



June 1, 2008

H.I.S. Ministries June Newsletter, covering May 2008

We have been again asked what does our name, *H.I.S. Ministries*, mean? Or what is “*HIS Ministry*”? We have been known under that name since 1984. We used to explain it often, but lately we have just assumed that everyone knows. For those of you who do not know or have forgotten, the name of our Ministry, “*H.I.S. Ministries*”, comes from Acts 4:12 that declares that Jesus, *He Is Savior*.

I asked our friend what she thought we should talk about in our June newsletter that would be helpful to all wanting to represent God’s truth to those who believe in doctrines of Mormonism or other false religions. She suggested that I would again emphasize who the True Jesus is, for there is a danger in thinking that just any “Jesus” will do. That kind of thinking can lead to a false notion that if you just “*name the name of Jesus*”, you are fine and thus gives a person false security in a false Jesus. She also said:

“...when a person thinks ‘the Mormon Jesus’ is okay, it’ll fit in the with global (one world) religion that’s coming. ‘Political correctness’ thinks that any Jesus will do and any spirituality will do. Therefore, ‘Jesus’, as each individual thinks of Him, will be fine for the global religion. It’s just the Bible thumping, narrow minded, evangelical fundamental Christians that pose the problem. So any semblance of Christianity is fine as long as no one says ‘you have a wrong Jesus!’ ”

She also said that this ecumenical ‘Jesus’ is fitting for the world religions because various views or ideas about His person will enable the world to welcome *the false Messiah*. Many people already are willing to accept “any Jesus”, and thus they are ready for a false Messiah, even though the Antichrist has not yet been revealed. Understanding the scriptures and prophecy helps us be prepared to discern the global deception that is at the door and helps us stand strong and unwavering on the Word of God. There are too many “beliefs” around, but not enough convictions for God’s truth. “*Emergent church’s*” messages can convince those without authentic, deep convictions. These convictions come only through the diligent study of the Word of God. If people will not seriously study the Bible, they will end up *ashamed* as Paul warned young Timothy in 2 Tim. 2:15 and 3:16. Paul wrote: “**STUDY** to shew thyself approved to God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth... All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

Without the knowledge of God-given doctrinal truth, we may accept something sounding “good-enough”, as the same words might be used and twisted, and we could be thus led astray. If we ignore the clear teachings of the Bible, and even add our own ideas we will end up further twisting what the Bible says and come to agree with presented false beliefs of false teachers. We must be like the Bereans – in Acts 17:11. They verified all teachings with the Word of God, and they did it daily. That is the only way to avoid doctrinal deception. During the very last days of Jesus’ earthly ministry, He warned His disciples about deception that was to come. (Matt. 24:4-5, 23-24), “*Take heed that no man deceives you. For many shall come in my name saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many...Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there: believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before.*” There are so many ideas around about who Jesus is and consequently, who is a Christian and what is the true biblical Christianity. Many say that they are Christians because they believe in Jesus. Have you asked, “Who is Jesus?”

From Jehovah's Witness you could get an answer that Jesus is not Jehovah God, but Michael the Archangel. From a Muslim you would hear that Jesus is Mary's son, and a great teacher and a prophet. From a Mormon you could learn perhaps more details than from any others. A Mormon would say that Jesus is his elder brother from preexistence, as well as a brother of all angels and even Lucifer and that He came to show us an example of how to live *so that we too can become gods*. A Mormon would say that Jesus came to atone Adam's transgression which was accomplished in the Garden of Gethsemane and that through it all mankind will be resurrected.

A biblical Christian would answer and say that Jesus is Eternal God who became a man to die for the sins of all who receive and believe in Him.

There can be others who, when confronted with a question, "Are you a Christian?" say, "Yes, I am." If asked further what makes you a Christian, they may say, "I am a good person and I keep the Ten Commandments." Question should then be asked: "Can one become a Christian by keeping the ten commandments?" Nowhere in the Bible is it even suggested that one can become a Christian by being a "good person" or keeping the commandments. Ten Commandments were not given by God as a way to salvation, but to reveal our sin in order that we may see ourselves as God sees us. No one, besides Jesus Himself, has ever been able to keep the commandments perfectly. "*All have sinned and come short of glory of God (salvation).*" (Romans 3:23.) Keeping commandments will not remove sin, only Christ can do that (1 John 1:7). Romans 3:20 says, "*Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight.*" Ten commandments are like a mirror. When one looks in a mirror, one can see what improvements needs to be made to make one presentable. A mirror cannot comb your hair, it can only reveal that your hair needs combing. The same is with the Ten Commandments of God – they reveal our sinfulness and inability to live according to God's standards, but they cannot remove our sins. Law cannot save, but can help us to understand our need for the One who can wipe away all our sins. Paul said in Gal. 3:24, "*Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*" Romans 8:3 emphasizes that "*what the law could not do, in that it was weak through flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.*" **It is only the True Jesus Christ, who is God, who can save.** "***Who can forgive sins but God only?***" (Mark 2:7) **It is important to understand that Jesus is God, the Second Person of Triune God.** He is not, in any state, our equal, as we understood Him as Mormons to be – as our elder brother from pre-existent state.

