



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

October 1, 2023

## **H.I.S. Ministries October 2023 Newsletter, covering September 2023**

We were presented an interesting question to think about: **Which is worse, to be insulted, embarrassed or deceived?** When comparing these three, the first two we can answer almost 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 and go to heaven?"** (Acts 16:30.) Do you have a solid source for the correct answer to that question? Can you trust the source you have? Will your source protect you from the schemes of the Devil that apostle Paul warned about in 2 Cor. 11:13-15? Paul said that there will come those who disguise themselves as *"apostles of Christ"*, but *"such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ."*

There is only one source of truth about the gospel and who Jesus Christ is, that is absolutely trustworthy. That is Jesus Christ Himself, for He is God the Word (John 1:14) who became a man for *our salvation*. He is the *personification of Truth*, for **He alone is the way to salvation**. (John 14:6; 17:17). **His Word** is our only protection from deception that will have eternal consequences. However, *members of the Mormon Church* have put their trust in *"their prophets and apostles"* instead of members themselves studying **the Word of God**. We need to remind them what *the first Century Christians* did – **they examined the Scriptures daily to find out what even the apostle Paul taught them was indeed 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 any and all religious leaders and teachers of our day too, including *especially those who are claiming to be "prophets and apostles" or "priesthood leaders" or Sunday School teachers*. If we are relying on our feelings and just trusting these men and not using the objective truth of God's Word to inspect their words, we can be making a serious and potentially fatal mistake. **The Bible reveals that man is not saved by what he does, but by believing in Jesus Christ and His gospel of grace**. (John 6:29b; Acts 16:31; Eph. 1:13; 2:8-9.) Any religion that teaches that salvation can be obtained by human efforts is nullifying the grace of God. Paul compared *grace vs. works* in Romans 11:5, and said, *"If by grace, it is no more works: otherwise grace is no more grace."* Paul also gave a warning, saying that there will be deceivers, even among *our people*, and **therefore we must rely only on the Word of God for absolute truth**. (2 Tim. 4:2-5; Rom. 10:1-4.) *The Word of God* makes it clear – *we will either spend eternity enduring God's wrath, or in heaven in His loving presence*. (John 3:36; 12:48.) If any of you have not resolved that yet, do it now! Just repent of your sins, and trust in the Lord Jesus and His Word rather than leaders who do not teach correctly 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 moment, even today), and if you were wrong about *God's only provision* for our forgiveness, you will pay for that mistake throughout eternity. There is no second chance for salvation.

*"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish but come to repentance. (2 Pet. 3:9.) Have you ever wondered why the Lord has not returned yet? I'll tell you why: because our Lord is waiting for some people to be saved. Maybe He is waiting for your loved ones or your friend, or maybe it is you... but one of these days soon, perhaps very soon, Jesus will come. You will see*

that it is the mercy of God that holds back His coming, but the justice of God and the judgement of God require that one day He must come. Even now, the raging waters of God's wrath are furiously pounding against dam of His mercy. One of these days, the dam of God's mercy will give away to God's Judgment, and then the Day of the Lord will come. **Our Lord is coming!** Secure your place with Him now!"

(Some of this above is borrowed from the late Adrian Rogers' message of God's Mercy.)

October is a "dark month" in more ways than one – it is dark because the days are getting shorter, most of the flowers are gone, but no snow yet to brighten and lighten the ground. It is also gloomy because, at least here in Utah, *dark powers* seem to take over the lives and activities of people in their preparation for **Halloween, which is called the devil's holiday** (whether we think about it as such or not), and *evil in all imaginable forms is boldly displayed during this month*. Houses are decorated with *skulls and bones, skeletons, tombstones and ghosts, witches and warlocks and demons*. Utah of all 50 states is the leading state with focus on scary images and the dead. Would it be because Utah is "the Mormon State", and the Mormon Church and its main focus is on the dead? (See D&C 128:15.) The most holy places to Mormons are their temples, and "**they are specifically built so that living may communicate with the dead**", as LDS apostle, Parley P. Pratt preached and also said that the temple-active Mormons are "acting as mediums through which the living can hear from the dead." (See Journal of Discourses, vol. 2:44-46.) God sternly forbids any and all of that and other occult practices listed in Deut. 18:10-14 as *an abomination to the Lord*, who says, "You shall be blameless before the Lord you God."

