



*He I Savior, Acts 4:12

November 1, 2024

HIS Ministries November 2024 Newsletter, covering October 2024

October is called the “dark month”, not only because the days are getting shorter and most of the flowers are gone, while yet there is no measurable snow to lighten the ground. **October, especially here in Utah, is a *spiritually dark month*** for the ***dark powers*** seem to have taken over the lives and activities of people as they make their preparations for ***Halloween, which is known as the Devil’s holiday.***

It has been observed that people in Utah have, year after year, spent more and more money in decorating their homes for Halloween than for Christmas, thus showing their priority.

During this month evil in all imaginable forms is purposefully displayed to create fear in those passing by. The focus during this month is on death— houses and yards are decorated with skeletons, some even 12-15’ tall, added tombstones, ghosts, demons, witches and warlocks.

Utah is known as “***the Mormon state***” and the Mormon Church’s main focus, not just in October, but year round, is “***work for the dead***”, even Mormon scriptures require that. (D&C 128:15.)

The most holy places to Mormons are their temples, “that are built so that living may communicate with the dead”. That is what the famous Mormon apostle Parley P. Pratt also taught. He also said that each time Mormons go to a temple, they are there “***acting as mediums through which the living can hear from the dead.***” (Journal of Discourses, vol. 2:44-46.)

Work for the dead is not a work of the God of the Bible, who said, “***God is not God of the dead, but of living.***” (Matt. 22:32b.) The gospel of God is to be presented to the living, for there is no “***second chance***” for those who died in unbelief. (Read Luke 16:19-31.) The Bible says, “***Today is the Day of Salvation***” (Hebr. 3:15), ***after death comes judgement. “It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgement.”*** (Hebr. 9:27.) ***There is no second chance!***

The Mormon Church began as an American Church, organized in 1830 by a young treasure hunter, Joseph Smith, whose family had been involved in magic and ***seeking treasures rumored to be hidden in the hillsides in the state of New York.*** He claimed that by putting his *seer stone* inside of his “top-hat” he could see where treasures were hidden. It was in the mid-1820’s that he told that ***an angel of light*** (Moroni) had appeared to him and showed him a hill where there was a buried book, ***written on gold plates*** in “***reformed Egyptian language***”, and that by the gift of God, he could translate it. That book came to be ***the Book of Mormon*** that told a story of ***religious Jews*** who had traveled by boat to the American Continent. God called Joseph Smith to be his prophet and ***organize a church (1830)*** that he named “***The Church of Christ***”. Joseph Smith was a ***likeable, and charismatic person*** and his new church had begun to grow fast. His followers were mostly biblically illiterate people and they accepted both ***the Book of Mormon*** and ***the Bible*** as scriptures. Joseph Smith claimed that God was continuing to

instruct him and give him more information that when written down will also be called “scriptures”. This “new scripture” was named ***the Doctrine and Covenant***, and it gave him the freedom to add and change ***doctrines*** as he saw fit, and write ***new covenants*** he made with his God. “***The Church of Christ***” (1831) accepted the doctrine of ***plural marriage that Joseph said he had received from God*** (D&C 132), although he had suggested that ***for now we ought to keep it a secret from the public***. It seemed that he was testing his followers on how far he can let his imagination go with his doctrine when he said, ***“A time [will] come in which nothing shall be withheld, whether there be one God or many gods, they shall be manifest”*** (121:28). His growing idea that there could be ***more than one God*** brought a need to change the name of his church, ***“The Church of Christ,”*** and (in 1835) he changed the name to ***“The Church of Latter-day Saints,”*** a name that ***didn’t include Christ of biblical Christianity***. Joseph Smith had begun thinking that perhaps that all of mankind are Gods sons and daughters, ***“brothers are sisters,”*** born to God in the ***“preexistence”***. Then three year later (1838) he made another name-change, now to ***“The Church of Jesus Christ OF Latter-day Saints,”*** (bringing the name of ***Christ*** back in, but defining that there is a difference who his Jesus is. ***This Jesus Christ [of Latter-day Saints]*** is “Joseph Smith’s Jesus”, ***not the same Christ of Christianity, who is God with us*** (Matt. 1:23), but just ***one of the billions of sons of God, a spirit brother of men and angels, including Lucifer (Satan) who, in the spirit world had contested to become the savior... (Gospel Through Ages, p.15.)*** ***“The Latter-day Saints”*** had so far believed in the Triune God of the Bible and the BoM, but now (1844) he announced his beliefs in ***evolving, progressing gods, and that men can also become gods***.

