



January 1, 2009

## **H.I.S. Ministries January 2009 Newsletter, covering December 2008**

We hope that your celebration this Christmas season of *God becoming a man* was a joyous time for you and your loved ones. It was for us!

### **Happy New Year, 2009.**

We pray God's blessings and direction to you and to us during this New Year.

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**Let's start the New Year with the matters that count – for all eternity:**

#### **How are we saved? How do we get to heaven?**

Many ask these questions while adding that because there are so many religions, they do not know where to go, and who to believe. The short answer is: **Believe God and His Word!**

Very few Christians can give biblical answers for they themselves are not sure where to find the answers in the Bible, or they may be afraid of being judged as “offensive”, if the biblical gospel is “against” someone else's religious beliefs. However, our Lord's direct command to all of us is to take the gospel to *all nations, peoples and tongues* –i.e. **to everyone!**

**To be able to share the good news of the gospel is to know the good news and what the gospel is, and also what it is not. We need to memorize 1 Cor. 15:1-4 where the gospel is declared and defined. The gospel is a message of death, burial and resurrection of Jesus for us, “according to the scriptures”, to be accepted by faith. “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”(Eph. 2:8-9.)**

Peter wrote,, “...**sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having good conscience; that whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.**” (1 Peter 3:15-16.)

**How to become ready to give an answer is to “STUDY to shew thyself approved to God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”** (2 Tim. 2:15.)

**“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”** (2 Tim. 3:16.)

To begin we all must go to God in prayer, acknowledging that we are sinners, in need of Savior. (Romans 10:9; Eph. 2:9-10.) **Jesus came to save sinners.** He said, **“I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”** (Matt. 9:13.)

In examining what the Bible says, we will start discovering how to get to heaven. It is not by being a good person or by our good deeds. There is only one way, and that is **knowing Jesus Christ as our God, our Lord and Savior.** (John 20:28.) Jesus Himself said, ***“I AM the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.”*** (John 14:6.) He said, ***“I AM the door; by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved...”*** (John 10:9.) **Jesus equaled knowing Him to having eternal life.** (John 17:3.) He warned about false prophets who come in sheep’s clothing (Matt. 7:15), outwardly looking as ***“ministers of righteousness”***, but instead of preaching **Jesus who is God**, they bring ***“another Jesus”***, different than Jesus known by the eyewitnesses, who wrote the New Testament record of Jesus. And with ***“another Jesus”*** they also bring ***“another gospel”*** and ***“another spirit”***. (1 Cor. 11:4, 13-15; Gal. 1:8-9.) To become **ready to give an answer to those who ask, is to learn and know the truth, and then present what the Bible teaches about God, Jesus and salvation.** ***“So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.”*** (Romans 10:17.)

As Mormons we were taught that all people born to this earth are children of our Heavenly Father and Mothers, and that ***we all came from heaven, from above.*** However, Jesus told us that ***He alone came from above, not any other person.*** He said that **we are from this world, not from heaven.** ***“And He said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I AM from above: ye are of this world; I AM not of this world...if ye believe not that I AM He (God),ye shall die in your sins.”*** (John 8:23-24.) ***“...who can forgive sins but God only?”*** (Mark 2:7.)

**In order to be saved and go to heaven, our sins must be forgiven, and only God can forgive sins.**

To be on our way to heaven is not a complicated matter. It comes through our faith and belief in **what God has said in His Word.** John wrote: ***“God so loved the world, that he gave His Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*** (John 3:16.) He, Jesus, is God, the Second Person of the Triune God. He came from heaven and became flesh, like we are, to die for our sins. (John 1:1, 14; Matthew 1:23.) **He became a man through a Virgin birth.** (Luke 1:26-35.) **His Father is God and God is Spirit.** (John 4:24.) How marvelous it is that God became a man to die in our place and take all who believe on Him to heaven! It is true!

As Mormons we were taught that **Jesus was not God, but our elder brother** with whom we grew up in heaven, and when Jesus was born of Mary, Heavenly Father, an exalted man, had first come to Mary and conceived Jesus’ body ***“same way mortal men are begotten by their mortal fathers”*** (Mormon Doctrine, p. 547). We were also taught that Jesus and *his brother Lucifer* had contended for the position as Savior of mankind, and that Lucifer’s and his followers’ fall from heaven was caused by Lucifer’s angry jealousy. We were also taught that our physical birth on earth will enable us to become gods as ***“all gods have done before”***, and as Jesus has since **become.** **The biblical truth and gospel was hidden from us, but the Word of God opened our hearts and minds and exposed the lies of Lucifer** that he had started with - all the way back in the Garden when he promised Eve that if she obeyed him instead of God, she and Adam would become as God is. The Word of God exposed the lies we had believed as Mormons, and proved to us that **Jesus is God**, and by receiving Him, we **become children of God.** (John 1:12; 1 John 5:7 KJV.)

