



November 1, 2010

H.I.S. Ministries November 2010 Newsletter, covering October 2010

Winter is on its way, if you have not noticed! We have snow covered Mountain Tops here in Utah, and skiers are excited – there will be 6-7 months of fun playing in the snow, before we can switch to “spring and summer camping season”, which is *more like it* for Dennis and I. ☺

October is a “dark month” in more ways than one – it is dark because days are shorter, flowers are gone, and no snow yet in the valleys to brighten and lighten the days, but it is also gloomy because, at least here in Utah, dark powers seem to take over the lives and activities of people in preparation to Halloween, which is *the devil’s holiday*, and evil in all imaginable forms is boldly displayed. Houses are decorated with *skulls and bones*, witches and warlocks, demons and ghosts – some even add tombstones on their front lawns with screaming recordings as coming from the tombs to frighten the passer-by’s. Utah, among all 50 states, is the leading state on this focus on scary images and the dead! This must be because Utah is “the Mormon State” and the Mormon Church and its sacred doctrines are focused on the dead. Their most holy places are their temples, and they are specifically built “so that living may communicate with the dead”, as LDS apostle Parley P. Pratt preached. The temple-going Mormons are said to be “*acting as mediums through which the living can hear from the dead*”. (Journal of Discourses, vol. 2:44-46.) The Bible calls that “necromancy” and God sternly forbids that, and calls it an abomination in His sight. [Deut. 18:10-12 lists *necromancy* and other occult practices that must not have a part in any of His people’s lives.] Every year Christians, especially children, are put under “social pressure” to participate in celebration of Halloween. Many Christian churches try to arrange something that will “compete” with this day by having “*harvest festivals*” or something similar so that Christian children do not feel “*left out of all the fun*” other children may seem to be having. Children are exposed to Halloween at schools and they are urged to participate and dress up in various costumes, most of them depicting something evil or frightening. Many Christians see this as “*harmless fun*” and do not oppose it. However, participating in activities of this devil’s holiday is not harmless for it can be an entry into the occult. Halloween puts a focus on the enemy of our souls and he loves it. Let’s not forget that this is a pagan holiday, having its beginnings with ancient *Druids’ day of the dead* when Celtic priests made their appearances as wizards or magicians. To some adult participants this holiday

has become a masquerade, a party similar to Marti Gras. Believers in the Lord Jesus, who is the God of the living, should have nothing to do with the celebration of *Halloween, the Druids day of the dead* – for it is thoroughly pagan and its emphasis is glorification of Satan, demons and death. It is deception all the way through.

Proclaiming the Gospel Ministry presented an interesting question for us to think about: Which is worse, to be insulted, embarrassed or deceived? When comparing these three, the first two you will be aware of immediately, but people who have been deceived may never know unless they are confronted with the truth. Many go to their graves deceived about life's most important question – *“What must I do to be saved?”* (Acts 16:30.) What is your source of truth? Can you trust that source? Will your source protect you from the schemes of the Devil, whose servants disguise themselves as *apostles of Christ? Such men are false apostles and deceitful workers.* (2 Cor. 11:13-15.) There is only one source of truth that is absolutely trustworthy. *That source is Jesus Christ*, who is the personification of the truth of God, for He is God, the Word. Jesus said: *“Thy Word is truth.”* (John 14:6; 17:17.) His Word is our only protection from deception that will have eternal consequences. Members of the Mormon Church have put their trust in *their “prophets and apostles”* trusting that they teach what the Bible says, but they do not! We need to remind them to do what the first century Christians did – *they examined the Scriptures daily to see if what even apostle Paul taught them was true.* (Acts 17:11.) The Scriptures, i.e. the entire Bible, is the standard for testing all teachings, and it must be used for testing all religious leaders, including those claiming to be *“prophets and apostles”*, or *“priesthood leaders”* or Sunday School teachers. If we are relying on our feelings and trusting these men and not using the objective truth of God's Word to inspect subjective teachings of men, we are making a serious, and potentially fatal, mistake. The Bible reveals that man is saved not by what he does, but by believing in Jesus Christ and His gospel of grace. (John 6:29; Acts 16:31; Eph. 1:13; 2:8-9.) Any religion that teaches that salvation is obtained by human efforts, is nullifying the grace of God. Grace is the only means that God saves sinners, which all people are. (Romans 3:23.) Paul compared grace vs. works in Romans 11:6, saying, *“if by grace, it is no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace.”* Many people blindly put their faith in their religious leaders, assuming that they would not deceive them. Paul gave a warning, saying that there will be *“grievous wolves”* enter in to draw disciples after themselves. (Acts 20:29-30.) Some simply ignore God's Word and listen to teachers who say what they like to hear. (2 Tim. 4:2-4.) Then there are people who *“have a zeal of God, but not according to [biblical] knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law of righteousness to everyone that believeth.”* (Romans 10:1-4.) It is by grace of God that we are saved through our faith in Jesus Christ. That is not from our works – but it is the gift of God – so that no one can boast. (See Eph. 2:8-9.) God of the Bible makes it clear – we

