



December 1, 2017

*He is Savior, Acts 4:12

H.I.S. Ministries December 2017 Newsletter, covering November 2017

“For unto us the child is born, unto us the Son is given.” (Isaiah 9:6) Eternal God became man for you and me! This child was born of Mary and He was indeed the Love Gift God gave to all who will seek Him. We pray that His Gift of love will be in our hearts and minds as we prepare for our celebration of His Birth, when we buy gifts for our loved ones, when we decorate our homes with lights signaling to all around us that *He Is the Light of the World. He is the Reason for this season – He is the Reason for every season. He is the Reason why we labor in this ministry. He is the One whose coming we expect at any moment. Let us remind all in our reach how much He longs to be the center of their lives as He is in our lives! He wants His own to be true representatives of His love. He came to save sinners – “For the Son of man is come to seek and save that which was lost.”* (Luke 19:10.)

Much of the preaching we hear today is not convincing the world of sin. Lots of it is about “goodness of men” though perhaps some of it also deals with the “evils of our society”, and for sure “tolerance” which often means that false doctrines go unopposed and unnoticed. Jesus spoke against religious leaders and their false doctrines, never about ills of society. He rebuked Jewish religious leaders, but not Caesar or Herod. We as believers **must** pay attention to His teaching and doctrine. He gave His Word so that we would know His will and His doctrine. (2 Tim. 3:16.) **To be saved requires realization that one is lost. We are all guilty before God. “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”** (Romans 2:23.) Jesus is the Savior of sinners, as God’s angels *announced* at His birth. (Luke 2:11.) **That must be our announcement also.**

A question, *what is Christmas, and why we celebrate it*, was asked a few years ago around Europe of children between ages 6 and 12. Most of them didn’t have the foggiest idea why Christmas is celebrated nor did they know that Christmas is related to Jesus and Christian faith. They only knew about gifts they were anticipating to receive during this *Holiday*, and that this was a time to decorate homes with “*holiday trees*” and streets with lights. I wonder if American children would be able answer this question any better or more correctly? But since our schools are not even allowed to mention the name of Jesus or read the Bible, we might be in the same situation here too, at least among those children whose parents do not take them to a Christian church or read the Bible with them. Most of the “*holiday-songs*” played on secular radio and TV stations during this time of the year do not bring them any closer to the real meaning of this Season/Christmas. They sing “*Santa Claus is coming to town*”, etc. They talk about *fun* they are going to experience during this “*holiday*”, and gifts they are wishing to receive. Nothing about Jesus or Christmas for by now even the word “*Christmas*” or wishing “*Merry Christmas*” is on the list of forbidden words. Older people may still remember what Christmas used to be, but today’s television shows and commercials do not give our young viewers any idea that Christmas is supposed to honor the birth of Jesus.

What is then the real Christmas? To get the correct answer, let’s go to the real source, God’s Word.

Matthew 1:18-21 tells us, “*Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph, her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary, your wife, for that which was conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth*

he Son, and you shall call His name JESUS [Y'SHUA], for He shall save His people from their sins'." (See also Luke 1:30-33.) This is the message proclaimed by an angel of the Lord. It was initially addressed to Jewish people who were expecting their Messiah to come and deliver them from their oppressors (Rome), not from their sins and self, for they truly did not know the scriptures in order to understand that He will come twice, first to deliver them from sin, and later to establish His Kingdom on earth. (See Luke 19:37-44.) The same Gospel message was later extended to the Gentiles when Jesus commanded His disciples to go to *all nations of the world* and make disciples baptizing them in the name of the Father, of the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47.)

Therefore we must tell all who do not yet know that Christmas is the fulfillment of Bible prophecy, given to Isaiah 750 years before the birth of Christ. *"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: 'Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."* (Isaiah 7:14; fulfillment in Matthew 1:23 and John 1:1, 14.) *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* (John 3:16.) Isaiah 9:6 declared, *"Unto us the Son is born, unto us the Son is given."*

Why is the Son given? He is given so that we through Him may *become children of God!* (John 1:12.) Eternal salvation was now offered for the first time through *forgiveness of sins, through faith in Jesus.* Under the Old Covenant, sins were only temporarily covered, not permanently forgiven. *"For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins."* (Hebr.10:4) It was God's longsuffering and mercy that provided a covering for sins of His people until Jesus came and by his death and resurrection established the New Covenant. (See Lev. 17:11; Hebr.9:22; 1 John 1:7.) Salvation through the Son of God is a gift to be given to all who receive/accept Him (Eph. 2:8-9.) *"But as many as receive Him, to them He gave power to become sons of God."* (John 1:12.)