It was at the April 1844 conference of the Church when Joseph Smith finally and publically declared **his new doctrine of God**, but first (for those who might question him), he said, ***“Every man has a natural, and, in our country, a constitutional right to be a false prophet as well as a true prophet.”*** He then continued and said, ***“I have the truth of God, and show that ninety-nine out of every hundred professing religious ministers are false teachers, having no authority... I will go back to the beginning before the world was, to show what kind of being God is... God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens! That is the great secret... I am going to tell you how God came to be God. We have imagined that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea, and take away the veil, so that you may see... Here, then, is the eternal life – to know the only wise and true God; and you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves... the same as all Gods have done before you...”*** (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pp.344-346.)

[The Mormon Church had already begun sending missionaries overseas, first to England and from there across Europe. By the early 1900’s the Mormon Church was already a sizeable organization.]

I had not known anything about the Mormon Church before October 1963, when I met a young lady, about my age, who had just recently joined the Mormon Church. She invited me to come Sunday to their ***“Sacrament-meeting”***. I was curious and I agreed to go. There I met two Mormon missionaries who, even that very same day, came to visit me and offered to tell me ***all about their church. I didn’t quite get why they were so excited when they learned that I didn’t have a family.*** [I had told them that I was an only child of my parents, and they and my grandparents also, had died when I was very young.] ***They immediately started to tell me about “the salvation work for the dead”***. [The Mormon doctrine how even the dead can be saved!] ***They were visibly anxious to tell me that if I would join the Mormon Church, I could do the temple work for my parents, grandparents and other dead***

relatives, **and that I could provide eternal salvation not just for me, but for them also and live eternally with them as a family unit in a Heavenly kingdom.** I told them that I was a member of the *Evangelical Lutheran Church*, but I had never heard anything like that! The missionaries explained that it is **because the Mormon Church is the only church in the world that offers that, and they assured me that what they were telling me was completely biblical, and that they could prove it from the Bible.** I said that I didn't have a Bible to verify what they were saying, but they said it was no problem for they were going to give me right then **the Book of Mormon, that is another testament of Jesus Christ.** They again assured me that all that they were teaching **was absolutely biblical!** They asked **wouldn't I want my loved ones to be saved also?** I said that surely I would want that, and that I would like to do what I could to have my family back!

The very next day I went to the main office of the Lutheran Church in my city to ask what they knew about the Mormon Church, and if it was a Christian religion. A Senior pastor I talked with didn't seem to know much about the Mormon Church except that it was **an American religion, started in New York State by Joseph Smith who called himself a prophet of God.** This pastor also said that soon after Joseph Smith had started his religion, he had introduced his followers to polygamy as "a commandment of God". He told that Joseph Smith himself was a polygamist, and he had married many young under-age girls and taken even other men's wives as his own. This pastor smirked and asked *if I was planning on joining a Mormon harem?* I had gone there with sincerity to ask serious faith-questions, but his comments insulted me! When I stood up to leave, he said, "if you join this Mormon religion and find out that it is just an American cult, you are welcome to come back here." I was already angry with him, and I answered, **"even if it ends up being just a 'cult', I would never come back here!"**

Three weeks later, in October 1963, I was baptized into the Mormon Church.

I didn't know much about the Bible, but even its name, **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,** assured my heart that **it had to be a biblical New Testament church!** I was really happy and excited that I had found this church that I had not known anything about!

I was instructed to start immediately to prepare a list of **4-generations of my family names,** on Church-provided genealogy forms, for **the baptisms for the dead and other temple ordinances for my dead relatives.** **I was very anxious to start the salvation work for my family members, therefore I was very disappointed to learn that I was not yet even eligible to enter a temple until I had been a member of the church at least 1 year, and thus be qualified to receive my Temple Recommend!**

I was told that entrance to a temple had to be earned, first by living faithfully according to the all requirements of the Church, paying full tithing, attending all required church meetings and obeying the Word of Wisdom. Though the Missionaries had told me *about tithing and the Word of Wisdom* that all members must obey, they had not even mentioned that **I had to wait a year** before I could go to a temple and start doing the work for the dead, for that is what had motivated me to join! The Lutheran Church or any Protestant Churches I knew of, have no specific requirements for membership, but only a faith in Jesus Christ to receive the communion. I had no idea what *joining another church* could involve! As a family we had not been attending the church we were members of and I did not know that there even could be additional requirements... thus these LDS requirements seemed very strange to me, **but I was determined to study and learn as fast and as much as I could about my new religion, so that I can get to work on my dead family members' salvation.** I don't know if my disappointment had anything to do with what happened next.