will either spend eternity enduring God's wrath – or in heaven in His loving presence. (John 3:36; 12:48.) Everyone who rejects Jesus and His Word and instead follows men, or opinions of men, will be condemned, but *“as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe in His name.”*(John 1:12.) To resolve this right now, if not done before, is to repent and trust in the Lord Jesus and His Word rather than leaders who do not teach what the Bible clearly says. In this life we can be wrong about many things and still survive, but when this life is over (and it can be over at any time, even today), and if you were wrong about God's only provision for our sins, you will pay for that mistake throughout eternity. There is no second chance!

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” (2 Pet. 3:9.) Have you ever wondered why Jesus has not yet returned? I'll tell you why: because our Lord is waiting on people to be saved. He's waiting on your family member, your neighbor, your co-worker, or maybe you, but one of these days soon, very soon perhaps, Jesus will come. You see, it is the mercy of God that holds back the Second Coming of Jesus, but the justice of God and the judgment of God require that one day He will come. Even now, the raging waters of God's wrath are furiously pounding against the dam of His mercy. And one of these days, the dam of God's mercy will give way to God's judgment, and the Day of the Lord will come. Our Lord is coming!” (Adrian Rogers)

Thanks giving is also coming! Lets give thanks to our Lord for His goodness and mercy and for His love that surrounds us every day and is fresh every morning. Let us thank Him for our daily bread and our health (or even lack of it) and all that we have in our lives now, and eternal life we know we have after this life (1 John 5:13). Lets thank Him for all that we can still do to glorify His name and to reach out in love to those who may be *the last ones holding us here.* We thank Him even while we have sadness in our hearts, for not all whom we love dearly are walking with our Lord, but we continue to pray that He will reach out where we cannot reach. We trust that He will bring all our loved ones to back us, and to Him.

We are going to have visitors from Australia just a week before Thanksgiving. They are Sonia, a dear lady (former LDS), and her oldest daughter, Jemimah. Sonia called some months ago and said that they wanted come and *“see us in the flesh”*, since we have ministered to them over 10 years without ever meeting them. This is going to be very special to us. Our hearts have been stretched out to them and we have gone through many heavy struggles with them, as coming out from a religion as Mormonism is a hard thing to get through without physical contact with understanding people close by. But the phone calls, emails and packages have helped Sonia and her family over these many years. There are 2 more daughters and husband who are not able

to come, but they are all out of Mormonism and we are praising Jesus for their salvation. Isn't God good?!



From our mailbox: (A letter from a non-believing Mormon)

"I am really curious why you have not brought the same close analytical investigation that you used to disprove Mormonism to yourselves to bear on your delusions about Christianity, the Bible, the person of Jesus Christ, the existence of god.

