

REMINDER

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Ed Decker

MORMONISM: CHRISTIAN OR CULT?

by Ed Decker, President - Saints Alive Ministries

I am sure you have seen the rash of ads for the Mormon Church over the years. Coupled with their very effective "Family" Public Service spots on TV, the Mormons have been blitzing the nation with "name familiarity" for years. A Mormon source indicated a few years ago that between the free PSA TV ads, their paid regional Newspaper inserts and National Magazine advertising, they utilized over \$100,000,000.00 in advertising costs to get multiple messages of their faith into every American home in just 1990 alone.

This would be exciting, earth shaking news if that message was one of true Christian substance, but sadly, that is unfortunately not the case. In order to understand Mormonism from the historic Christian perspective, we have to step beyond the highly professional facade that is presented to us in the LDS ads. They show us only what the Mormon church wants us to see, a caring, sensitive church with Christ-centered families, all working together for the furthering of Christ's work on earth.

Some of it is true! These are committed, loving people and they are NOT the enemies of Christ. They think they serve Him and his final message of end times instructions. They are not our enemies either, but victims of a deception as clever as anything thrown at the world since the days of Adam.

Yes, it all looks great, but, what is behind that Madison Avenue image? What is really wrong with Mormonism? Let me peel back the veneer and look at just a few quick key issues.

The major heresy of Mormonism is summed up in its central theological axiom, the doctrine of The Law of Eternal Progression. It is stated as follows: As Man is, God once was, and as God is, man may become."

Basically, it says that the god of Mormonism was once a man who was born to human parents on another planet, grew to manhood, lived out his life being obedient to the laws and ordinances of the gospel presented by the god of that world. Upon his death and resurrection, he was judged (by his god) as being worthy for godhood.

The Mormon god was raised to his godhood and sent with many goddess wives to a planet near the great star, Kolob, somewhere in our present galaxy. There, this god and his wives began 'eprocreating' or physically begetting "spirit" children. We here on this planet are each the offspring of this god and one of his goddesses in this pre-existent Mormon world.

Amazing? Yes, it is! But even more disparate is the position of Christ in all this. Mormonism teaches that when their god decided it was time to populate this earth with his spirit children, the Head of All The Gods called a great council meeting to decide the method. The Mormon god asked his two eldest sons, Jesus and Lucifer, to both prepare plans for presentation to the council. They chose the plan of Jesus.

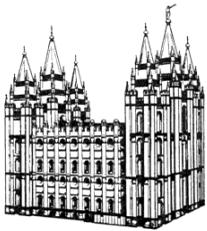
Lucifer rebelled and led one-third of the "children" to revolt against god and in a great battle, was defeated by Christ and the two-thirds who were "valiant." Lucifer and those who fought with him were cast to earth without bodies and became the devil and his demons. Those others who were less than valiant became the black race and the very valiant became the "white and delightsome" race.

Mormonism teaches that if Mormons are faithful, pay their tithing, obey all the laws and ordinances of the (Mormon) gospel, do their genealogy and go to the temple for secret, sacred rituals for both the living and their dead, they too can become gods and goddesses as "all gods have done before them."

To the Mormon, Jesus was our elder brother, who pointed the way, but isn't The Way, as we Christians understand. To the

(continued inside)

Mormon, Jesus was the god of the Old Testament, but once he took his physical form, justified his own spiritual salvation through his works while in the flesh, just as each of us must.



THE MORMON TEMPLE IN SALT LAKE CITY

Mormonism teaches that Jesus suffered for our sins in the Garden of Gethsemane, providing personal salvation (which may mean exaltation to godhood) conditional upon our obedience to the laws and ordinances of the LDS gospel. His death on the cross provided a general salvation, whereby all mankind is resurrected to be judged for our works.

He is the LDS savior in the sense that his death gives the Mormon the means of returning to the god of this world, using the secret keys, hand grips and passwords learned only in the Mormon temple, that will ensure safe passage.

What I have just shared is just the tip of a dark and dangerous iceberg, filled with death for its unsuspecting victims. **Proverbs 14:12 says, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."** Were the scriptures ever more direct in such a matter?

The Mormon people are like those of whom Paul spoke in Romans 10, "**Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God... is that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal for God, but not according to Knowledge. For they, being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.**"

There is a real zeal to serve God manifest in the lives and actions of the Mormon people. It is my prayer that you will have the opportunity to share that true Joy of Christ's righteousness and love with your Mormon friends and loved ones! Let them know that there is only one God and He is not one born of man, One saviour and He took all the laws and ordinances that were against us and moved them out of the way, nailing them to His Cross (Colossians 2:13-15).

The following is information that is not available to the general public. We feel you deserve to know the facts about the true doctrine of the Mormon Church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

We, as Ex-Mormons for Jesus, love the Mormon people! They are our people. It is our only motive for publishing this. We realize that many Mormons see this as an "attack" on their church.