When a person, any person, talks about Jesus, we must learn to ask pointed questions about **who is this Jesus they are talking about.** False Jesus has no power to save!

To us, as Mormons, “Jesus” was a brother from heaven where we were all from. But the Bible clarified that **Jesus is Eternal God, not our brother from pre-existence. He alone came from heaven**, and by believing His gospel and receiving Him, we can go to heaven when we die.

The biggest problem and obstacle to many “out there” is that the truth about God is not being shared, not even by some of those who call themselves “evangelicals, - only a watered down Gospel, a *social Gospel* it shared. “*Social gospel*” is not the gospel that brings salvation. The message of “*just love everybody*” is preached, **lacking any challenge to the false religions and philosophies of the world**. Many who preach that “*gospel*” are more than willing to lay aside the absolute Truth of the Bible in order to be friends with followers of false gospels. Of course we must be kind and friendly to everyone, but **our first responsibility is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. How can we say that we love them, yet know that they are going to die and go to hell if we never take the time to share with them how they can be saved, because “we do not want to offend them”?** It is a sad record when evangelicals are more interested in political correctness than spiritual correctness. **There is only one way to be saved, and that is by faith in Jesus Christ, the true one, “who is God with us”** (as Matthew 1:23 and John 1:1, 14 confirm).

When a Christian church or a ministry partners with Muslims, Mormons, Buddhists, Hindus or other false-god-worshipping religions, seeking to build on what they might find in common with them for “ministry purposes”, the **true God is not glorified**, not in the least, for He has said that He will not share His glory with other gods.

Many well-known preachers in America in these days are also saying that “**God does not care about your religion – just add ‘Jesus’ and you are OK**”. **They do not even ask or identify who this “Jesus” is they are adding to their religious beliefs!** They say that you can be a Buddhist, a Hindu, a Mormon, or what have you, and you will end up in heaven if you are just tolerant to others and “love them”. That is a lie, very similar to Satan’s lie in the Garden of Eden – “*Ye shall not surely die*”. Considering this, is it no wonder that the average American believes that all “*good people*” go to heaven, that God’s reward for our earthly “*goodness*” is heaven to all, regardless of what they doctrinally believe and follow? They hope that their good works, when put on a scale, are “heavier” or more valued than their “bad deeds” on the other side of the scale. We often hear statements like “*God will not send people to hell if they sincerely believed they were following the right path, even if it ended up being a wrong one.*” **The point they are making is that sincerity outweighs the wrongness, and that good works earn salvation. Not so!** “*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*”(Eph. 2:8-10.) **Good works do not earn salvation but are the fruit of salvation. “As the apple is not the cause of the apple tree, but a fruit of it: even so good works are not the cause of our salvation, but a sign and a fruit of the same.”**

Loving others enough to tell them the truth may mean risking our own comfort zone in order to bring them to salvation. We may not always see the results of our sharing, we may even think we failed. The only person who has never failed is a person who has never tried. Remember that God holds us responsible if we do not share the truth with them. (See Ezekiel 33:7-9.) We cannot ultimately fail when we are serving the Lord. Some of our successes we may not even know until we get to heaven!

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From our mailbox:

A former Catholic lady, now a Mormon, wrote:

*“I was doing an Internet search on the priesthood to see what others thought about it and come upon your site. I have come upon others... in other faiths that are similar to yours. I was once a Catholic and it was always hard for me to see them bashing other religions. I left for lots of reasons, but I never thought it appropriate to start a web site and tell why the Catholic church was wrong. I consider most of the people to be people who love God. I am really disappointed to see yet another website who works against a religion. Jesus said if they are not against us they are for us. Whether we think that a certain religion is right or wrong, most Christians go to church because they love God. Do you think that it is God's will that you tear down a religion you no longer belong to. I am sure that that religious people are doing the best they can, just like the Catholics d, as I am sure whatever your religion is now does. Please consider going your own way and making the world a better place for it. In the New testament the Lord talks about causing contention and war in the hearts of others. Web sites like yours only do that. They are not web sites of peace like the Savior taught. C-----“*

My answer:

I am sorry that you think that way. The purpose of our website is not to “bash” any individual Mormon or even Mormonism, but **to inform people what Mormonism is – for many do not know.**

If they want to remain Mormons, or even become Mormons **after they know the facts**, it is fine with me. Information about **essentials for salvation** cannot be considered “bashing”.

