to lead believers to a holy living and sound biblical teaching. He mentions, among other things, that the one in leadership, as a bishop, must not have more than one wife (1:6) (Joseph Smith should have read this before he commanded polygamy!), and that they must hold unto the Word of God (1:9) and teach sound doctrine (Titus 1:13; 2:10-15). This verse you are quoting (Titus 1:15) is referring to added Jewish "fables", and other outward practices etc.- Jesus had taught the same in Matt. 15:11. What this verse you quoted is in fact saying, is that things like food do not defile a person, but if their minds are focused on externals and their hearts on evil thoughts, that is what corrupts an individual. Did you notice that this Paul's letter to Titus

also forbids genealogies and other "*unprofitable and vain*" practices (3:9) that are commandments to Mormons today? I love Paul's letters. They are so "to the point". Thank you for bringing this up.

2. Yes, our website is devoted to show Mormons that teachings in the LDS church **are not according to the Bible**. We try to show them what the Biblical doctrine is, but, of course, if they still want to choose Mormonism over Biblical doctrine, they are free to do so. It is not which church or organization is right, but what is God's truth! **God wants us to KNOW Him** (John 17:3). Knowing God and Jesus leads to eternal life. Consequently, without knowing God, and who Jesus really is, there is no eternal life with God. He wants us to know that He is not a man, who "became a god", but that **He is eternal God**, who does not even know any other Gods - who also says that there will never be any other Gods after Him either. See: Num. 23:19; Hos. 11:9; Job 9:32; Isa. 43:10-11; 44:6, 8; James 2:19; 1 Tim. 2:5; Mark 12:32; Ps. 90:2. (I am not writing out the scriptures for I assume that you can look them up.) These scriptures in effect say that God is the Everlasting, Eternal God. He does not have a beginning or an end.

You also asked "*if the Mormons are wrong, who then is right?*" We must compare the *gospel* taught in Mormonism to the *gospel of God* that is taught in the Bible and declared what it is by Paul in 1 Cor. 15:1-4. If anything is added or changed in the gospel message, it makes it "*another gospel*" that brings God's curse to those who teach it or accept it just as Gal. 1:6-9 says. 2 Cor. 11:4 warns about "*another gospel*" and "*another Jesus*" and "*another spirit*". 1 John 4:1 says that we must *test the spirits* by the Word of God to see if "*spirit testimonies*" received agree with what the Bible says. 1 Tim. 4:1 emphasizes the same. We must test ALL THINGS! (1 Thess. 5:21.) **It is the doctrine of the Bible that we are defending**, as commanded by Peter and Paul. (1 Peter 3:15-17; 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16.) **Our salvation does not come from or through any organized religion or church. Only Jesus saves!** (John 14:6; Acts 4:12.) We attend a Christian church, and fellowship with like-believers, but our salvation comes from Jesus and having been born again as He said we must. (John 3:7; John 1:12; Romans 10:9-10; Eph. 2:8-9.) - If you read all these scriptures, you start seeing what we mean, even though there sure is a lot more to say than this.

3. As I said above, it is not a "religion", but **relationship with God through Jesus** that results in salvation.

4. We do "*let good Mormons worship their Lord how they wish*". We don't take their freedom away, we only give them something to think about - so that they can make an informed choice. **God's Word must be followed**. He has commanded that we warn those who are following prophets who do not teach according to the light given to us in God's Word. Isaiah wrote: "*...if they speak not according to this word [the Bible] it is because there is no light in them.*" (Isa. 8:20) God warns, "*...and the prophet that teaches lies, he is the tail. For leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led by them are destroyed.*" (Isa. 9:15b-16.) I read what God told Ezekiel about **not warning**. (Ezekiel 33:7-9). If we do not warn, God will hold us responsible. Now that we have done that, and as you have read from our website, www.hismin.com, we are released from the responsibility over you and other Mormons who have read from there. Are you suggesting that "*working out our salvation*" (Phil. 2:12) means working FOR our salvation? We need to find out what Paul means by that. Paul did not say that we must "**work FOR our salvation**", but he said that we must **work out our salvation**. Working

something out is learning to understand what we have received, in this case what a marvelous gift our salvation is. (Eph. 2:8-9.) The Greek word translated "*work out*" is the same word as is used in connection with "unwrapping a gift" **to find out what the gift is**. In other words, Paul is saying: *Now that you have this gift of salvation, you need to "unwrap" it to see what it truly is, what it means to you, then use your understanding to inform others about this gift of God.* "*Fear of God*" means that we respect and love God. Even though I know God loves me (John 3:16) and has given me His Gift of salvation, I tremble before the Holy God, as Isaiah did (Is. 6:3, 4). I tremble even though I know that Jesus has taken all my sins away (1 John 1:7-9). I tremble because *God is Holy, but I am unholy* still, as are all mortals.

5. Informing or correcting is not persecuting. We must inform if we truly care about Mormons. We are commanded in 2 Tim. 2:15 that we must "*study to be approved to God*", to learn what He has said. **Then we must use God's Word to teach others what the doctrine of God and salvation is.** 2 Tim. 3:16 says that the Word of God is given "*for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness*". Peter, in 1 Pet. 3:15-17, puts it this way, "*be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you...having good conscience; that whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing than for evil doing.*" Jude commands us to "*earnestly contend for the faith once delivered*" (Jude 3). (No "restoration" or redelivery needed. The Word of God, the Bible, and the gospel it presents, has been with us from the start, for thousands of years. It was not lost.)