It seems that no matter how often we emphasize that knowing Jesus means much more than knowing His name and stories about Him and believing that there was a historic person, named Jesus, many people still cannot get it. **Knowing Him is much more than that! We must have a personal relationship – two-way relationship - with Christ, who is God.**

Jesus equaled knowing Him intimately to having eternal life, "*This is life eternal that they might KNOW Thee the Only True God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.*" (John 17:3.) **We must know and believe that He is God,** "***for if ye believe not that I AM HE (God) ye shall die in your sins.***" (John 8:24.)

People may talk about "*Jesus*", and even do "*wonderful works*" in His name, but if they do not really KNOW Him, and have a relationship with Him, **He will not acknowledge them.** (Matt. 7:22-23.) There is no other possible way to be saved than through knowing and having relationship with Christ. ***He is the Way, the Truth and the Life*** – no one is saved but through Him (John 14:6; Acts 4:12.)

It does not matter what one thinks or believes – **what matters is what God says in His Word.** Jesus, when He prayed for us, said, "*Sanctify them through Thy Truth: Thy Word is Truth.*" (John 17:17.)

A former LDS lady was asking just a few days ago what I would suggest that she'd say to her Mormon friend who insists that Mormons are Christians, because she too thinks that anyone who believes in Jesus is a Christian.

The following are some of the points I gave her, many of them are the same one as I have given to others before, all based on what the Bible says, and what Jesus taught. Repetition is the key to memorizing scriptures. *"The Heavenly Father"*, God of Mormonism, is a different god than God of the Bible. He is a former man, who had a god before him, making Mormonism polytheistic. *If God the Father of Mormonism is not God of the Bible, then his son is not the Son of God of the Bible.*

There are many false religions that believe in multiple gods and that men can become gods, as does Mormonism – but **that is not what Biblical Christianity teaches**. The Bible teaches that there is **only one God** – **anywhere**. (Deut. 6:4; James 2:19; 1 John 5:7; 1 Tim. 2:5; Ps. 90:2; 86:10 etc.) Mormonism is polytheistic doctrine. It teaches **"plurality of Gods"**. **Mormon Doctrine**, pp. 576-7, declares, *"Three separate personages – Father, Son and Holy Ghost – comprise the Godhead. As each of these persons is a God, it is evident, from this standpoint alone, that plurality of Gods exists. To us, speaking in the proper finite sense, these three are the only Gods we worship. But in addition there is an infinite number of holy personages, drawn from worlds without number, who have passed on to exaltation and are thus gods."* (Emphasis added.) The only difference, according to **Mormon Doctrine**, p. 579, is that **pagan religions believe and worship many gods**, but Mormons **only worship three Gods**, while acknowledging (believing) existence of other gods. However, Joseph Smith said (Teachings, p. 370) that he has always taught *"plurality of Gods"*... What is *"plurality of Gods"*? Is it not polytheism?

We must compare all that is taught in Mormonism to what the Bible says, for it alone is proven Word of God. **Jesus of the Bible is God who became a man through a Virgin-birth** as Isa. 7:14 predicted and Matt. 1:23 confirms. (See also John 1:1, 14; Luke 1:27-35.) (Belief in the Virgin Birth is crucial to understanding who Jesus is.) Even though Mormons talk about *Virgin Mary*, we can see from the teachings of the Mormon Church, that **Jesus of Mormonism was not born of a Virgin**, but of a woman, Mary, who had sexual relations with a god-man, their "heavenly father", as Mormon prophets and apostles have declared. **Their prophets have taught affirmatively that Jesus was not begotten by the Holy Ghost as the Bible teaches**. (Matt. 1:18-23.) Opposing the Bible, **Mormon Doctrine**, p. 547, teaches, *"...Christ was begotten by an Immortal Father in the same way that mortal men are begotten by mortal fathers."* This makes Mormon-Jesus *"another Jesus"*. The Bible warns about *"another Jesus"*, and *"another gospel"* (2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15; Gal. 1:8-9; Matt. 24:4-5, 23-24.) As we have said many times, there are many religions besides Mormonism *that say they believe in Jesus*, but which are not Christian either, for **they deny the absolute Deity of Jesus** and thus teach *"another Jesus"*, and because of it, their *"gospel"* is not the biblical gospel either. Words used might be the same, but ideas and meanings behind those words are totally different. The Mormon Church has taken stories from the Bible and attached them to their *"Jesus"*.