Obviously there are a many facts about Mormonism that you too have missed. We are not being critical of “another Christian religion” – for **Mormonism is not a Christian religion.** The Mormon Church is **a counterfeit Christian religion.**

**Christianity is based on the Bible alone, and belief in Triune God and Jesus who is the Second Person in Trinity, Savior of the world.** The Mormon Church does not believe in the God of the Bible (Triune God), nor in Jesus of the Bible, although they use the Bible to convert (deceitfully) Christians into Mormonism. They present **another Jesus and another gospel**, not the biblical Jesus or biblical gospel. (See 2 Cor. 11:4; Gal. 1:8-9; Matt. 24:24.) I was once a victim of that deceit, **simply because no one had informed me.** I spent 20 years in it, before I was able to get away. Mormons as people are nice people, but there is no salvation or eternal life for those who worship “another Jesus” and another (false) gods, regardless how “good” these deceived people are. Just so that you know, the Mormon Church believes in and worships many gods. **Their “Heavenly Father”, or God the Father, is a former mortal man**, a polygamist who, with his many wives, had produced spirit children on another planet. He then sent them to this earth to be born into mortality so that these children, **through obedience to the Mormon Church, will likewise progress and become gods and heavenly fathers and mothers for their own spirit offspring** whom they will, in turn, send to another planet to be born into mortality. **Mormonism teaches that all mankind, angels and demons are spirit sons and daughters of their god and his wives. Jesus of Mormonism is a created being, an elder brother of billions and billions of spirit sons of their God and His wives, a brother of all mankind, angels, as well as a spirit brother of Lucifer.**

They also teach that their **heavenly father, who is a physical, resurrected, exalted man**, came to Mary and through normal sexual relationship with Mary, begot Jesus’ body. **The LDS Church says that Jesus was the Only Begotten Son of God in the flesh.** What they mean by that they explain this way: **“Each of the words (Only Begotten Son) is to be understood literally. Only means only, Begotten means begotten; and Son means son. Christ was begotten by an Immortal Father in the same way that mortal men are begotten by their mortal fathers.”**

(Quoted from Mormon Doctrine, p. 547, under a heading *Only Begotten Son*.) **That teaching denies the Virgin Birth of Jesus**, as it is recorded in Matthew 1:18-23.

The reason we give information about Mormonism is so that people would be warned. **No one warned me** – and how I wish that I had known this before I joined the Mormon Church in my native country. 20 years was a long time to struggle my way out of it, and into Christianity and the true Jesus of the Bible.

The Bible tells us that **we must warn**. Ezekiel 33:7-9 commands that **all who know must warn others** who may not know. If we warn, but they do not heed the warning, we are no longer responsible, but **God will hold you and me responsible if we do not warn**.

Jesus and all His apostles and New Testament writers sounded the warning and told people what the true gospel is and urged them **to get out of the false and heretical religions**. (Titus 1:13; 2 John 10-11; 2 Cor. 6:14-17; Gal. 1:8-9.) **Jesus warned about false Christs**. He said, as is recorded in Matthew 24:4-5, 24: **“Take heed that no one deceives you, for many shall come in my name...and will deceive many... For false Christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, so as far as to deceive, if possible, even the elect.”**

We must pass the information about Mormonism since we have come to see what it is. **If we would not, it would the same as knowing that the bridge was out and not letting passers-by know that they are, in a short distance, going to drive off a deep canyon, to their sure death. We cannot just smile and wave as they pass by to their destruction, or can we? If we know the facts, we must shout, “the bridge is out”. If we do not, their death is on our shoulders.** How much more important it is to warn people about eternal destruction that will come to those who worship false gods and believe in “*another Jesus*”?

May God bless you and give you a burden for all the lost souls. Jesus, the true one, who is **God with us, is the only way to salvation**. (John 14:6.) He said that if we do not know who He is, meaning **that He is God**, we will die in our sins. (John 8:24; 17:3; Matt. 7:22-23.) Jesus of Mormonism is not God who created all things (including angels and Lucifer), but a created being, a brother of all. (Compare: John 1:1-3, 14; Col. 1:16.)

**Jesus is our only High Priest and Mediator between God and man** (1 Tim. 2:5; Hebr. 7:20-28.) He will never be replaced as were the human high priests, for they all died, but Jesus lives forever.