This scripture is confusing to our Mormon friends who see all mankind as already children of God, without being born again, though Jesus said that we must be born again to see the kingdom of God! (John 3:3, 7.) Unless we explain to Mormons what the Bible clearly teaches about God, Jesus and salvation, and that we all are lost sinners in need of a Savior, they will not understand this mandatory need of a new birth. This is because Mormons have been, from early childhood on, taught that they are spirit children of God and His wives, born to them in the "pre-existence". They have been taught that they grew into adulthood there as spirit beings, and thus they are God's children without needing to become God's children through a new birth. They have been also taught that their physical birth was necessary so that they can become Gods like their "Heavenly Father" who had gone through the same process and progression on His way to Godhood. *"Born again"* is fairly recently accepted term in Mormonism, but its meaning is not the spiritual birth from above as the Bible teaches, but it is a water-baptism into the Mormon Church followed by the "laying on of hands" by Mormon elders who say to them, *"receive the Holy Ghost".* This LDS so-called "new birth" does not mean receiving salvation, but it means that if, after baptism, they obey all the laws and ordinances of the Mormon Church till the end of their mortal lives here, they may be eligible to go to the celestial kingdom. They are taught that it all depends on their own works and faithfulness to the Church. We need to explain to Mormons, first of all, that we did not pre-exist, only God pre-existed, and that mankind is not begotten by God, but is a creation of God. *Only Jesus is God's begotten Son.*

C.S. Lewis explained in his book, *"Mere Christianity"*, the difference between "begotten" and *created or made.* He wrote: *"We do not use "begetting or begotten" in our modern English, but we know what it means. To beget is to become a father of; to create is to make. The difference is this: When you beget, you beget something that is the same kind as yourself! Humans beget babies, beaver beget beavers, bird begets eggs which turn to birds. But when you create or make, you make something that is different from yourself. Bird makes a nest, beavers makes or builds a dam, a human makes a radio or a statue that is more like himself, but really not, etc. The distinction between beget and make or create is huge! What God creates is not God, just like what human creates is not human. What God begets is God, just like what a human begets is human. That is why the Only Begotten Son is God!"*

We must teach them the difference between us, mere humans, and the Only Begotten Son of God!

The Mormon Church has invented another Jesus, who is not eternal God. Mormonism teaches that Jesus is "our elder brother" we grew up with in the pre-existence, a spirit brother of all men, Lucifer and angels, and that Jesus came to save the world "from Adam's transgression" that brought death to all. They teach that when Jesus was on earth He was also *working for his own salvation in order to become fully a god.* That is heresy! Jesus is God, the Second Person of the Trinity, who became a man to die in our place and provide eternal life to all who, by faith, come to Him. Jesus prayed for His own saying, *"And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ*

whom Thou hast sent.” (John 17:3.) He compared knowing Him to having Eternal life. In other words, without knowing the Only True God and Jesus, His Only Begotten Son, we will not have Eternal life with Him.

This is why it is so important that we explain the difference to all who are still believing in a false, counterfeit Jesus of the Mormon Church, and in false gods of Mormonism who, as they have been taught, are just former mortal men!

The Christmas Message of the Prophet of the LDS Church is considered to be the most important message of the year.

I would like to quote from the President and Prophet Gordon B. Hinckley’s Christmas message of 1997 again to remind you the order of importance President Hinckley places between Joseph Smith and Jesus Christ.