I had been a member of the Church only for 9 months when the Mission President came from Helsinki to see me, calling me to serve 1.5 years as a “*full time missionary for the Mormon Church*”. He even said that my *calling* to be a missionary had come directly from ***the President of the Church in Salt Lake City, Utah***. I was impressed and believed that he indeed had to be a Prophet of God to even know about me, from that far away from SLC, Utah! Normally when missionaries are called to serve but before they are able to go on their mission, they *first have to receive their temple endowments*, but in my case, since I had not even been a member for a year yet, I was allowed to start serving as a missionary, and receive my temple endowments when my first year was up. At that time there was not yet a Mormon temple in Finland, and just 2 temples in Europe, the closest one was in Switzerland. The Mission President had already planned to take 120 missionaries (who were serving in Finland) to the Swiss temple for a week to do work for the dead. I considered it a great honor to me, since most of the names that *received their endowments and sealings* during that time, were names from my 4-generation sheets that I had arranged to be sent to Bern (Switzerland) just before our trip there! This was my first visit to a Mormon temple. It was in January 1965. It was the most frightening experience in my life! [Before a person can do temple-work for the dead, she/he has to have received her own endowment. Therefore, I had to “go through” [as they say] for my own endowment first! During the many hours long endowment ceremony I had to take oaths and agree, and even demonstrate, how “my life can be taken” [killed] if I do not keep everything secret that takes place in the temple.]

It took me 20 years and participation in hundreds of these ceremonies for the dead before my mind finally cleared and I understood that I indeed had been deeply deceived! [By intense studies of the Bible I came to know that the God of the Bible sternly forbids any and all of these kinds of occult practices that are done in Mormon temples, some of these are even listed in Deut. 18:10-14.] The Word of God teaches that practices like these are abomination to the LORD. (Note: If you want to know more about “what goes on in there” (temple), and help others to learn more also, please just let me know. You could email me or just call.)

Most converts to Mormonism have come from Protestant faiths, and the words Christians use, are also used by the Mormons. ***The Book of Mormon***, written by Joseph Smith, is written in ***King James English***, thus the actual words used are the same in both Bible and the Book of Mormon, and in other Mormon books (*God, heavenly Father, church, salvation, baptism, Jesus Christ, resurrection, heaven, etc.*) Many just assume that the meaning of the words is the same, **BUT THEY ARE NOT** – some of the words could mean just the opposite to a Mormon than to a Christian. ***It may take even years before these converts realize that they have joined a counterfeit Christian religion.***

Having been deceived or *tricked* into a religion like Mormonism is hard to get out of. The longer you are in, the harder and more confusing it gets. I became a Mormon in Finland. Even the name of the Mormon Church made me assume that it is a Christian religion. When learning another language, one has to come to understand what meaning of words used are, otherwise there is no communication. Without defining what ***their words mean***, there can be no understanding. To help both, Mormons and Christians to understand each other, I have written a paper that actually ***translates*** what Mormons are saying when they use “*our Christian words and terms*”. That paper (about 6 pages) “***Terminology Differences***”, explains what Mormons mean when they use ***our words*** (from the Bible) related to ***the gospel and faith in God of the Bible***. I can email it to you, or send it by postal mail– free of any cost.

It would help Christians to understand Mormons “religious language”, we termed, “**Mormon-ese**” – same words but they use a “different dictionary.”

Since we both, Dennis and I, have been members of the LDS Church (Dennis from his birth till he was 40 years old), and I as a faithful convert from young adult on, for 20 years, we know through our own experience and total activity there what Mormonism is. We get a lot of questions about Mormon doctrine and what they really mean by their words. Many have asked if God could justify their remaining in Mormonism because much of their teachings **seem to be good** even if not doctrinally correct. Many also say that Mormon-society is (*in the eyes of the world*) a good place to raise children, for they talk about God and Jesus, pretty much like Christian churches do, but when asking Mormons for a definition of who God is or *what they must do* to go to heaven, then the differences start coming to light, but rather than going any further, they say, “*don’t worry, just have faith, it all works out for the best at the end.*”

An LDS man asked: *I just love the Mormon founder Joseph Smith and his teaching of morality, chastity and marriage. His revelation of the Word of wisdom also proves that the LDS church is true because it forbids use of tobacco, hot drinks (coffee and tea) and liquor. How could anyone disagree with what he taught? Where else can I find books teaching of virtues and chastity as he taught, and also what is good for your health? I cannot find these teachings being taught outside of the LDS restored gospel?*