I hope this helps you to understand better why we do what we do. **We inform simply because we love Mormons and are concerned about their eternal life.** Most of my husband's family and relatives are Mormons, as are many, many of our former friends. They know that we care, even if they have not had the courage to step out, at least not yet.

I hope you will check the scriptures I gave here as they explain our reasons better than I could. I did not take time to type them all out for you. I assume that you can check them from your Bible and read them in context. Sincerely, in Christ, Rauni

[www.hismin.com/AboutUs.htm](http://www.hismin.com/AboutUs.htm)

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### Another Mormon wrote:

*“While reading on the Internet about ‘born again Mormon’, I came across your statement indicating that Jesus Christ taught by Joseph Smith is not biblical. Why do you say that? My studies have always shown Joseph’s teachings to be more biblical than those of ‘traditional Christianity’. It is because all the Christian churches are teaching that ‘other gospel’ about which Paul warned us - that our Savior called Joseph to restore those truths. Why can’t you see that? If you do not believe the Bible, why do you pretend to teach it? Can you tell me?”*

### **My reply:**

To understand and define biblical teachings, we need to use the words found in the Bible, and their definitions found in our standard dictionaries. Let’s look at the words and terms in an order you presented them in your letter.

**“Born again”** a term used **in the Bible** means *born of the Spirit of God*. That takes place when we acknowledge ourselves as hopeless sinners and ask God’s forgiveness and

receive Jesus, who is Eternal God, Immanuel, who became a man to die for us. (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14; 8:24.) We “*become God’s children*” through our new birth. (John 1:12.)

**“Born again” in Mormonism** begins with baptism into the Mormon Church – see Mormon Doctrine, p. 101, that says, “*No one can be born again without baptism* (into the LDS Church)”.

**“Born again Mormon”**, according to teachings of the Mormon Church, is a baptized Mormon, and thus not a Christian.

**Jesus Christ taught in the Bible** is God Himself, not our brother, nor a brother of Lucifer and angels, as Mormonism teaches. **Jesus alone came from heaven – we did not.** (John 8:23; 3:13.) **Jesus, who is God**, became *likeness of men* (Phil. 2:6-8). *God*, by His nature, *is Spirit*. (John 4:24.) (*God is not a man* –Numbers 23:19; Hosea 11:9.) *Jesus became a man*, and “*in Him dwelleth all the fullness of Godhead bodily.*” (Col. 2:9; 1 John 5:7 KJV.) Jesus of the Bible is the Creator of *all things*, everything, *visible and invisible*, angles included, so He could not be their or our brother. (John 1:1-3; Col. 1:16.) He is “**I AM, the Alpha and Omega, Beginning and the End**” (Rev. 1:8, 11; Isa. 41:4; 44:6) – “**the First and the Last**”, as the Bible says.

Joseph Smith has taken biblical stories about Jesus, twisted them and attached them to his “Jesus”. Paul warns about this in 2 Cor. 11:4; 13-15. He says that there will come those who preach “*another Jesus*”, “*another gospel*”, under “*another spirit*” (v. 4). Paul explains that these teachings come from and through “*false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ*” (v. 13.) Paul continues, “*And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing that his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness...*” (vs. 14-15.)

**Traditional Christianity** is nearly 2000 years old. The same Bible, the same teachings have been taught from generation to generation. What *Traditional Christianity* teaches we all can read from the **eyewitness accounts** of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Peter, James and Jude. The prophecies about Jesus’ coming, where He was to be born, and how He was to die, and more than 300 other details about His life, were written in the Old Testament thousands of years ago. This all is in the Bible for anyone to learn and discover. Mormonism, as can be clearly seen, does not teach the same doctrine as “*traditional, biblical Christianity*” teaches. **Biblical Christianity is “traditional Christianity”**, because it relies on the Bible alone and has been teaching biblical doctrine since the time of Christ. It is the only true Christianity. Mormonism is a relatively new religious invention (only abt. 178 years old). It is, by using Paul’s words, “*another gospel with another Jesus*”. The past LDS President, Gordon B. Hinckley, differentiated Mormonism from Christianity when he informed that **he does not believe in the “traditional Christ” of Christianity, but that he instead believes in “Christ revealed by Joseph Smith**”, another Christ. (The LDS Church News, June 20, 1998, p.7.) When comparing the biblical Jesus to Joseph Smith’s “Jesus”, it is easy to see that they are not the same. Jesus warned and said, “*Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.*” (Matt. 24:4-5.) He continued, “*...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.*” (Matt. 24:23-25.)