Hinckley begun his Christmas message, titled *“A Season for Gratitude”*, by stating, *“This is a season for giving and time for gratitude. We remember with appreciation the birth of the Prophet Joseph Smith, which is celebrated this same month of December, two days before Christmas. How great is our debt to him. His life began in Vermont and ended in Illinois, and marvelous were the things that happened between that simple beginning and tragic ending. It was he who brought the true knowledge of God, the Eternal Father and His risen Son, Jesus Christ. During the short time of his great vision he learned more concerning the nature of Deity than all those who through centuries had argued the matter in earned councils and scholarly forums. He brought us the marvelous Book of Mormon as another witness for the living reality of the Son of God. To him, from those who held it anciently, came the priesthood, the power, the gift, the authority, the keys to speak and act in the name of God. He gave us the organization of the Church and its sacred mission. Through him were restored the keys of the holy temples, that men and women might enter eternal covenants with God and that the great work for the dead might be accomplished to open the way for eternal blessings. [Hinckley, at this point, quotes LDS Hymn # 27, *“Praise to the man” –praise hymn to Joseph Smith*] that says, *‘Great is his glory and endless his priesthood. Ever and ever the keys he will hold. Faithful and true he will enter his kingdom, Crowned in the midst of the prophets of old.’* [Hinckley continues] *He (Joseph Smith) was the instrument in the hands of Almighty... We stand in reverence before him. He is the great prophet of this dispensation. He stands at the head of this great and mighty work which is spreading across the earth. He is our prophet, our revelator, our seer, our friend. Let us not forget him. Let not his memory be forgotten in the celebration of Christmas. God be thanked for the prophet Joseph Smith.* [Then Hinckley continues, as if an afterthought:] *Now, what a wonderful season this is, this Christmas season. As the world, while not understanding what we understand, pauses for a moment and remembers with gratitude the birth of the Son of God...”* (Ensign, December 1997. Emphasis added.)*

Note what President Hinckley is saying: *“Let us not forget Joseph Smith... in celebration of Christmas!”*

[Hinckley presents the order of importance to Mormons: Joseph first, and after that he mentions also Jesus...]

I would want to remind you of Jesus’ warning about the last days in Matthew 24:23-25, where He said, *“Then [last days] if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ [another Jesus]... believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you beforehand.”*

Mormonism is a heresy we and other Christian ministries to false religions are exposing. This heresy will lead millions upon millions to eternal damnation. We all, who know the truth, must wake up, speak up and lovingly show these Mormons who the Real Jesus is – and who He is NOT. “[There is] no salvation in any other – there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we might be saved.” (Acts 4:1; John 14:6; 8:24.)

Christmas is the celebration of the Birth of Jesus Christ and we wish Blessed Christmas to all.

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We praise God for His many blessings. We praise Him for His call to us to make our experiences and learning while we were Mormons useful in helping others out of this deception.

We had a brief *“slow time”* this late summer and early fall, and perhaps the Lord gave it to us because I was quite ill. I had surgery that slowed me down for a while. But now that I am better, we *all of a sudden* began to be very busy in our ministry! We see the Lord’s hand in this. ☺

We have received many, many calls, emails and letters not only from Mormons, but also from several Christians here in Utah and across the country, who are wanting to learn how to best share the truth of the Bible with their Mormon friends and relatives, and how to lead them *across that great gulf* that separates Mormonism from biblical Christianity. It is encouraging to us to see that they are concerned for their friends’ and relatives’ eternal destiny,

even concerned enough to look us up, or go to our website (www.hismin.com), and also pick up the phone and call or write asking detailed questions. We are always glad to help and share information with them.

Just a few nights ago we were pleased to meet with a young lady who has been dating a Mormon man, but she was not sure how to discuss *Christianity vs. Mormonism* with him without first learning more about LDS doctrines and teachings they believe and follow. She came over to our home and we talked over 3.5 hours. We gave her our “*lesson file-folder*” of about 200+ pages that we usually give only “*lesson by lesson*” when we teach our 10-12 week course on Mormonism, but since we are not currently having a class, Dennis gave her an “*overview*” of what this file contains, plus other materials that we believe will help her to get a good understanding of Mormonism. She has now time to read and learn, for her boyfriend is overseas and will not come back to SLC until March or April next year. She does not live far from us so she asked if she could come again and talk more with us in person when she has further questions. To which we gave her our whole hearted, “*Of course yes, at any time!*”

We have received other similar requests this week from a young lady who is dating a RM (returned Mormon missionary) and though she has studied Mormonism a little, she needed more understanding to be able to converse with him “*without fear of feeling stupid*”, as she said.

From our mailbox: Excerpts from a long letter we received from a man *who says* that he is offended by information on our website *though he is not a Mormon.*

I will take his arguments and give my answer below them using red text for clarity. He wrote:

“1. I am appalled. I have done extensive research on the Mormon Church, as well as with many others. Some of the questions that are asked about truthfulness of Mormonism on your sight are ridiculous.

My reply: Please name some that you say are “ridiculous”. I’d be happy to clarify.

2. Were you offended in some way and thought that you had to make yourselves feel better by belittling the fastest growing church organization this world will ever see? I am not a member but still I think that people should have a backbone.

