



February 1, 2018

\* He Is Savior, Acts 4:12

## His Ministries February 2018 Newsletter, covering January 2018

The first month of the New Year is gone! Months do go faster as we age – right? However, getting over the darkest time of the year – and going towards spring is delightful. In 2-3 months we will start seeing signs of new life – and that is always uplifting and joyous!

February is “love-month” when we on Valentine’s Day express our love for those dearest and closest to us. Let’s not forget to express our love for our Lord and all who are His own and thus part of our life in Him.

### Happy Valentine’s Day!

During the last few months we have met many times with individual Mormons who have come to ask us why we left Mormonism and what we now believe and why.

Peter (in 1 Pet. 3:15) urged all believers in Christ to be *“always ready to give defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you.”* We appreciate these questions very much, for they open the door for us to present the fact that there is a battle going on for souls. Jesus warned about deception many times, saying, *“Take heed that no one deceives you, for many will come in My name saying I am Christ (or that they represent Christ), and will deceive many.”* (Matt. 24:4-5.) There is a war between God’s truth found in His Word, the Bible, and Satan’s lie, presented by those who going “door-to-door” to promote false gospels and false saviors. (2 Cor. 11:3-4, 13-15; 2 John 10-11.) We are most familiar with the Mormon Church and what they teach about God and Jesus, and also of Jehovah’s Witnesses, though there are many others. **Our eternal destiny depends on what we believe about God and Jesus, and what the Bible has to say about the gospel of salvation.** Most people say, *“I believe in God and in Christ as my Savior, isn’t that enough?”* **It depends on who is that God and Christ you believe in!** Just any god or any “Jesus” will not do! We cannot say that we believe and accept God’s Truth but also believe Satan’s lies promoted by cults. If we take time to compare what for example Mormonism teaches about God and Jesus or what JWs say who He is, we are quickly faced with very different doctrines than what God’s Word teaches though the words they use may seem biblical. **These false religions are perverting the gospel of Christ and presenting a different God and Christ than is taught by God in His Word that is the Truth.** (John 17:17; 2 Tim. 3:16.) Such serious doctrinal errors cannot bring anyone to salvation, but to eternal damnation. “Damnation” may seem to be a very harsh word for those who sincerely believe what they have been taught about God and Jesus by their teachers in Mormonism. Isn’t sincerity enough? And if one is really, really sincere, how can he/she be condemned *for their feelings that assure them that their religion teaches truth and also encourages them to live good and wholesome lives? How can that be wrong?*, they ask.

**The Bible teaches that God is love and that He wants all to come to the knowledge of truth and be saved.** (1 Tim. 2:3-5.) **That means that God has given everyone an ability to learn and discern the difference between truth and lies.** God’s Word commands us to STUDY and by so doing we can *present ourselves approved to God, “a worker who does not need to be shamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”* (2 Tim. 2:15.) Thus if we want to understand God’s love and His will, we must study the Word of God. If we do, we will not

become ashamed and believe false teachings. Therefore those who still choose to believe lies are willingly rejecting the Truth and are thus condemning themselves. **It is Satan who is the deceiver and the god of this world, and he is blinding the eyes of them who believe not the truth**, but for their own comforts participate in false teachings. (2 Cor. 4:3-6.) The most serious warning about terrible consequences for this is given to us by Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 where he warns about the deceptive **“workings of Satan with all power, signs and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they may be saved. And for this reason God will send them a strong delusion that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the Truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”**

Satan can produce *miracles* that Paul here calls *“lying wonders”*. When people, by their God-given freedom to choose, accept Satan’s *“lies and wonders”* and teachings that are not according to God’s Word, God then **gives them up** and allows them to believe the lie. By choosing the lie they demonstrate that **they do not love the Truth. It is the love of the Truth that brings us to salvation.**