I have done some research on the origin of Halloween and found that it started among Celtic and Druid cultures several hundreds of years ago. I also found that celebration of Halloween was to be a celebration of fear, darkness, death, demons, violence, hatred and evil! Halloween focuses on death and the devil, the enemy of our souls, and he loves it! Many of our schools are encouraging children to participate and dress up in various Halloween costumes, often depicting something scary. Even some Christians see all that as "harmless fun" and therefore do not oppose it. However, *participating in activities of this devil's holiday is not harmless for it can become as an entry into the occult*. Have you ever wondered *why do witches, magicians, Occultists and Satanists celebrate Halloween?* **Since they do, should we also join in with that activity? I think not! Let's not forget whose holiday this is! Believers in the Lord Jesus, who is God of the Living, should not have anything to do with the celebration of Halloween, the Druid's day of the dead, when Celtic priests made their appearances as wizards or magicians! Halloween is thoroughly pagan and its emphasis is glorification of Satan, demons and death. It is deception all the way through!**

While researching this I also read that the "31<sup>st</sup> of October was a night when all 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 1<sup>st</sup>. Even though witchcraft and black magic were generally outlawed, the people who practiced these arts were granted immunity from prosecution of what they might have done on this Halloween night. They could freely go through 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 during the coming year and 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 do "**tricks**" or put spells on them, poison their wells, kill their animals and livestock or steal them, or put "**hexes**" on them. **A jack-o-lantern** was a mask of a demon, symbolic of an earthbound-evil spirit. A candle inside of a jack-o-lantern was to light the way for the wizards and also inform all that they were followers of demons. The town's people were placing these same "**demon- faced lanterns**" and a "**figure of a black cat that represented familiar or possessive spirit**" on their own doorsteps to make wizards think that the evil spirits had already taken over this house, hoping that the wizards would then just pass by. Sacrifices to the devil and demons were done during that night. That night is when Satanists and witches, through rituals and animal or even human sacrifices, attempt to contact the dead, summon demons and worship the gods of the underworld. Halloween night is

indeed **"Satan's holy day"**. Satan is a deceiver and he wants the uninformed public to think that **Halloween is just for fun**. Occult groups like Wicca have done a good job of convincing people of **"true witchcraft", or a Harry Potter-type magic that is just entertainment and nothing more than harmless "mother-nature-worship"**, and they ask, **"how bad can that be?"** But it is serious. **Satan is real."**

**Occult activity on this night is today the number one law enforcement problem in United States.** A **National Task Force** has been formed to deal exclusively with occult-related crimes! They report that babies and young children have been kidnapped and sacrificed to demons on many Halloween nights! Even after reading reports of this horror and more, all connected with Halloween celebrations, it is amazing that it is acceptable in this country and now also across Europe. It was not then when I lived there. Some in Eastern Europe call Halloween a *Dracula myth* and throw large parties with **"bat and vampire themes" or something similar**, and those who oppose *Halloween* all together say that **they are not opposing it as the "devil's holy day", but because it is just a bad American tradition!**

**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 as believers in the God of the Bible must avoid anything and everything that exalts or even gives attention to Satan and his dominions. We must not encourage children into thinking that it is OK to dabble in magic and the occult or anything that even comes close to it. **Sorcery and witchcraft are the devil's methods and "tricks" to get people involved with anything connected to "his high day".**

[In Acts 13:6-11 we see how Paul, by the power of the Holy Spirit, stopped a sorcerer's evil intentions of preventing a person from following the Lord. It has been often said that **"knowledge is power"**, and when we know what Halloween really is all about we can warn and help others to know that also. (Rom. 12:2.)

**Jesus asked, "When the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"** (Luke 18:8b) Jesus is talking about saving faith, not just "faith", for we know that the devil and his demons have faith.