You say that we "*persecute the Saints of God*". There is a huge difference in being a *persecutor of people* - and correcting doctrine they follow! We do not speak against Mormons as people, but we speak against doctrines taught to them. And by the way, what do you think LDS missionaries, over 50 thousand of them, are doing? Are they "*persecuting*" when they knock at the doors of homes around the world and tell them Joseph Smith's story, saying that **all other religions are "abomination to God"** (Joseph Smith - History 1:19, PoGP, p. 49) and that they should leave their Christian churches and join the Mormon church, *the only true church*? **We warn Mormons because we love and care for them.** We were among them and we understand. **Our prayer and desire is that Mormons might be saved.** We feel like Paul, who, after he was converted, lamented for his lost Israelite brothers and wrote, "*Brethern, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For the Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.*" (Romans 10:1-4.) If we were not concerned for Mormons, we would not say anything, but let them go into a Christ-less eternity. It is our love and concern for them that causes us to remain targets of hate-mail we continue to receive from many Mormons, and accusations similar to yours. It would be a lot easier to be silent, especially here in Salt Lake City, Utah. Regardless, we are glad that you sought us out and wrote to us. We have put our information on the Internet for those interested enough to check it out and ponder. Anyone who goes there to read does it because they want to know what we are saying, not because we "make them",

force them, or "persecute" them. Your reading was a voluntary act of your own, was it not? ☺

I pray that God of the Bible will open your heart and mind to see the truth of Him and be saved. Please write again. - In Christ of the Bible, Rauni Higley

One more brief letter, also from a Mormon man:

"What are you doing? I would love to talk with you and hear why you feel the need to tear down other's beliefs? _____ B.M."

My reply:

The reason why we want to warn the public, those seeking to know about Mormonism, is found in *the Pearl of Great Price, Joseph Smith - History, 1:19*. He attacked **all Christianity** and said that **they all are wrong and abomination**. We must stand against that attack, and his statement that is repeated to all potential converts by LDS missionaries.

Jude 3 and 1 Peter 3:15-17 tell us that we must **contend earnestly for the biblical faith** and give an answer to all who ask why Bible doctrine is true and why something opposing it is false. We must expose those who teach about "*another Jesus*" and "*another gospel*" (2 Cor. 11:4; Gal. 1:8-9) as the Word of Gods says, for such are "*false apostles of Christ, and no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as ministers of righteousness...*" (2 Cor. 11:13-15.)

Just as you must know, Mormonism teaches of many gods, and that their god was once a mortal man who had a father (and mother), that he was a polygamist, and that all mankind can become gods as he now is. The Bible says that God is Eternal God (Ps. 90:2) and that there are no Gods before Him, nor after Him (Isa. 43:10). The Bible says that **God is not a man**. (Numbers 23:19; Hosea 11:9) **The issue is Joseph Smith vs. the Bible**. You can choose what and whom you want to serve, but *me and my house we have chosen to serve the God of the Bible* (Joshua 24:15.) By the way, it was the devil who said that men can become gods if they'll do what he wants them to do - that is: disobey God of the Bible and also serve other gods. (Gen. 3:5; Deut. 13:1-5.) Becoming a god was the devil's own desire, as is recorded in Isa. 14:12-14.

This is just a beginning of errors in Mormonism that must be corrected in order to help Mormons to be saved. Only **Jesus of the Bible, who is God can save** (John 1:1,14; Matt. 1:23). (John 14:6; Acts 4:12.) He is not a brother of Lucifer and mankind, as is taught in Mormonism. "Jesus" of Mormonism **is indeed a different Jesus than Jesus of Christianity, as was agreed by LDS president Gordon B. Hinckley**. (See The Church News, June 20, 1998, p. 7.)

If you want to talk more, please write again.

Sincerely, Rauni Higley

www.hismin.com

May God bless you, our friends and supporters of this ministry, and reward you for what you do for the sake of truth and the Lord's purposes. We thank you for your prayers and your help that has come in many forms and ways. We trust that God will let you know how you can continue to help us to do this important work. He has done that in the past, and the past is our assurance of the future. God is so good, He lets His own know what to do and how to help. (Phil 4:6-7, 13-14, 19.)

Please pray especially for Jay, Bruce, Lisa, Jennifer, Sonia and her family that they will stay strong in their new faith in Jesus of the Bible. There are also others we are working with that need God's blessings to stay on course and gain courage to put the Lord above all in their lives and not have fear what men can do to them. God gives us power to overcome. He promises to give us His love, so that we do not need to fear. (2 Tim. 1:7.).

We have been asked to continue teaching *Understanding Mormonism* at Calvary Chapel, Salt Lake City, and in March we will be teaching in a Baptist church in Colorado.

Our teaching program will be put on Calvary Chapel's, (SLC) website as soon as we find time to record it for them.

Please pray that we have health and means to accomplish all that is ahead of us. Thank you for praying and being our partners as the Lord leads.

In Christ,

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