



***He Is Savior, Acts 4:12**

November 1, 2016

HIS Ministries November 2016 Newsletter, covering October 2016

Warm weather has continued and we love it. Wind has brought most of the leaves down from our trees, and yellow and red leaves on green grass look beautiful – though they have to be raked up, which means a lot of work for our grandson, but we love our trees, in all seasons. This is a beautiful time of the year.

However, Halloween decorations throughout the suburbs of Salt Lake City and other cities around at this time have made it less beautiful. Utah is a state where Halloween receives even more attention than Thanksgiving or Christmas. A huge amount of money is spent in this state to decorate homes for this *celebration*. In Salt Lake City there are even *year-around*, permanent *haunted* or “*spook houses*” established for this scary and demonic entertainment. I have never understood the fascination, attraction and popularity of this *tradition*. It is quite obvious what it represents by just looking at decorations and costumes used during this time. Driving by homes we see *skeletons, ghosts, witches, black cats, bloody ghouls and goblins, tombstones on front lawns, jack-o-lanterns etc.*, and all representations of the underworld of demons, the devil and death. All these decorations and costumes are indeed openly declaring that *Halloween is not a good holiday, but something to be feared*. Many parents allow their children to dress as witches or wizards and other scary things and have them go through *haunted houses* that display *bloody ghosts, vampires* and other awful things.

Have people ever considered what this is really all about? Where does this “tradition” originate?

Where I come from (Finland) we did not celebrate Halloween, though I hear that much has changed there also. However, when I moved here, I found this attraction with death very scary and distasteful, but after decades in Utah, I am somewhat used to it, though we do not participate in this or decorate our home *to go along with the neighborhood*.

I have done some research on Halloween and found that it started among Celtic and Druid cultures some 300 or even 600 years ago. ***Halloween was a night when all of the evil forces on earth were given the chance to rise up and do whatever evil and mischievous deed they decided until “the cock’s crow on November 1st”.***

Even though witchcraft and black magic were generally outlawed, the people who practiced these arts were granted immunity from prosecution *on this night*. They could freely go through the villages and country sides tormenting, intimidating and threatening people. Town’s people would put gifts and food on doorsteps to placate these witches and wizards into not harming them for the coming year, and to protect their property from destruction. This is where the concept of “***trick or treat***” comes from. If people did not “***treat***” or accommodate these witches, they could find “***tricks***” or *spells* put on them, their wells being poisoned, their animals and livestock killed or stolen or “***hexes***” put on them.

A jack-o-lantern was a mask of a demon, symbolic of an earthbound evil spirit. A candle inside it was to light the way for the wizards. The carrying of jack-o-lanterns was to inform of their intentions, and they were not good. Jack-o-lantern declared that they were followers of demons. The town’s people were putting these same demon-faced lanterns on their own doorsteps to make wizards think that the evil spirits had already taken over this house, and hoping that the wizards would just pass by. A black cat represented the “familiar

or possessive spirit’, *spirit of the dead*. Sacrifices to the devil and demons were done during this night more than any other night. All of *Halloween*, even now, whether people know it or not, *is to focus on evil, witches, black cats, ghosts, “ghouls and goblins”, and death*. Halloween or “*Samhain*” is, even today, one of the most important days to modern witchcraft and Satanism. The word “*Samhain*” means “*lord of the death*”.

Halloween marks the beginning and ending of the witches’ year, and it marks the onset of winter, symbolically meaning “*beginning or death and decay*”. It is believed that the “*spiritual veil*” *between this world and underworld of demons is the thinnest on Halloween night*. This is the night when Satanists and witches, through rituals and animal or human sacrifices, attempt to contact the dead, summon demons and worship the gods of the underworld. This night is indeed “*Satan’s high holy day*”.

Satan is a deceiver. He wants us to think that this day is *just for fun!* Occult groups, like Wicca, have done a good job of convincing people that the “*true witchcraft*” is nothing more than harmless *Mother Nature worship*, and they say, “*how bad can that be?*” But the seemingly *harmless tradition of Halloween* is far from being innocent. Occult activity on this night is the number one law enforcement problem in United States today. A national task force has been formed to deal exclusively with occult-related crimes. We read reports that babies and very young children have been kidnapped and sacrificed to demons on Halloween night.

Regardless of all this, witchcraft, along with the celebration of Halloween, is becoming alarmingly acceptable in this country, and now also across Europe. I have read that just about all of Europe is celebrating Halloween when it was not when I lived there. In Romania, that is called *the home of Dracula myth*, they throw large parties with *bat and vampire themes*. There is some opposition to all this in parts of Europe, not so much because it is known as the “*devil’s holy day*”, but because they consider it to be a “*bad American tradition.*”

This increased attention to this evil day is the direct result of that people in this country, and around the world, are disregarding the Bible and worship of the True God. Instead of worshipping the One who is GOD, they end up worshipping demons. All false gods are idols/demons (Ps. 96:5), and people eventually begin identifying with gods they worship. The evil one seems to have taken over the world, and faith in true God has just about vanished. Luke wrote, “*...when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?*” (Luke 18:8.)