**They know what the Scriptures say better than most Christians. They know and believe that Jesus is the Son of God, they know that He died on the cross for the sins of men, they know and believe that He rose again and ascended to heaven and that He is coming again. They also know that their time is short and they will do anything to prevent people from coming to know the Lord and His Gospel.** Demons "tremble" with their faith, so we know that they have feelings, feeling of fear. James in 2:9 wrote, **"You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe - and tremble!"**

**Although the devil and his demons believe, their belief will not save them. Saving faith is more than belief – it is a relationship with Jesus Christ, and total surrender to His Lordship over our lives.**

**Faith has to have a solid object: Jesus Christ who is God with us.** (John 1:1-4; Matt. 1:23b.) *Faith in faith* is meaningless. Faith means much more than being able to say right and correct words about one's belief. Most cults and New Age movements use the same biblical words, but when questioning what they actually mean by their words, we can see that their belief is not the same as what born again Christians believe.

Many well-known religious leaders are striving to unite mankind with a **"social gospel"** which is one of Satan's ways to promote **"goodness" without Christ**, without saving faith in Jesus. They are seeking **"unity in diversity"**, which is the same as **"universalism"**. Some call it a **church that is emerging**, i.e. a church that accepts just about any belief **as long as people strive to be good** and that **they tolerate the differences in faith and name the name of Jesus, regardless of doctrine**, and **who He really is!** This is how the **"One World Religion"** will be established. It will be **the religion of the Anti-Christ** that is already in a process of being prepared for his take-over. **This could be termed "demonic faith", faith that the Devil has.**

**The responsibility of all who have surrendered their lives to the biblical Jesus is that they must teach the true gospel** (1 Cor. 15:1-4) **without any compromises, additions or changes as Mormonism has done.**

We personally cannot be experts in all various cults that may even *sound Christian*, **but if we know the Truth about Jesus, and Who He is (God), we can detect false doctrine and correct those who have fallen for deception.** (2 Tim. 3:16.) **Our focus as former Mormons is to help Mormons to come to see Jesus as who He**

is (God- John 8:24) and help them to come to a personal relationship with Him. ***“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.”*** (1 Tim. 4:1.) Let see how this was able to begin?

God Himself had given His instructions to the first man, Adam, therefore for the Devil in order to succeed with his plan, he had to first cause man to question what God had said. So the serpent said to the woman ***“Has God indeed said...”*** [ In Gen. 3:1-5, God had said that disobedience to His command will bring death.]

The Devil refuted what God had said, and told Eve, ***“You will not surely die...[but] you will be as gods...”*** Godhood of man was the first “doctrine” that the Devil offered to mankind, and it has advanced from that.

There is not even one cult leader or false religion teacher that does not use this devil’s *proven method* to bring confusion and doubt in God’s Word. They all bring into question what God has said by causing suspicion and doubt to the *correctness and completeness of the Bible*. Once these false teachers can place doubt in people’s mind about God’s Word, then they can bring their own *“added words”* and lead people into *doctrines of demons* (1 Tim. 4:1), beginning with the same ambition that the devil himself has – becoming a god. (Isa. 14:12-14.) There have been attempts throughout human history to take the true God away from people by replacing Him with *other gods*. From the Tower of Babel to our day, mankind has sought to worship other gods, *“the host of heaven”, sun, moon and stars*, carving the images of them and placing them on their temples etc., and revert to a belief in many gods. *Worship of other gods* is against the *First Commandment of God* (Ex. 20:3). *God’s Second Commandment* (v.4) *forbids making images of anything in heaven above... as sun, moon and stars ... or angels*. The Devil was formerly the highest ranking angel of God, *the “anointed Cherub who covers”*, who was *“perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you”* (Ezek. 28:14-15), and the Lord God cast him out. Lucifer’s *iniquity* was his pride and jealousy– he wanted to be like God, and take His place in the earth and universe. That should be a warning to all men dreaming of becoming gods! If Lucifer’s prideful desire was enough to cause him, the most powerful and wisest creature of God, to be cast out from God’s kingdom, we must not in our pride desire what belongs to our LORD GOD alone! *Lucifer became the Devil, Satan*, and he is also known as *“an angel of light”*. (2 Cor. 11:13-15.) Lucifer wants worship, for he wants to be like the Most High God. (Isa. 14:14.) This *angel of light* is known in Mormondom as *Moroni*. [See D&C introduction page – prior to 1981 edition - that says, *“Joseph Smith received visitations from Moroni, an angel of light”*.] The Mormon Church places statues of Moroni, an *angel of light*, on top of their temples that are the *“most holy edifices”* of the Mormon Church. [There are already over 300 Mormon temples displaying this *angel of light* on the top of them - and more temples are planned or under construction.] These temples are built for the purposes forbidden by God of the Bible which is communicating with the dead, and dealing with “familiar spirits”, and doing work for the dead. (Deut. 18:9-11; Lev. 19:31; 20:6). LDS Apostle Parley P. Pratt taught, *“How do the Saints expect the necessary information by which to complete the ministrations for the salvation and exaltation of their friends who have died? By one holding the keys of the oracles of God, as a medium through which the living can hear from the dead...[this] was introduced to the modern world by [their founding prophet] Joseph Smith.”* Mormon temples are built “for the express purpose that the living might hear from the dead...” (See Journal of Discourses, vol. 2:44-46.) Only the most faithful and obedient Mormons can attend their temples and receive the endowment rituals for the living and for the dead. There they are sworn to secrecy under the penalty of death (although demonstrations as to how a person’s life may be taken were removed from the rituals in April of 1990). Once they are sworn to secrecy through the most