LDS leaders have admitted that they do not believe in the same Jesus as traditional Christians believe. **So they cannot be called Christians anymore than those who do not believe what Mormons believe can be called "Mormons"**! Being a Christian means believing the biblical doctrine of God and having received salvation in Jesus Christ *"according to the scriptures"* (1 Cor. 15:1-4.). Likewise, being a Mormon means believing what Mormonism teaches.

God of the Bible is Triune God. 1 John 5:7 (KJV), teaches about Godhead, saying: *"For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word (Son), and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."* Col. 2:9 clarifies that **in Jesus Christ "dwelleth all fullness of the Godhead bodily"** (**Godhead is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit**). The Bible clearly teaches that **God is not a man, He is Spirit** (Numbers 23:19; Hosea 11:9; John 4:24; Luke 24:39, etc.) and that God does not have a God before Him, nor will men become Gods after Him. (Isa. 43:10; 44:6.) God is eternal God, (Ps. 90:2) **"from everlasting to everlasting"**. Clearly Mormonism does not believe in the God of the Bible, but in gods of Joseph Smith, who taught that his God was once like he is, a mortal man, that there are multitudes of gods in the universe before God, and that men must learn how to be Gods after Him – contrasting Isa. 43:10; 44:6,8; Ps. 90:2 etc. Joseph Smith became a fool, as Paul predicted, *"Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man..."* (Romans 1:22-23.)

Mormonism teaches that Jesus is a created being, an elder **brother of all mankind**, and a **brother of angels and Satan** and that **all men** came from heaven. The Bible teaches that **Jesus is the only one who came from heaven** (John 8:23-24; Phil. 2:6-8) **for He is God** (John 1:1, 14). He said that **if men do not believe that He is God, they will die in their sins** and thus are not saved, no matter how many times they use the name of Jesus or do good works in His name. (Matt. 7:22-23.)

Jesus of the Bible is not our spirit brother – He is our Creator and the Creator of all things, including angels and Satan (John 1:1-3; Col. 1:16) One does not become a Christian through good works, but by the new birth, **receiving Jesus of the Bible** – as John 1:12 says. Until that moment, we are only Adam’s posterity, *“children of the flesh which are NOT children of God”*. (Romans 9:8). **When we are born again and become God’s children, we are adopted into God’s family** (John 1:12; Romans 8:15.) Our repentance results from understanding that we all are sinners before a Holy God (Romans 3:23), and that we only deserve God’s wrath. Mark 2:7 says that *Only God can forgive sins*. **Jesus is GOD who came to call sinners to repentance** (Matt. 9:13). We must see ourselves as sinners and confess Him as Romans 10:9-10 commands. We are **saved by grace**. (Eph. 2:8-9.) There are no works involved in salvation. *Jesus did it all, all to Him we owe*. Even baptism has nothing to do with our salvation, but it is our personal identification with Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6:3-4). By faith we receive the Gospel declared by Paul in 1 Cor. 15:1-4. It is *the Blood of Jesus that cleanses us from all sin* (1 John 1:7) Salvation is **the Gift of God, not of works** of any kind.

Let us go on boldly about witnessing to the lost. Don't forget, you have the Truth of God on your side. Your job is simply to share that truth with the lost and hurting. What those who hear the Truth do is then between them and God. You and I cannot save anyone. We cannot force someone to think and reason with the Truth. We cannot make a person act a certain way. Our job is simply to present the **uncompromised Truth of God's Word**. Never forget that we do not have to apologize for telling the Truth.

Verbal, or even in some cases physical, violence is a usual response against those who have the courage to tell the truth. Let me give it to you straight: The # 1 reason for most not sharing their faith with others like is that we do not want to be verbally assaulted by unsaved family members, friends or neighbors or those who God allows us to meet. I agree that it is easier to simply not say anything than to take the abuse that often results from sharing our faith. Are we more worried about what someone will say than pleasing God? We need to give ourselves an honest answer to that question and then pray for courage.

From our mailbox:

An LDS man wrote:

"I find it interesting you dedicate so much time and interest into proving "the mormons" wrong. Were you ex-communicated or something because no one in their right mind would try so hard. Obviously it's not working out too well because Mormonism seems to be one of the fastest growing religions."

My answer:

Actually I have dedicated my time to sharing the truth of Bible. While at it, it becomes obvious that Mormonism cannot be true, for it teaches a different God, "another Jesus", "another gospel" and it has "another spirit" – 2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15; Gal. 1:8-9.

God of the Bible says that **there are no Gods before Him, nor will men become Gods after Him** (Isaiah 43:10; 44:6.)

God of the Bible says that **He is not a man** (Numbers 23:19; Hosea 11:9), but He is eternal God, "**From everlasting to everlasting**". (Ps. 90:2.)