**You also mentioned “another gospel”.** Let’s compare “LDS gospel” and the biblical gospel: In 1 Cor. 15:1-4, **Paul declares what the gospel is: it is a message** that “*Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and that He was buried and that He rose again the third day, according to the scriptures.*” **It is the Good News!** There are no laws and ordinances in the Gospel of Christ. If there were, it would make the gospel the “bad news”, **for men are not able to live by the law 100%.** “*For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.*” (James 2:10) Paul had warned in Gal. 1:8, that if anyone, even “*an angel from heaven* (Moroni?), ***preach any other gospel, let him be accursed***”. If anything at all is added or taken away from the Gospel declared in 1 Cor. 15:1-4, it will make it “*another gospel*”. “***The laws and ordinances***” that **the LDS Church preaches as their “gospel”**, brings only the curse of God, not salvation. (Read also Gal. 2:16-21; 3:1013.) Salvation is “*the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast.*” (Eph. 2:8-9; Romans 4:2-5.) **The truth of Jesus Christ and His gospel were never lost!** The same Bible we read and learn the gospel from today has been there for thousands of years. Jude writes that the “*faith* (gospel) **was once delivered**” (3) - it does not need redelivery! We only need to learn it, study it and live it. **That is the Bible doctrine, and that is what we teach.** – I hope this helps and clears it up for you. Sincerely, Rauni Higley.

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We have been blessed with many new friends that we have gained from our classes this last year. Several of them have visited us after our classes were over, which has been joyous time for us. There is a special bond with those who, like us, have also lost their family and friends, when they made their decision for Christ. They are brave new believers who have not allowed themselves to be intimidated into silence by those who oppose true Christ and His Word. We know that many wish that we, as former Mormons, would not say anything at all, but we must speak up in boldness and correct false doctrine, using the Word of God that was given for that very purpose (2 Tim. 3:16.) However, we must never be hostile or rude when correcting the erroneous teachings – most of them simply do not know that they are in error. But with God’s help, we can have victory and change Utah and the world, one person at a time.

The Year 2008 ended well in that even though our finances are very tight, we are not in the red. We are very thankful for our good friends and supporters that believe in our ministry and have seen that it is needful and beneficial, and that we do the Lord’s work. Our Lord will show you, as you ask Him, how you can continue partnering with us in this ministry. Everyone can pray, and your faith in our Lord will direct your actions and with Him we can do all things, but without Him we can do nothing at all.

We do not have to tell you that it costs money to buy books, DVDs, CDs, tracts and all other things that we mail to those around the world needing information on Mormonism and Bible doctrine, and we also know that when the Lord calls someone to the ministry and to seek out His sheep, He provides the way to do it. And He has done so through you, our friends, friends of this ministry. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We have seen time and time again how He delights in rescuing His own from the most frightful situations. When we keep our eyes on Him, all we see is hope.

**We must look up, not down! He is coming soon!**

We are starting our 25<sup>th</sup> year in the ministry. We pray every day for everyone who stands with us in this work for the lost souls. We ask our Lord to help you and reward you so that you will not lack any necessary things in your lives, for He is able, regardless of economy and trials we all face. *“My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”* (Phil. 4:19.)

Last Sunday, (12/28/08) Dennis spoke briefly at **West Valley Baptist Church**, where we will be teaching, starting 11<sup>th</sup> of January. Our classes on *Understanding Mormonism* will start at 6:00 PM each Sunday night. Please pray that the Lord will give us health and strength to carry on and be helpful to all who desire to learn more about Mormonism and how to best explain differences on essential doctrinal differences that relate to everyone’s salvation.

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We received a call 2 days ago from Heidi Albiston. The doctors have discovered swelling in her brain around the tumor, in spite of chemo and radiation she has received for more than 6 months now. She might be facing another surgery soon. Please join us in prayer and fasting for her recovery. She is trying to be brave, but it is hard, not only for her, but also for her husband and children. We do not know why this is going on in her life, but our Lord does – so let us trust in Him and keep on praying and asking His comfort and direction.

You all have been praying for Bruce also. He has been in Virginia during the last 3 months having treatments for his brain injuries he received in a car accident about 3 years ago. In addition to this, just about a month ago he was diagnosed with cancer. Please continue praying for him.

*“Prayer is not appointed for the furnishing of God with the knowledge of what we need, but it is designed as a confession to Him of our sense of the need. In this, as in everything, God's thoughts are not as ours. God requires that His gifts should be sought for. He designs to be honored by our asking, just as He is to be thanked by us after He has bestowed His blessing”.* (A. W. Pink)

We are serving our Lord with gladness,  
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