Why am I writing about this? It is because the Word of God, the Bible, clearly teaches that Satan and his demons are real. We must avoid anything and everything that exalts and gives attention to Satan and his demons. We must not encourage children into thinking that it is OK to dabble in the Occult. “Occult practices” include dealing with anything that even borders and celebrates evil in any way. God of the Bible forbids it and says that it is an *abomination to Him*. (Deuteronomy 18:10-12a.) This is not just an Old Testament issue. The New Testament also refers to this type of practice. *Sorcery or witchcraft* is devil’s method and his “*trick*” is to get people involved with “*his high day*”, Halloween. The devil does not want us to know the truth about Halloween. He fools us into thinking that it is just harmless fun. It is not “just fun”. The devil is always trying, through those he can influence, to prevent truth from being shared. From Acts 13:6-11 we can read how dangerous those who deal with demons can be to others, and how Paul and Barnabas dealt with them. It has been said that “*knowledge is power*” and when we know the true meaning of Halloween, we can help others who may not yet know, to avoid *ghostly and evil themes* of this day and use every day for God rather than the evil one. “*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by renewing your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*” (Rom. 12:2.)

A question from a Mormon: “Can you explain what John 4:23-24 means?”

Reply: Jesus said, *“The hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.”* (John 4:23-24.) I assume that you are asking how we worship God in spirit and in truth. Often we hear people seeking to worship *in spirit*, but many miss worshipping *in truth*! True worship cannot be done without the truth of God.

Mormons are counselled to seek *feelings or spirit-testimonies* without testing what the truth of the matter in question is. *The Word of God says that we must test all things* (1 Thess. 5:21) *and hold onto that which is good*, and thus true. If we do not test, but rely on our feelings instead, we are vulnerable to *deceiving spirits*. (See 1 Tim. 4:1; 1 John 4:1.) Religions like Mormonism and Jehovah’s Witnesses etc. require that their followers accept what they are taught, all of it, by trusting in their leaders, which, they say, means *having faith*, not realizing that biblical faith requires that we examine all things before accepting them. Truth has no fear of testing or investigation! Error attempts to repress examinations and free discussion. Questioning is often considered the same as being critical and *not having enough faith*.

Mormon Apostle Dallin Oaks counseled against criticizing the leaders, saying “even if that criticism is true”. He cautioned Mormons to “rely on faith and not on historical facts in their beliefs in the authenticity of the Church.” He said, *“Our individual testimonies are based on witness of the spirit, not on any combination or accumulation of historical facts. If we are so grounded, no alteration of historical facts can shake our testimonies.”* (LDS Apostle Dallin Oaks, Salt Lake Tribune, 8/18/85, emphasis added.) Notice that he said “historical FACTS”, and that feelings are more important than verified, historical facts!

“Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” (Rom. 10:17.) We can trust the Bible, which is the Word of God. *“The Word of our God shall stand forever.”* (Isa. 40:8.) Jesus said, *“Sanctify them through Thy Truth. Thy Word is Truth.”* (John 17:17.) Jesus Himself is Truth personified. (John 14:6.)

Think about this! If I can help you further, please let me know.

Another LDS presented this statement of the Mormon Church, with a question why we forsook Mormonism:

“The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is organized the same way that Christ organized His church in New Testament times. It is led by a prophet who serves as president of the Church. He has two counselors, and these three leaders constitute the First Presidency. The First Presidency is assisted by twelve apostles, who are special witnesses of Jesus Christ to all the world. Leaders called seventies assist the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and serve in various areas throughout the world. Local congregations are led by bishops. The main organization for women in the Church is the Relief Society, which was founded in 1842.” (The Church News, 6/19/2008.)

“The LDS Church claims that it is the only true church on the face of the whole earth because they have prophets, seers and revelators. Since you are no longer members of this church then you must have forsaken that belief. Can you tell me why?”

My Reply: First we need to understand what the New Testament *“church”* is and what does the Greek word *“ekklesia”*, translated *“church”*, actually mean?

The NT church is not an organization or a religion, but it refers to the *people of God* who, *by receiving Jesus, have been born again*. (John 1:12; 3:7.) *One cannot join it. One has to be born into it - by a new birth*. [*“Ekklesia”* means *people who are called out of the world to follow Jesus*. In other words, the *“church”* is not an organization or a building, but it is *the body of believers*. (See: Col. 1:18, 24.)] Belonging to a church, any church, does not save anyone. Only Jesus saves. (John 14:6.) It does not matter that much *where we go to church*, but it matters 100% *what we believe about God and Jesus* and if we have *“become God’s children” by receiving Jesus through a new birth*. (John 1:12-13.)