*I am a sixth or seventh generation Mormon, a returned missionary, life-long member. The church is such a joke to me. I have not believed much it has had to say for well over 50 years now. Even though I hung on to it for a variety of sick reasons. Eventually I came to my knowledge of its falseness through the back door, in that **I first threw off my delusions about god and all religion in general.** Since there is and can be no god, what can Mormonism possibly stand on, as a true belief system? Nothing. Nor can any other similarly dogmatic, superstitious belief/faith systems. I am amazed at the number of ex-Mormons who miss the opportunity to shine their critical, analytical gaze on the obvious: **we are evolved animals and there is no creator, Jesus Christ never existed, and all religion is superstition and delusion.** Not so much in my humble opinion, but out of empirical certainty. Sincerely, J.B."*

My reply:

Dear J.B,

You are saying, without any proof for your assumption, that we did not use any "*analytical investigation*" after we found Mormonism false!! Absolutely we did, as my husband said, "*once burned, twice smart*". But we did not want to be stupid and fall for a lie that Mormonism was all there was either, "*the only true church*", as they say. With real study (=lots of work) we found the truth about God, Jesus Christ, life and salvation.

Yes, there was and is Jesus Christ. Yes, there is God. The Bible, when studied in context, without preconceived ideas, is not that hard to understand, and it is true. That truth is based on **historical facts, archeological evidences, observation of the lives of Jesus' followers**, etc. In other words it requires a study of the history, even outside of the biblical records – and in connection with that record. One needs to be "*willingly ignorant*" to not see that.

It is easy to throw it all out, as with the "*baby with the bath water*", as they say, **but that is just laziness, in my opinion, tempting to go into easy nothingness that will not require any effort.** To find the truth requires, first: **desire to know, really know**, and second, to work for it, and willingness to inspect and see **what we did not know** - what was either true or not true that was taught in Mormonism.

I had invested/devoted, 20+ years in Mormonism (Dennis 40 years). I have invested that much, and more, in learning the Bible since we left, and **I can say that I am free from doubts, from**

confusion, from all problems that came from being part of a religion of "*imagination of man*" (i.e. Mormonism).

I am not saying that I know everything, but I surely know enough to know that Jesus is real, God is real and that there will be judgment for all who are not wanting to know or not wanting to inspect the Truth. (John 14:6; Acts 17:11.)

I am so sorry that you think we are *evolved animals* with no purpose in life. That must be a terrible condition. I can only imagine a hopelessness in that way of thinking - and that end. I know that I am now God's child, after I was born again (John 1:12), and I also know that before I was born again, I was just a descendant of Adam, dead in my sins (kind of like an "animal" with no future worth living for), and NOT a child of God. (Eph. 2:1; Rom. 9:8.)

If you want to think and reason and talk more, I'm willing to continue. Best wishes to you,
Rauni

Another Mormon, a TBM (true believer in Mormonism), **wrote:**

"Out of the hundreds and thousands of different organized religions in the world, why do you single out the Mormons? What makes them different or special enough for you to devote a tab on your website to them and not any other religion? - Curious E."

My reply:

Hi, Curious E,

If you had read our story from our website: www.hismin.com/AboutUs.htm, you would have had your answer to your question "WHY", but since you asked, I will tell you:

We are both former Mormons and we have studied Mormonism for many decades. We know what there is to know about the Mormon Church. The reason why we do not talk much about other religions is that we do not have that kind of knowledge of them as we do of Mormonism.

I was a convert to Mormonism and my husband was a generational LDS (sixth generation). We both served full time missions for the Mormon Church. We were always active in the Church. We were married in the SLC temple, and we had devoted our lives to service in the Church. I was also a full time translator and interpreter for the LDS Church over 14 years. My husband served about 10 year as Elder's Quorum President in wards we lived in as well as a Sunday School teacher and as a Stake Clerk, and lastly many years as a High Councilman.

We had discovered contradictions, cover-ups, doctrinal changes etc. etc. along the way that were disturbing to us. We decided to make a thorough and honest study of the history of the Church - from the beginning. We were assured in our hearts that there could be no harm in investigating these matters, for **if the Church is true and truthful in all things, then all will check out to confirm it, and if not, then we are free to move on with that knowledge.**

And as they say, "*the rest is history*". **To our disappointment and sorrow**, we found Joseph Smith to be a false prophet, and Mormon doctrine of God, Jesus and salvation anti-biblical, etc.