solemn oaths, there is a *special bind* that has been placed on them, *their undergarment, being a constant reminder of these oaths*. God, through Isaiah gave a solemn warning against those who advocate consulting spirit mediums and wizards in behalf of the dead... *If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them...the prophet who teaches lies, he is the tail. For leaders of this people cause them to err; and those who are led of them are destroyed*" (Isa. 8:20; 9:15b, 16.) It is much more difficult to get the temple-endowed Mormons to listen to God's truth and separate themselves from this deceptive religion and work, but with prayer to the God of the Bible we have seen many times the *impossible becoming possible*. Paul wrote another warning concerning the devil's deises and said, *"But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ Jesus. For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted...* (Paul continued explaining where these unbiblical doctrines originated, saying), *For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into 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. 11:3-4, 13-15, NKJV.) We must likewise, with much prayer, be reminding our Mormon friends and relatives that *Jesus whom the apostles preached is God who became a man* (see: John 1:1, 14; 8:24; Matt. 1:23), *NOT "another Jesus"* as is presented by Mormonism, *"a man who became a god"*, a created being, who is Lucifer's and mankind's brother *"from Mormons presumed preexistence"*. *The true Gospel of God that apostles preached is a message of death, burial and resurrection of Jesus in our behalf.* (1 Cor. 15:1-4.) As John commanded, we must test the spirits that give *"feelings"* or *"testimonies"* of falsehoods (1 John 4:1) for *God's Holy Spirit would not give testimonies of another Jesus nor of another gospel, different than what Paul and other apostles preached.* Paul further warned, *"But even if we, or an angel from heaven (Moroni), preach any other gospel to you than what which we have preached to you, let him be accursed."* (Gal. 1:8.) The end of all false apostles who teach *another Jesus* and *another gospel* under *another spirit* will be according to their deceptive works – i. e. *the same as Satan's end.* (2 Cor. 11:15b.) They all will end up in the lake of fire. (Rev. 20:15.)

[The *"LDS gospel"* is *"the gospel of laws and ordinances"* of the Mormon Church. (3<sup>rd</sup> Article of Faith.) *Their "gospel" is not a message of death, burial and resurrection of Jesus" to be received by grace through faith as God's gift* (Eph. 2:8-9), but it is instead a promised *"godhood"*, *earned through temple work and a lifelong service to the Mormon Church.*] Many who were previously from a Christian faith, have joined Mormonism (or other "isms"), assuming that because they use the same words as Christians, they also mean and believe the same. These false teachers use Christian terms but they have cleverly twisted the meaning of fundamental Christian doctrines of **Deity of Christ, His Virgin Birth, His death on the Cross for sin, Salvation by Grace alone, His coming again**, and gained the trust of *the gullible*, and are now leading them to everlasting damnation. **As we learn the depths of these deceptive Mormon doctrines, we must ask the Lord to help us to rescue them and bring them to the truth of His Word, the Bible and be saved.** This work is an intense *spiritual war* for souls, but with earnest prayer and strength that the Lord has given to continue sharing the Truth, we have seen and experienced many rescues from Mormonism during our nearly 40 years in HIS MINISTRY. God is good all the time. We praise His Holy Name.