[We hear often of *miracles* that have caused people to believe lies. *“Miracle”* implies working of supernatural power, but we must know that not all miracles are of God’s divine power, but of Satan.] **“Truth” is one of the titles of Jesus. (John 14:6.) His Gospel is the message of salvation which is by death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. (1 Cor. 15:1-4; Eph. 2:8-9.) Those who have rejected the Gospel of Grace do not have the love of the truth that saves, and they will perish.**

Jesus Christ died to save the whole world from destruction that sin brings, **but we must choose Him** before His sacrifice is applicable for us. Salvation is God’s free gift to everyone who, by faith, desires to receive Him. (Eph. 2:8-9; John 1:12.) When the Philippian jailer cried out, **“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”**, Paul and Silas gave him a simple answer, **“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.”** (Acts 16:30-31.) Jesus was asked a similar question, **“what must we do to be saved”** (John 6:29-30), He answered, **“This is the work of God that you believe in Him whom He has sent.”**

We must first know WHO is the one we call Jesus, for the Bible tells us that there will come those who present *another Jesus’* that are false Christs, promoted by **“false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.”** (2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15.)

Let us reason together and see what it means to “believe on the Lord Jesus Christ”. It must mean more than simply believing that someone called *Jesus Christ* existed!

The Bible tells us in detail who the real Lord Jesus Christ is! **“Lord” means “God”, “Jesus” means “Savior from sin”, “Christ” means “Messiah”, thus if the Jesus you believe in is truly God and Savior, all these definitions will apply to Him, and He is the One promised in the Old Testament scriptures, but if “your Jesus” is not eternal God who became a man to save people from sin, then he is a false one, “another Jesus”.**

[We, Dennis and I, separated ourselves from Mormonism when we, through serious Bible studies, came to see that the *“Jesus”* we had believed in was indeed *“another Jesus”*, not God Almighty, but a created being and *“a brother of all mankind and angels”*, including fallen angels (as Lucifer), as we were taught in Mormonism.] Likewise *“Jesus”* of JW’s is not God who became a man to die for mankind’s sin, but Michael the Archangel. Thus their Jesus is also a false one, *“another Jesus”*.

**Again: The very name, “the Lord Jesus Christ” tells us that He is God who became a man to die for our sins in fulfillment of what God had foretold through His prophets.**

The Old Testament repeatedly says that **there is only one God, and that He is the only Savior and Lord.** (Isaiah 43:10-11; 45:22.) He desires that all men, both Jews and Gentiles, will be saved from judgment that sin brings to all. Thus His call to all men is, **“Look to Me and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I Am God, and there is no other.”** (Isaiah 45:22.) It was He, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, who said that He had

come *“to seek and to save that which was lost.”* (Luke 19:10.) By saying this He declared that He is God the Savior of men – exactly the same one that in the Old Testament was prophesied of and whom **the New Testament calls both Christ and God.**

God created mankind for fellowship, to be with Him forever. After they broke the fellowship with God in the Garden of Eden by disobedience to Him, God, through Moses, gave the law to **His Chosen Nation, Israel,** to demonstrate what it would require to be right with God. The Law cannot save but only point to what is right and what is wrong. But before God gave the law, He had made a covenant (Gen. 3:15) to provide a Savior who would live according to God’s laws, all of them, and then by His death, take away the sins of everyone who comes to Him for salvation. We are *made righteous* by Christ Jesus, not by our own works of righteousness. Paul lamented about his people that had rejected Jesus. He wrote, *“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they, being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.”* (Romans 10:1-4.)

This is our prayer also for all our Mormon-friends. They are rejecting the True Lord Jesus Christ, and have, instead of Him, chosen *“another Jesus”*, the Jesus of Joseph Smith, and are trying to live by the law to establish their own righteousness by the law, trying to be saved by their own works and ignoring what Jesus taught and what His Word declares about how we can be saved. (Eph. 2:8-9) *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God. Not of works lest anyone should boast.”* *Grace is the gift of God* (a gift cannot be earned). Paul continued, saying that after we have been saved, we are to do good works that God has beforehand prepared for us to do (Eph. 2:10) to make His name known and bring others to Him to receive His grace-gift as we also have received.