In that light I will give an answer to the statement you quoted from the Church News:

The New Testament does not present a church as an organization that is led by a Prophet/president and two counselors, in addition to *the Quorum of 12 Apostles* and *Seventies as their assistants*, nor was there any women's organization during the time of Christ.

Apostles of Jesus Christ were special eyewitnesses who had been with Jesus (2 Peter 1:16). The Bible says (Eph. 4:11) that Jesus *“gave some apostles and some prophets, and some evangelists; some pastors and teachers”*. **“Prophets” in the New Testament time were spiritually gifted teachers who taught what the Old Testament prophets had said and predicted about the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ.** *Evangelists were spreading the gospel message and pastors were shepherds of the flocks.* They also had special teachers of the gospel of Christ. **The prophetic callings, as in the Old Testament, ended as Matthew 11:13, Luke 16:16 say. In Hebrews 1:1-2 we read that God had spoken “to the prophets in time past”, meaning not anymore, but since that time the future of the world is revealed of by His Son, Jesus Christ, in the last book of the Bible, The Revelation of Jesus Christ.** (Rev. 1:1.)

The Mormon Church also boasts of having an *Aaronic Priesthood* with offices of *“Deacons”* (who are only 12-year old boys), and *“Teachers”* (who are just 14-year old boys) and *“Priests”* (who are 16-year old teenagers). They also *ordain* 18-19 year old young men to be *“Elders”* in the *Melchizedek Priesthood*. They have *Patriarchs*, *Area Representatives* (special representatives of the Twelve Apostles), they have *High Priests*, *Stake Presidents with two counselors*, and each stake having also *12 High Counselors*. They have *Bishops with two counselors*, and they also have *Mission Presidents with two counselors* around the world. They have many temples (currently 152) [for the purpose of *exaltation (godhood) for both living and the dead*] with each temple having a *Temple President with two counselors*. **There is no organization like the LDS Church found in the New Testament**, nor is there *Aaronic Priesthood*, **for it was abolished** when Jesus died on the Cross (John 19:30; Hebr. 7-9), **for no more sacrifices were needed.** **There never was Melchizedek Priesthood in Israel, only a person, Melchizedek, who was a Prophet, Priest and King, a type of Christ, during the time of Abraham.** (Gen. 14:18-20; Hebr. 7:1-6.) **There was only one High Priest in Israel at a time** (and he was *after the order of Aaron*), and **after his death**, another High Priest took his place. **Now and forever, Jesus Christ is the Only High Priest. He will never be replaced for He lives forever.** (Hebr. 7:23-25.) [More about the Priesthood, see <http://hismin.com/understanding-mormonism/do-you-have-a-valid-priesthood/>]

I hope this helps you to see that there are huge differences between Mormonism and biblical Christianity. These listed here are some of the main reasons why we left the Mormon Church.

We are born again Christians, born of the Spirit of God. We belong to the body of Christ, which is His Church. (Col. 1:18, 24; John 3:7; 1:12.) After we left Mormonism, we wanted to share this truth with others who may not yet know. Let us know if we can help you further.

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There are so many problems at this time facing America and even the entire world. We need to be in prayer every day that *the Lord will forgive our sins and heal our land.* (2 Chron. 7:14; Dan. 9:9-10.) Many wonder if we are indeed nearing the time when the Lord will come, just as Jesus' disciples wondered and asked Him, *“...when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?”* (Please read Matthew 24, at least verses 1-21.) Jesus specifically warned about *deception, false teachings about Christ, false prophets who will deceive many and who will show great signs and wonders*, even to the point that *His elect* (the saved) could be fooled by them. He also told about *wars, and rumors of wars and earthquakes, catastrophes of all kinds that will grow greater and greater...* Are we not seeing that right now? Surely there have been many wars before, even *world wars* and all kinds of violence, but perhaps not in *every area imaginable* as there is now with ISIS... people forced to escape where ever they can find a place to go... Yes, this time seems to be worse than ever...Jesus reminded about *the times of Noah* when people had heard the warnings but didn't believe *until the flood came and took them away* – They didn't believe that God's judgment was coming – *though they had been warned...* Likewise, Jesus is saying to us, *“Behold, I have told you before... there shall be Great Tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the*

world..." We should pay attention. From these signs, around the world, we should be able to see that the time is near, though no one knows the day or an hour...

This is the time when no believer in Christ can be idle – we need to be busily engaged in presenting the saving Gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-4) to all who do not know the true Lord yet, and we, ourselves, must be growing in the Lord and in His Word to be able to help others.