My reply: If Mormonism was true and from the Real God, God of the Bible, no one could have offended me enough for me to leave it. No one “offended” me, quite the contrary, I was happy to be a Mormon UNTIL I discovered, after years of studying it and also living it – and saw what it was! I found it to be a false religion, and that no matter how much “good works” we were doing, that had no benefit for our Eternal Life. We are not “belittling”, we are just informing that Mormonism is not based on biblical doctrine, i.e. it is not Christianity, but it is rather a clever counterfeit, but if you do not know the Bible well enough, you may not see that. We had to leave it for Jesus of the Bible. I believe that it takes “backbone” to stand for truth, not the other way around. I believe that only those who are lacking backbone will stay even after finding out that it is not true! Mormonism’s growth comes from their cleverly planned programs, and the way they are hiding the biblical truth. It is a known fact that lies tend to spread faster than truth. Just because the Mormon Church might seem to be growing fast, that does not necessarily mean that it is true. However Mormonism is not the fastest growing religion in the world, Islam is. The Mormon Church may have now about 15 million names on their records, but Islam has 1.6 BILLION! Even in the USA, Islam has been growing faster than Mormonism. Looking back, even within 1-2 years after 9/11, it was reported that over 40 thousand people had converted to Islam in America! That is amazing, is it not!? However, there are hundreds if not thousands who are leaving Mormonism. Just a few years ago a General Authority of the LDS Church announced in a meeting at Utah State University, during Q/A, that “members are leaving in droves”... It is known fact that a large portion of Mormons are not Mormons by faith, but that they remain because of family, heritage and culture or for a fear for losing their jobs if they denounce Mormonism.

3. What is with the question referring to “adieu”, the French term for goodbye, on the Book of Mormon gold plates? Of course this was not part of the translation of the plates, any fool could realize that. A man clever enough to write a piece of literature this flawless as the BoM, would not put this phrase in thinking people would actually think that he translated it. Did it occur to you that there probably wasn’t an English word that would translate over with the same meaning and power as adieu, which is a very formal way of saying goodbye in the French language. He just left it as it was written on the gold plates.

My reply: French language was developed from Latin, long after the time the BoM supposedly covers. Thus a French word “adieu” on the gold plates, “written in Reformed Egyptian” (non-existing language), just makes the BoM more questionable, revealing its fictional origin. Even though it is a minor issue in this book, it reveals book’s

untruthfulness. All things talked about in the BoM have been proven to be false – i.e. there are no evidences for its history, no archeological proof etc. There no maps in the BoM to show locations that are presented in it, in contrast to the Bible that is much older history with maps, locations and archeological evidences for its historical accuracy. In addition, the DNA evidence has finalized the BoM as a fictional story. It has been proven that American Indians are not Hebrews from Jerusalem as the BoM presents, but Mongolians from North Siberia. Thus the Book of Mormon alone proves that Joseph Smith was a false prophet and a deceiver.

4. You must do your own research before making yourself spineless being on this god-forsaken world. If a certain person or group is teaching good instead of bad, why look down upon it, this makes you like the Pharisees in the bible. Good is from God, and bad is not from Him that created us.

My reply: I have researched Mormonism for many decades. I admit that the Mormon Church was able to fool me for a time, but finally the research evidence and living under its rule showed me what it really was and found the courage to get out. Staying in it after knowing the truth would have proven me *spineless*, but leaving it took all the strength and courage I could muster.

Pharisees were religious zealots following the laws and doing countless “*good deeds*”, but Jesus told them that they were “*of their father the Devil*”. (John 8:44.) Only Jesus, the true One, who is *God with us* (Matt. 1:23), can save us. (John 14:6.) No church saves! Deceptions are always packaged to look good to those who do not know better, otherwise they would not *sell*. I was fooled by wholesome looking missionaries and “*nice*” teachers of Mormonism. At that time I was not familiar enough with the Bible that warns about these things. The Bible tells us that we **MUST TEST ALL THINGS** (1 Thess. 5:21) including “*spirit testimonies*” (1 John 4:1; 1 Tim. 4:1) that can fool us into thinking that we had heard from God when we actually had heard from the Enemy of God, the Devil himself. I fell for it for I didn’t know that the Bible exposes their lies. If we all just checked the teachings presented to us *by these door-to-door salesmen*, comparing what they say to the Bible, we would find that they teach of “*another Jesus, another Gospel*” by the “*help*” of “*another spirit*” that makes us “*feel good*” – never mind the facts. (2 Cor. 11:3-4, 13-15.)