*After we have received Jesus and been saved, we have become soldiers in His army against the Devil, for we know that our salvation is based on truth that is demonstrated by real historical events: Jesus Christ died for our sins and was raised from death, and He ascended to Heaven and He is coming back.* (Acts 1:9-11.) God has promised to *give everlasting life to everyone who believes in this same Lord Jesus Christ.* These are facts! Our assurance of salvation does not depend on our feelings, but on God’s Word and His never-failing faithfulness. (Hebr. 10:23.)

Paul’s final instructions in his letter to the Ephesians (chapters 4-6) details how we are to prepare to fight the spiritual war we, as Lord’s own, must be engaged in. He compared our preparations to how Roman soldiers prepared for an attack from the enemy. **First of all Paul instructed that we must “be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”** (Read Eph. 6:10-20.) *“Wiles of the devil”* that he throws against us are confusion, discouragement, and doctrinal errors that the devil presents as truth. God’s Word will prepare us on how to discern truth from error and fiction thrown against us. We are trusting in the Lord, not in feelings that can not separate truth from fiction. This is a spiritual war for souls.

*“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places.”* (6:12). We are not to attack but to stand firm in defense of the Gospel of Truth. We must have full confidence in the Lord who is the Captain of our salvation. We do not fear! We are to “gird” our waist, i.e. surrender our mind and will to Him, holding on to God’s solid Truth and His righteousness (6:14). We are to represent the *“gospel of peace”*, having shielded ourselves with strong faith that protects us from the fiery darts of the Devil (6:15-16). Finally, in preparation to this war against the evil one, we must put on the *helmet of salvation* and take the *“sword of the Spirit”* that protects our minds with the knowledge of our ultimate victory in the Lord. (6:17)

After we have put on the whole armor of God which are listed as *the breastplate (6:14), solid footwear (v.15), the shield (v.16), and the helmet and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God (v.17),* we must

**pray in the Spirit for His guidance so that we will be doing all according to the will of God. Our prayers need to be constant, and not just for us individually, but also for support of our fellow soldiers in this battle for souls.** Remember that Paul wrote this epistle from a prison, and yet he didn't ask that they'd pray for his release, he just asked that ***we would boldly, without fear, open our mouths in defense of the Gospel that saves (6:18-19).*** The Holy Spirit will give us the words we need in each situation as we hold on to ***the Sword of God and depend on Him. (John 14:26-27.)***

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**From our mailbox:**

*"I have been a very active and faithful LDS member all my life. However, I have never in all my time spent in Sunday School, Sacrament meetings, Seminaries, studies, serving mission etc. ever heard the things you are indicating in your website articles and stories. I am currently a Seminary teacher teaching the D&C to devoted LDS students. As part of my studies to prepare for the lessons, I have started to look in the church history in more detail. I stumbled across exmormon.org website and my whole life came crashing down around me. I need to know if there is historical evidence for those claims made by those who are purporting the claims, such as those you are putting on your website. I don't want to just be led astray by lies and deceits from anti-Mormon literature, but I also don't want to continue to live a life based on lies and deceit if things you and others are saying are indeed true! Please provide me with any historical documentation or evidences for the claims. Thank you. N."*

**Reply:** I totally understand. Most active Mormons having many church's callings/assignments, working also in their professions, raising families etc., have never had time to do research into their history, and if they have read anything at all about Church's history, they have read only some short, condensed and sanitized stories that the Church has felt safe to pass on to people. Mormons tend to just trust that all they are told by their leaders is the truth, and read only what is *"approved reading"*, coming from the Church. It is definitely hard when we come to see that this is not the case! We experienced the same as you have and were devastated! When we discovered all this and more – our world also *came crashing down!* What we have written on our website is documented from LDS books as *7-volume History of the Church by Joseph Smith*, from *26-volume Journal of Discourses* (General Conference sermons delivered by LDS prophets and apostles), from *Mormon Doctrine* (an encyclopedic volume and commentary of LDS doctrines and teachings) etc. We have these and hundreds of other LDS books and written materials in our personal library. You are welcome to come and check them if you live around here. You may also find most of these volumes and more in LDS Stake libraries as well as in General Public libraries.