I replied: The Christian churches that we know of teach morality, sexual purity (*chastity*), and many of them even counsel about healthier diets. We do not disagree with teaching of morality or chastity, or even how to stay healthy, but when checking into Joseph Smith’s life and his actual teachings and actions, they do not agree with what he might have occasionally said about many of these issues. His life and actions declare that he was *an adulterer and pervert*. He introduced polygamy to his church as “**a revelation from God** and said **that if they do not obey what has been revealed to them, then ye are damned**”. (See D&C 132:3-4.) He married under-age girls (two 14-year olds and several other young teenagers) and he even “married” *11 already married women who had living husbands!* That is not chastity or morality. This writer also asked, **where else outside of the LDS gospel** we can find **books teaching virtues like he** (Joseph Smith) **taught? I have an answer for you: They can be found in the Bible!** All Christian churches teach virtues and morality based on **the Bible that is God-given instruction manual in all doctrine and living.**

LDS News:

October 1, 2024, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints announced that *it has* (*around the world*) **350 Temples** of which **197** are dedicated, **5** of them are scheduled for dedication, **49** are under construction and several more scheduled to be built. About **95%** of the temple activity is connected to the “**work for the dead**”. [Only about 5% of temple activity is for “the living” (i.e. their own endowments and marriages.) **This speaks of high importance of the “work for the dead”.**

[Note: “Work for the dead” is not work of the God of the Bible, who said, “God is not God of the dead, but of living.” (Matt. 22:32b.) **The gospel of God is to be presented to the living, not to the dead.** (See Luke 16:19-31.) **“Today is the Day of Salvation.”** (Hebr. 3:15.) After death comes judgment, not a second chance! (Hebr. 9:27.) **“It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgement.”**

The most frequent questions we receive concern **the RAPTURE**. **When will it take place?** *“No one knows the day or the hour.”* (Matt. 24:36.) **What is it?** *It is an event in which God catches away all the born again believers in Jesus from the earth, (1 Thess. 4:13-18) just prior to the Great Seven-year Tribulation.* **Who are the Raptured?** *That event includes both those who have died in faith as well as all living believers present at the time of this event. (2 Cor. 14:50-54.)* **What happens to them?** *They are instantly given glorified, resurrected bodies they have been waiting for throughout the ages and are finally free from sin and now in presence of God forever. (1 John 3:2.)* **What is the difference between the Rapture and the LORD’s Second Coming?** *Rapture is meant to be comforting for all who have trusted Jesus Christ as their Savior. We are told, “comfort each other with these words”. (1 Thess. 4:18.)* **The Rapture and the Second coming are related events, but different in many ways. At the Rapture, the Lord comes “in the clouds” to meet only His own “in the air”. (1 Thess. 4:17.)** **Second coming is the Lord’s visible return to the earth** (Zech. 14:4, 9) *with His saints (Rev. 19:11-14) to rule and reign for 1,000 years as the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.” (Rev.20:1-6.)* **When then is the Great Tribulation?** (It is foretold in Daniel 12:1.) [Revelation 4-19 tells about this prophetic time period when God will pour out His judgements against *sin, evil and wickedness.*) The Great Tribulation officially begins when the Antichrist (beast) comes to power and signs a covenant with Israel for seven years. (Daniel 9:27).

We want to thank you for your support and prayers for our little ministry and for us personally. We are doing quite well health wise and Dennis has been able to take a few days off just to clean our garden areas and much of the fallen leaves, but there are still large portion of them *“up there”*. It has been too warm for them to drop. This has been the warmest October ever.

Please pray for Israel and salvation of the Jews worldwide and that anti-Semitism would end. We are asking prayer for a peaceful election cycle in America.

We wish you a Blessed, safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

Prayer is needed for Judy, Marlene, Harold, Bruce, Mark & Virve, Al, Sandy, Julie, Jamie, Luke, McKenzie, Aira, Heber, Sam, Sharon, Roy, Robert, Lisa, Helen, Margaret, Lois and Phil, Connie, Vladimir, and Suzi’s continued healing for she has encountered some other additional health problems.

Paul Rottmann’s wife Patty just passed away and her funeral is next week, but now Paul is in the hospital with cancer. Also pray for Elmien and Leon in Perth Australia. They are dealing with several difficult witnessing situations. As at any case, we believe that the Lord knows exactly what each of them is in need of, and that He will respond to those as we pray according to His will. (1 John 5:14-15.)

Rauni & Dennis

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