We chose to follow the God of the Bible and commit our lives to **Jesus Christ, who is God with us.** (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14; 8:23-24.). **He is the Truth, personified.** (John 14:6; 17:17.) We found out that He is not our spirit brother nor Lucifer's brother from the pre-existence, but God, the Creator of all things. (John 1:1-3; Col. 1:16.) That is it in a nut- shell. **Having eternal life with true God and Jesus will not be possible if we do not know who God is, just as Jesus said in John 17:3.** Eternity is too long to be regretting that we did not know the truth, but had just been gullible and trusting our feelings without studying what we really were involved in. (1 Thess. 5:21; 1 John 4:1.) **God of the Bible commands that we study** (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16; John 5:39) so that we know the true doctrine and can help others who do not yet know. God requires that all who have come to the knowledge of His truth will warn others who do not yet know. (Ezekiel 33:7-9.) **We are responsible to God for warning, but not for the results – they are left to the persons who have been warned to decide.**

If you have any questions that you cannot find an answer for on our website, please write again.

Anonymous Mormon-question:

*“What about those who have never heard the gospel or about Jesus Christ? How do they get saved? **What can you as Christians say? Nothing at all!!!** But the Mormon Church has an answer to this: **work for the dead**. If they do not hear the gospel during this life, Mormons who have died, will preach them the LDS gospel in the spirit world, and if they accept it there, we will do their genealogy and temple work. We get them baptized, endowed and sealed in our temples and they can become gods and goddesses along with us. **Isn't the Mormon plan the best!**”*

My reply:

It is indeed a Mormon plan, **but not the plan of God of the Bible**, who said: *“It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”* (Hebr. 9:27.) After death all mankind is faced with judgment – that takes them either to heaven or to hell. There is no second chance!! Jesus explained the impossibility of doing “missionary work” after death *in the spirit world* (as Mormons say they do).

Jesus gave an example of two men who had died. One was a beggar named Lazarus, who was a believer in God of Abraham, the other one was a rich man, and an unbeliever. Jesus told this story and said, ***“And it came to pass, that the beggar died and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; and in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus ... But Abraham said... between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot: neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence...[and the rich man cried] send Lazarus to my father’s house: for I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets [scriptures]; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.”*** (Read the entire story from Luke 16:19-31.) That *“fixed great gulf”* makes missionary work *“in the spirit world”* impossible. They cannot pass from one side to another! *“Today is the day of salvation”* – after death it is not possible to be saved. **The Mormon plan is not the best!!** However, God has made it possible for all to be saved here and now. God had said ***that He would that all be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.*** (1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9) ***He sent His Only Son to make sure that all who would receive Him will become His children.*** (John 1:12; 3:16; Romans 5:8; 10:9-10.)

Romans 1:19-23 tells us that **God has made Himself known to all mankind.** That is in at least two ways, even before anyone presents the gospel of God to them. **There are two witnesses or evidences for the existence of God available to all people everywhere. One is the objective witness of creation. The other is the subjective witness of conscience.** God, through man’s conscience (mind), speaks to a man who marvels upon nature and sees by observing that there must be a God. If man responds to his conscience and cries, ***“God, I want to know You, I need to know You. I do believe that You exist.”*** That is faith, and he goes from faith to faith as he steps in the light until he comes to the Lord Jesus Christ. I believe that there has never been a

person, a man or a woman, who ever lived on the face of this earth, who died without some opportunity to come to know and receive Christ, had they acted and lived up to the light God gave them. God says that if we seek Him, we will find Him. (Jer. 29:11-13; Isa. 11:10; Matt. 7:7; Acts 17:27; Hebr. 11:6.)

As to your statement of *becoming gods and goddesses* – it is the lie of Lucifer. Men will not become gods. That was the first lie of Satan presented in the Garden of Eden.