On our website, [www.hismin.com](http://www.hismin.com), we have over 30 documented topical doctrinal articles under *"Understanding Mormonism"*, which is a doctrinal comparison between what is taught by the Mormon Church and what is taught in the Bible and what is *biblical Christianity*. We have our story there as well, and all doctrinal points in it are likewise documented. When you read from our website, please take notes of all documentations so that you can verify them for yourself and read them in the original context, if you so desire. We have our monthly newsletters also on our site and *former Mormon stories* that assure that *"there is a good life after Mormonism"*.

I would also recommend *Utah Lighthouse's website*, [www.utlm.org](http://www.utlm.org), that documents all their claims and writings from LDS own publications. Their website is highly organized – all you have to do is write on their *"search"* column a topic you are interested in. You can even print them for further study.

We'd be happy to help and walk you through this *"Mormon Puzzle"* to a free and happy life in Jesus Christ. Thank you for asking. Rauni

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**Question:** *"Based on your articles and website it seems that you think that Mormons do not believe the Bible and only use their own scriptures that contradict the Bible. Our 8<sup>th</sup> Article of Faith says. "We believe*

*the Bible to be the word of God as far as translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.” I would like you to know that our doctrines and teachings are based on the Book of Mormon that does not contradict, but agrees with the Bible.”*

**Reply:** Thank you for writing. I hope I can help and also explain what we had learned and believed as Mormons. The Articles of Faith is the Creed of the LDS Church. [“Creed” means “I believe”.]

The Articles of Faith is what LDS Church demands that their members believe. Most LDS people we have over the many years communicated with believe or assume that when the Bible does not agree with doctrines taught by the LDS Church, it means that the Bible, in those cases, is mistranslated, but we have not yet have anyone of them point out where in the Bible these “mistranslations” are!

In addition, most LDS people don’t seem to understand what this 8<sup>th</sup> article, you just quoted, actually says about what they are to believe or not to believe. Note, it says, WE BELIEVE THE BIBLE...(and then ads what they do not believe in it - i.e. what is not translated correctly!) If they could just list any proven “mistranslated” doctrinal issues, we certainly would agree with them, but we have yet to see any of them. Our decades long studies of the Bible, using all provable methods and tools (original languages, dictionaries, historical and prophetic evidences etc.) has proven to us that the Bible is translated correctly and that the Bible does not teach any of the Mormon doctrines.

What LDS people do not seem to be interested in is thinking and analyzing what this article actually says. It actually demands belief in all that is translated correctly in the Bible! And if there can be found no doctrinal mistranslations, then they too are to believe it all, as they confess! If and when they see that the Bible is correct, they will soon also see that the Bible does not teach any Mormon doctrines, only against them thus giving them reason to reject all of Mormonism! That is what we did!

You also said that Mormon doctrines and techings are based on the Book of Mormon! Are they? We can find no important Mormon doctrines in the Book of Mormon!

**Let me list just a few of them that the BoM does not teach:** *1. that there are more than one God, 2. that men after this life can become gods, 3. that their god was once a mortal man and has a physical body of flesh and bones, 4. that they must be married in a temple for all eternity, 4. that all humans are born on another planet as spirit children of their god and his many wives, 5. that Jesus is a brother of all other spirit children of god and the eldest of these billions of sons of god (who also came to Mary and physically conceived Jesus), 6. that all angels, including Satan, are also god’s children and brothers of mankind, 7. that Mormons must do baptisms and other temple ordinances for the dead to secure their own salvation, 8. that there are two priesthoods, 9. that the Garden of Eden was in Independence, Missouri, 10. that Adam is Michael the Archangel, and all Adam’s posterity lived in Far West MO, part of Adam-ondi-Ahman, that was 50 miles North of the Garden of Eden, until Noah’s Flood... etc.*