I am sure you know that **God of Mormonism is a former mortal man**, who had a god or gods before him, and that the goal of a Mormon is godhood, as Joseph Smith taught that they "*must learn how to be Gods, same as all Gods have done before*". He likewise taught that mankind came from heaven, as sons and daughters of their God.

Jesus taught that mankind did not come from heaven – He alone is from heaven, for He is eternal God (John 1:1, 14; 8:23-24; 20:28; 1 John 5:7; 14:6.)

When we compared Mormonism to the Bible, we had to **ask that our name be removed from the records of the LDS Church**. It was a hard thing for us, for all our friends and relatives were, and still are, Mormons. But the Lord Jesus of the Bible has to be # 1 in our lives. (Matthew 10:32-29.)

Mormonism, by the way, is not the fastest growing religion – Islam is. There are over **1.5 BILLION** Muslims in the world, when just a few years ago there were about 1 billion. They have added about **500 million members** in a very recent years.

Even Jehovah's Witnesses grow faster than Mormonism – as does Assemblies of God churches.

For you information, there are over a **Billion** Romans Catholics.

However, numbers do not equal truth. Most of the people tend to follow false prophets. Jesus said that the gate and the way to eternal life is narrow, and only few find it. (Read Matt. 7:13-23.)

Best wishes, Rauni Higley – Website: www.hismin.com

A former LDS wrote:

"As a true Born-Again X Mormon I just want to say God Bless and keep that line clearly defined. There are truly everlasting consequences! God bless you and your ministry.....Your brother in Christ D____"

My reply:

Thank you very much! Your note encourages us. For years we have warned about lines getting more and more blurred, and when we have drawn attention to that, we are criticized of being "too harsh". We have been wondering if many understand the huge differences between biblical Christianity and Mormonism and are concerned about eternal salvation of those having a false security in a false Jesus and rebirth in the confines of a false religion. Thanks for your assuring voice. God bless you,

Rauni.

Another important report:

Bill McKeever, director of **Mormonism Research Ministries**, organized a “**Compassionate Boldness Conference**” on witnessing to Mormons. It was held just this weekend, 30th and 31st of May. It was a well organized and consisted of a series of meetings with many well known names in ministries to Mormons as speakers. In addition to Bill McKeever himself, speakers included Sandra Tanner, director of **Utah Lighthouse Ministries**, Utah pastors Cory Anderson, Ross Anderson, Mike Bell, Bryan Hurlbutt, Paul Robie. Chip Thompson from Ephraim, Utah brought several of his former LDS students with him who gave their moving testimonies. Other speakers were Doris Hanson, Marv Cowan, Dr. Ron Huggins from *Salt Lake Theological Seminary* and Dennis and I also conducted a session on Saturday. This conference was well attended and based on the many comments we received, it was greatly appreciated. Some attendees had made a sacrifice and effort to travel to Salt Lake City from other states as far as from Ohio. We hope that this conference was helpful to all who were able to attend and from book-tables gather more information about Mormonism and what is really happening in Utah. We all are very thankful to Bill and his wife, Tammy, for their tireless efforts in putting this together.

There are many prayer-needs: Please keep Heidi in your prayers. She is still receiving her radiation treatment for a malignant brain tumor. Please pray for Dave Hunt (The Berean Call Ministries) who has recently had two major surgeries, and is recovering slowly. Pray also for T.A. McMahon for recovery from his major surgery just a little over a week ago. It is hard to have two major players from this important ministry ill. We have grown to depend on their sound doctrinal answers to many questions people have. We greatly appreciate **the Berean Call Ministry** and their monthly Newsletters. Please pray for our dear friend Greg Cantrell who last week traveled to India to minister there. He also asked prayer for his wife and little son while he is away. Please pray for Bruce and Judy for their many difficulties in life, and Florence and her children for God's mercy and direction.

There are others that we do not mention by name, but the Lord knows them and as we all pray, He will give them His comfort and assurance. We need to approach the Throne of Grace with thanksgiving – we all have much to be thankful for.

We are very, very thankful for our Lord for answering our prayers for many LDS persons who are now “**former LDS**”. There is nothing as rewarding as seeing a person come from bondage to freedom in Christ and realizing that **we indeed can know that we are saved** – and that salvation is not a reward of our own efforts, but that Jesus did it all. John wrote: *‘And this is the record, that God hath **given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.**’* (1 John 5:11-13.)

The Lord has surprised us this month with your giving. We have been truly blessed, and as a result of that blessing of the Lord through you, we can purchase more Bibles and LDS materials and send them to those who have asked for them! It is so delightful to see how our God works. We tell Him what our ministry's needs are and He talks to His own (you) – and we get an answer that builds our trust in our Lord more and more ! **THANK YOU and than the LORD.** *“**Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before His presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord He is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves: we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him and bless His name. For the LORD is good: His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations.**”* (Psalm 100.)

Serving Him with full heart and gladness,
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