We have been praying that Lord will send those people to us whom He knows we might be able to help. Maybe because of these specific prayers, we have received more and more emails and phone calls from Mormons and also from Christians who have family members who have either already joined the Mormon Church, and from some whose young adult children are close to be making that mistake. These Christian parents are frantically seeking to know how to help their loved ones to realize that Mormonism, no matter how "good" it might outwardly look, *is not biblical Christianity, but a counterfeit gospel, with another Jesus, another gospel, directed by another spirit* leading them away from true Jesus and salvation. (2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15; Gal. 1:8-9.) Many of their teachings (of a different god or gods, and that men can likewise become gods and then create their own spirit children who will worship them, etc.) will be kept hidden till their conversion to Mormonism is complete. Mormonism is always presented to potential converts with twisted scriptures – doctrines created from an isolated verse or two that young persons with a little Bible knowledge, even if raised in a Christian family, are not able to refute. One of such example is 1 Cor. 15:29 – one verse taken out of "resurrection chapter" and made appear to teach "baptism for the dead" i.e. second chance of salvation after death. That verse was crucial in my conversion to Mormonism, for my parents, grandparents – all my family members were dead. I had never even seen the Bible being read in my home – I didn't know that the Bible teaches that *after death comes judgment* - that there is no second chance. (Hebr. 9:27.) I was so excited that I could help my parents and grandparents, even though they were dead, to come to heaven and live with me forever. That was a lie that started my life as a faithful Mormon that lasted 20 years. I pray that I can help others to avoid making that drastic mistake.

We have been sending boxes of books and materials that would help these loving and worried parents to open the eyes of their loved ones. Some of these are already pretty deep in Mormonism – have even gone through a temple and have their children sealed to them. It gets harder when their minds have been tampered to that point. Those who have not yet been baptized into Mormonism may still be within reach... We have been very busy in this work ever since beginning of our Ministry (32 years ago). We thank the Lord for everyone that contacts us either for themselves or for their loved ones, and we pray for them as we work and present God's Truth to them.

We want to thank our ministry partners who pray for us and for these people we are trying to help. We thank you for making it possible for us to have enough funds to buy LDS books, Bibles, DVDs etc. and to get this information into their hands. Without your help we could not do what we have been and are doing. We thank the Lord for you, and we know that He will reward you in His way.

Please pray for health restoration and healing for Heather, Caryl, Dale, Judy, Kristine, Max, Pat, Merridy, Dave, David, Tom, Al and Sandy. Pray also for Sharon, Don, Heber, Bruce and Daniel that the Lord will bless them and gives them relief in their various struggles.

Please pray that Suzi's move to her new home near us (☺) will go smoothly and that she can handle the emotional stress of leaving her home at Jeremy Ranch that she shared with her beloved Rich. Moving is hard work physically also, so keep her in your prayers.

Please pray for us too – I still have health problems, but the Lord has given me just enough strength to carry on. Dennis has been working long days in his carpentry work, and he also works in ministry during the weekends, which means that he does not have much time to rest. I am a bit concerned about him for his blood pressure is still too high even with 3 different blood pressure medications. He will see his cardiologists on the 7th of November for checkup and bloodwork. We pray that all will be as good as possible. We know that the Lord watches over us. God is good, all the time.

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus through all ages, world without end. Amen.” (Eph. 3:20-21.)

May the Lord bless you as He has promised,
In His love and care,

Rauni & Dennis Higley

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Thoughts for this month:

“It is hard to win when no one will fight. Many say ‘God is in control and it will all work out in the end.’ That is apathy. There is nothing in the Bible telling us that apathy is the best philosophy – just the opposite.”

Also: *“Unless the Holy Spirit opens their hearts they cannot hear anything you say.” J. Verdon McKee.*

“Evolutionists believe that if you take billions of years and add time plus chance, you can turn frogs into princes. In school they call that fairy tales. In the laboratory they call it science.”

“Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important.” - C. S. Lewis

*“We the People” are the ones making the decisions for our country; but in order to do that, **we must become active and informed**, not manipulated by the political class and media.”*

As we mentioned last month, to save money, we, **at the end of October, 2016**, are closing **HIS Ministries P.O Box 900415, Sandy, UT 84090**. From now on, please direct all postal mail to our home address: **2890 E. Willow Bend Drive, Sandy, Utah 84093-2044**.

H.I.S Ministries is IRS approved 501 (c) (3) Ministry. Your gifts to this ministry are tax deductible. We give books, Bibles, CDs, and DVDs, etc., free of any charge to all LDS people asking for them. We have, from the beginning operated on belief that **God will provide as we seek His face, and He has done that**. We do not make appeals for financial help, although we operate primarily on freewill donations, trusting that the Lord will direct His own to give so that we will be able to do our work. **We thank you who partner with us in this ministry and ask God’s blessing for you.**

Our postal address is **HIS Ministries, 2890 E. Willow Bend Drive, Sandy, Utah 84093-2044**.

On our website www.hismin.com we have PayPal donation site up, if that works better for you.