God of the Bible is the Only God - anywhere. He said, “...**before Me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after Me.**” (Isa. 43:10; 44:6, 8.)

When we receive Jesus, who is God with us, we receive forgiveness of our sins and we become children of God and will live in heaven with Him forever. (Matt. 1:23; John 1:12; 8:24; Rom. 9:8.)



We praise God and thank Him for you all who are praying for our little ministry and helping us in many ways to work in the field that has been opened to us to labor in. We identify with Paul, who preached the cross of Jesus, and said, “**Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; but have renounced hidden things of dishonesty, not walking with craftiness, nor handling the Word of God**

deceitfully...if our gospel is hid, it is hid to them that are lost. In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.” (2 Cor. 4:4) **We indeed received God’s mercy and grace and were able to renounce hidden things of Mormonism** we had been involved in, even **handling the Word of God wrongly** as is taught and done by the LDS Church and people. After we came to the Lord, He made us aware that our lives inside this false religion was not wasted time, but a part of God’s plan for us (Rom. 8:28), actually our schooling, enabling us to assist others with similar backgrounds. During these 26 years of **HIS Ministry** we have seen many coming to Jesus of the Bible, having their blinded minds healed, as the Lord had promised He’ll do if they but receive Him. This is a field we all work together for the Lord Jesus. God never intended us to try to do His work alone. **He has put us together with you**, and has given each one of us a special and unique gift with which to serve Him. **We thank you for helping prayerfully and financially, and standing with us.** It is always a wonderful moment when someone comes to the cross of Jesus and accepts the true Christ as their own Savior and Lord. When this happens, it is perhaps never a work of just one person, but work of many who have prayed for this person, sometimes even for years, sharing the truth of the Bible, planting seeds that after many waterings the seed started to grow and open a formerly blinded mind. The Holy Spirit brings it all together in a person’s heart so that he can make the most important decision of life, and accept Christ by the grace of God, through faith. That is why we must work together and faithfully use gifts that God has blessed us with to further His kingdom. It starts with our personal study of the Word of God, and by so doing we are gathering seed that we can plant in

a fertile soil that has also been prepared by someone. If we do not prepare, and plant seeds of God's truth, they surely cannot grow. After planting someone has to come along and water the seeds, another to cultivate and take care of this new and tender plant, till it is ready to be harvested. Our prayer for you is that you never forget that it takes all of us working together to make things work in the God's Field. When God's people work together providing the means, praying and planting seeds and watering them, there are no limits to what can be accomplished in His name and for His glory.

Please pray for Grace, who was hit by a car as she was crossing the street. She was hurt badly, but she is healing amazingly fast. Please pray also for Heber and Dale for their continuous healing as well as for Dwayne, who has a brain tumor. Beverly, our new Christian friend, is asking that we pray that the Lord will give her confidence as she has started a new job and is worried about her abilities to do it well. Please pray for those Christians who have LDS spouses that they might open their hearts to the Lord – and by so doing be saved and also bring harmony to their homes.

We ask that you pray for many LDS people with whom we have been communicating during recent months. They need courage to stand for truth in spite of what following Jesus of the Bible might cost. (Matt. 10:32-39.) There is a promise of eternal life in following Jesus – it is worth all that we may have to pay. Please pray for Sonia and her daughter to have a safe trip as they are traveling from Australia this month just to see us!! We thank the Lord for this honor and pray that this visit will be blessing to them, as it will be to us.

Serving the Lord with gladness,

Rauni & Dennis Higley

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Thought for the month: If you lack knowledge, study! (2 Tim.2:15.) If you lack wisdom, get on your knees and pray! (James 1:5.) Knowledge is not wisdom. Wisdom is the proper use of knowledge.

[Gifts to H.I.S. Ministries International are tax deductible – IRS rule 501 (3) (c)]

[December newsletter might be a little late for all activities, guests and appointments scheduled for us for the last 2 weeks of November, going on to the first part of December.]