**An LDS man sent us 3 statements saying that they prove that “the restored gospel of the LDS Church is true”. He said that he especially loves “the LDS teaching of chastity, the Word of Wisdom, and the Book of Mormon teaching about God and Jesus”, for they have made him a better person, a better father, and a better medical doctor. He asked: “How can you disagree with these teachings?”**

[For the lack of space at this time, I can only reply to the first statement now, but I will answer *the Word of Wisdom and the Book of Mormon* challenges in our next month’s newsletter. ☺]

**My Reply to *LDS teaching of chastity*:** You mentioned that “*you love the LDS teaching of chastity*”, as if the Mormon Church is the only church teaching morality! However, don’t you know that *teachings of the LDS Church* originated with your founder, Joseph Smith? **Just reading what Joseph Smith did, speaks volumes against all decency and chastity! Joseph Smith was an adulterer and pervert. He introduced polygamy as a revelation from his God, and said (see D&C 132:3-4) that this teaching has been “revealed unto you”, but if you do not obey (=practice it) “then ye are damned”. What did Joseph Smith do? He married under-age girls; two 14-year-olds and several other young teenagers, and he even married eleven women who had living husbands!** (All this is documented.) This is anything but chastity and morality! Note that D&C section 132 is part of your *restored gospel!* Anyone reading it can see that it teaches against the Bible and chastity. [You even added a question, “*Where can I find books and virtues spoken of outside of the restored gospel?*”]

I have no idea where you have looked, but all Christian churches teach chastity and high morality, based on the Bible. The Bible is God-given instruction manual in all doctrine and instructions for living. (2 Tim. 3:16; 2:15.)

I hope and pray that you will check these things out and verify that what I have said, and then “*come out from among them.*”

**(The rest of your challenges will be answered in our next month’s Newsletter.)**

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We want to thank you, our friends and partners, for praying for us and supporting us in many ways in the Lord’s ministry that He has called us to do. We are praising our Lord daily for His provision also for our personal needs and that Dennis is still able to work in his carpentry work. The Lord has blessed us with reasonably good health, and though we have had problems that expectedly come with age, they have not been serious enough to slow us much. ☺ God really has been good to us during all these many years.

We ask you to pray with us for the precious people we have had a blessing to present the gospel to during these last few months, and that they would have courage to act on *their new faith in Christ*. Some of them have already experienced harsh opposition from their LDS friends and family that are not seeing the importance of this change in their lives. We know that God will bless them as we all continue to pray for them!

Please pray for Pastor Phil and his wife, Lois, who still has considerable pain. Please pray for Robert who recommitted his life to Jesus. We ask prayer for our dear friend, Judy, who has lots of pain in her broken ankle. Prayer is needed also for Marlene, Harold, Bruce, Mark & Virve, Dave B., Al, Sandy, Julie, Jamie, Luke, McKenzie, Aira, Heber, Sharon, Lisa and Suzi. We rely in the promises that our Lord has given to us in 1 John 5:14-15. He does hear and answer us as we pray according to His will.

We ask that you will continue to pray with us for those who have not yet responded to the Lord’s call for them to be saved. Some of them are members of our family and some are our old Mormon friends we love dearly. It saddens our hearts that we will not see any of them after our life here is over unless they come to the Lord and are saved. “*...God our Savior desires that all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.*” (1 Tim. 2:3-5.) The Lord is pleading that they would repent and let Him change their hearts and minds while there is still time. “*...times of ignorance God [has] overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent.*” (Acts 17:30.)

Fall-colors are again displaying God’s artistry. Utah Mountains are always beautiful, but this time, again, they simply shine. Every morning we see more and more colors coming from *God’s paintbrush* and we thank Him for allowing us to still be here and enjoy all that, and do what He has commanded us to do, to “*Make disciples of all the nations... and promising to be with us always, even to the end of the world.*” (Matt. 28:19-20.)

Fall actually is our favorite time of the year and have cooler air to go for walks that we had to miss because of the heat; over 100 degrees during the most of the summer months, and 90’s though September. Nevertheless we love the changing seasons we experience in Utah, hot or cold. ☺God bless you abundantly.

With the Love of Jesus, waiting for His Coming. (Re. 22: “*Even so, come Lord Jesus!*” (Rev. 22:20.)

Rauni & Dennis Higley, Website: [www.hismin.com](http://www.hismin.com) – Email: [hismin@xmission.com](mailto:hismin@xmission.com) Phone: 801.943-5011

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