5. I have found no religion worth for putting down, except those who speak badly of others like you do.

My reply: We do not *speak badly about Mormon people*, but we tell the truth about religion they represent. We are comparing the teachings of the Bible to Mormonism and encouraging all to follow biblical truth. Jude 3 tells us that we “**MUST earnestly contend for the faith (Gospel) that was once and for all delivered**”. That is a command not a suggestion to all Christians. 2 Tim. 2:15 urges us to study the Word of God so that we would not end up ashamed by accepting what is not truth. God said that *people perish for the lack of knowledge*. (Hosea 4:6.) God of the Bible also commands that all who have been warned (as we have) and have found God’s truth, must warn others who have not discovered it yet. But if we do not warn, God holds us responsible for their doom. (See Ezekiel 33:7-9.) We have dedicated our lives into *warning and sharing* what we have learned and know about Mormonism. We are not trying to convert anyone – that is the work of the Holy Spirit – but we are to inform, for we care. If there was no life after death, it would be fine to let them live in *illusion of Mormonism*. If it didn’t matter, we wouldn’t need to trouble ourselves and be accused of hate, receive angry letters attacking us and even doubting our motives. This is not actually anything “*fun*”, but we will keep on in this work for God’s Word commands us to obey Him. [All believers in Jesus of the Bible must be warning others. See: Titus 1:13; 3:10; 2 Tim. 3:5; 2 Thess. 3:14; 2 Cor. 6:14-17; James 4:4; 2 John 10-11.] – If you’d like to comment or ask more questions, please write again.

We thank you, our partners in this work, for your prayers and help we have received. The Lord God knows our needs and through His own, He has responded to the requests we have presented to Him. Our faith in God is continually strengthened by how He leads you and us, and how exactly He responds to our needs. His Word is true in every point. We just again experienced God’s help at a time when our human mind questioned how we can manage and take care of our needs. We presented them to Him, and within a matter of hours that need was met through a dear friends who didn’t even know – but the Lord did! We praise Him! - Just as Paul wrote to believers who are in need of God’s help - be it in health, finances or whatever, saying, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God, and peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ”. (Phil. 4:6-7.)

Our Lord looks after us. He sees our every need! John, writing in 1 John 5:14-15, assured that God’s promises are true and that we can ask Him with confidence that He hears and responds as we trust in His good will towards us.

John wrote, *“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”* We have experienced God’s miracles in our lives almost daily. What God says and promises, He does. We must never doubt.

We received a call from our friend Preston that his dear friend Jack, whom we also know well, was flown from Rifle, Colorado to Hospital in Grand Junction. He was in diabetic shock (his sugar lever over 800 among other things wrong). His condition was very critical. Urgent prayer to our Lord was needed. We all prayed – Christian friends everywhere prayed as Preston alerted them. Doctors were not hopeful of his full recovery, but he is already doing better. He has been moved now from ICU to a regular room – and we trust that he will be well. God is so good. He is so loving and He is indeed *“only a prayer away”*. We are asking that you’d pray for Jack’s continued healing and that his sweet wife, Angie, will be comforted.

I received an email (11/29/17) from Sandy (AZ) who is very ill. She is asking that we’d pray for her healing. She has seen several doctors, but they have not been able to help her or know what to do. But we know Who can heal her, if we pray according to His will. [Some of you, our older ministry friends, might remember Sandy and Al? They lived in San Diego and came to talk to us about Mormonism (20 years ago), and stayed with us for a few days – that was during the SBC’s Annual Conference in Salt Lake City, 1998. They left Mormonism and accepted the Lord Jesus, while here in our home. Leaving Mormonism was very hard for them at first, but they have been faithful witnesses to Mormons of Lord’s goodness and love ever since.]

We also ask prayer for Judy, Kathy, Al, Don, Max, Merridy, Tom, Dave, David. We praise the Lord for hearing our prayers for Nicole, her cancer is healed. We continue to pray for her, for cancers often reappear.

We are asking prayer for Aira, Cynthia, Scott, Andrea, Hunter, Zak, Heber, Jamie, Marlene and Helen – the Lord knows their needs and trials.

We also ask prayer for several LDS people we are working with at this time - that their hearts and minds be opened to God’s Truth. We also ask prayer for Cheryl and Suzanne who are learning more about Mormonism in order to help Mormons close to them.

Please contact us if you have questions or need our help.

Note: We will be sending tax deductible receipts for your gifts to this ministry in January 2018.

We wish you and yours blessed Christmas Celebration!

In Christ,
Rauni & Dennis

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Thought for this month:

“Great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, see by angels, preached unto Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.” (1 Tim. 3:16.)

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