If you’d like to discuss more about these or other matters, I’d be happy to help. Please let me know. Rauni

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We want to again thank you, our partners and supporters in this the Lord’s work. Without your encouragement our ministry work would be a lot harder. As former-Mormons living in Utah and working to expose false doctrines of the Mormon Church in our home-state, makes it at times overwhelmingly difficult, but as we receive your help and support with kind words, we are strengthened and determined to go on regardless of difficulty. The Lord is our provider in everything – both in the Ministry and for us personally. God has met our needs in both areas. Please pray with us that we can continue to take care of it and provide books etc. to all Mormons who ask our help.

As we visit with questioning Mormons and see their struggles to comprehend the vastness of *Mormon-deception*, our hearts break for them and with them, but having been through the same ourselves, helps us to point to them that there is “*a light at the end of this dark tunnel*”, though at the very beginning this *Study for truth about Mormonism* is the hardest for them, and for us too. These winter months seem to be busiest



times for a ministry like ours. Perhaps it is the shorter and darker days that cause many people to stop and evaluate their lives and examine if they are on the right track for eternity. As we grow older, we start thinking more deeply about the reality that this earthly life will end one day, maybe even soon – and then what? They ask: *“What if what we have believed is not truth? What if we have made a mistake? No matter how strongly we have felt that what we believe is true, wouldn’t it still be best to examine and make sure?”* We are eternal beings – only our bodies die and are buried, but our soul and spirit will never die. Mark Cahill, in his little tract, *“Eternity”*, writes, *“Eternity is too long to have a wrong answer. The infinite God (in His Word) gives the right answers to these eternal questions... 10 out of 10 people will die. You are here today, but you maybe in eternity tomorrow. Where you spend eternity is much more important than this finite, earthly life. Jesus is offering you the infinitely priceless gift of eternal life with Him in Heaven forever! Will you accept His offer before it is too late?”* Mark is talking about Jesus of the Bible, not about a “Jesus” of someone’s invention, as we had believed in as Mormons. We are praising God for shaking us awake from that illusion and take another look at our beliefs. Oh boy how wrong we had been! We thank the Lord that our lives didn’t end during those years when we believed in *“another Jesus, another gospel”* and were under a different spirit. Realizing where we were and now are in Jesus, gives us determination to help others to come to know the Truth also. God is good – all we have to do is study to find out and then in faith ask to receive Him. Please pray with us for these many people we are trying help at this time – some of them are here locally, some in other states, and one dear Mormon family in Australia that will soon be receiving our big box full of DVDs, CDs, books and other information that was mailed to them a week ago.

Please pray with us for our dear Judy for she had an accident and broke fingers in her good hand, and she is soon having to move – she needs a lot of help in that. We ask prayer for improved health for Max, Merridy, Kathy, Sandy, Al, Tom, Mary, Dave and David. We pray for Aira, Jamie, Heber, Marlene, Don, Patty and Suzi for the Lord’s help in their trials and His direction for them.

Thank you praying for Dennis’ heart health also, and for my new ultra-sound test for my thyroid tumors this month and follow-up doctor appointment.

Two weeks ago we mailed donation-receipts, with our heartfelt thanks, for your income tax deductions. If you have not received them, please let us know.

With our love in Christ,  
Rauni & Dennis Higley

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**Thought for the month:** Our mind is like an umbrella. It functions best when open.

*“My people are destroyed for the lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you...”* (Hosea 4:6.)

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**H.I.S. Ministries** is IRS approved 501 (c) (3) Ministry. Your gifts to this ministry are 100% 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 the belief that God will provide as we seek to do His will. 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 all of you who partner with us in this ministry, and we ask daily God’s blessings for you.

Our postal address: **HIS Ministries, 2890 E. Willow Bend Dr., Sandy, Utah 84093-2044. For your convenience, on our website we also have a PayPal account for donations. God bless you for partnering with us!**