The Mormons will say, "Why are you persecuting us?" We are not! We are only quoting their own "divinely inspired" leaders from books published by the church and sold in their book stores. We are also quoting the Bible. We invite you to check out each quotation in its full context. If these kinds of sources are "anti-Mormon," then "so be it."

We feel you deserve to know the truth... Mormonism is far from Christian Orthodoxy. It is a dangerous counterfeit!

❑ **IN MORMONISM THERE ARE MANY GODS**

"In the beginning, the head of the Gods called a council of the Gods; and they came together and concocted a plan to create the world and people it...In all congregations when I have preached on the subject of the Deity, it has been the plurality of Gods." Joseph Smith, (Founder and First Prophet), History of the Church, Vol 6, pp. 308,474.

THE BIBLE SAYS: There was and is and always will be only ONE GOD! (Isaiah 43:10-11, 44:6-8, 45:5-6,18-22; Deuteronomy 6:4, 32:39; James 2:19)

❑ **MORMONISM'S GOD WAS ONCE A MAN**

"God himself was one as we are now, and is an exalted man...I say, if you were to see him today, you would see him like a man in form...like yourselves in all the person, image, and very form as a man...He was once a man like us; yea, that God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth." Joseph Smith, History of the Church, Vol. 6, p. 305.

THE BIBLE SAYS: God was never a man. He created man! God has been God from all eternity to all eternity. (Psalm 41:13, 90:2, 102:25-27; Romans 1:22-23)

❑ **MORMONISM'S GOD IS LIMITED**

"The universe is filled with vast numbers of intelligences, and we further learn that Elohim is God simply because all of these intelligences honor and sustain him as such...if He should ever do anything to violate the confidence or "sense of justice" of these intelligences, they would promptly withdraw their support, and the "power" of God would disintegrate. He would cease to be God." W. Cleon Skousen (Former BYU Professor & founder of Mormon-based National Center For Constitutional Studies), The First 2000 Years, p. 355. "The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as mans," Doctrine and Covenants, 130:22. "If God possesses a form, that form is of necessity of definite proportions, and therefore of limited extension and space. It is impossible for Him to occupy at one time more than one space of such limits." James E. Talmage, Articles of Faith, page 43.

THE BIBLE SAYS: God is infinite! Any other "god" is a false igodf. (II Chronicles 6:18; Psalm 139:4-8; Jeremiah 23:24)

❑ **MORMONISM SAYS MAN MAY BECOME GOD**

"Here then is eternal life...to know the only wise and true God; and you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves, and to be kings and priests to God, the same as all gods have done before you...To inherit the same power, the same glory and the same exaltation, until you arrive at the station of God." Joseph Smith, History of the Church, Vol 6, page 306.

THE BIBLE SAYS: The Great Lie of Satan from the first was that man can become a god! (Genesis 3:1-5; Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:1-10)

- more next week



**Andrew
Murray**
1828-1917

THE PRAYER LIFE

by Andrew Murray
(continued from last week)

As soon as the Christian becomes convinced of his sin in this matter, his first thought is that he must begin to strive, with God's help, to gain the victory over it. But alas, he soon experiences that his striving is worth little, and the discouraging thought comes over him, like a wave, that such a life is not for him - he cannot continue faithful! At conferences on the subject of prayer, held during the past years, many a minister has openly said that it seemed impossible for him to attain such a strict life.

Recently I received a letter from a minister, well known for his ability and devotion, in which he writes, "As far as I am concerned, it does not seem to help me to hear too much about the life of prayer, about the strenuous exertion for which we must prepare ourselves, and about all the time and trouble and endless effort it will cost us. These things discourage me - I have so often heard them. I have time after time put them to the test, and the result has always been sadly disappointing. It does not help me to be told: 'You must pray more, and hold a closer watch over yourself, and become altogether a more earnest Christian.'"

My reply to him was as follows: "I think in all I spoke at the conference or elsewhere, I have never mentioned exertion or struggle, because I am so entirely convinced that our efforts are futile unless we first learn how to abide in Christ by a simple faith."

My correspondent said further: "The message I need is this: 'See that your relationship to your living Saviour is what it ought to be. Live in his presence, rejoice in his love, rest in him.' - A better message could not be given, if it is only rightly understood. 'See that your relationship to the living Saviour is what it ought to be.'" But this is just what will certainly make it possible for one to live the life of prayer.

We must not comfort ourselves with the thought of standing in a right relationship to the Lord Jesus while the sin of prayerlessness has power over us, and while we, along with the whole Church, have to complain about our feeble life which makes us unfit to pray for ourselves, for the Church, or for missions, as we ought. But if we recognize, in the first place, that a right relationship to the Lord Jesus, above all else, includes prayer, with both the desire and power to pray according to God's will, then we have something which gives us the right to rejoice in him and to rest in him.

I have related this incident to point out how naturally discouragement will be the result of self-effort and will so shut out all hope of improvement or victory. And this indeed is the

condition of many Christians when called on to persevere in prayer as intercessors. They feel it is certainly something entirely beyond their reach - they have not the power for the self-sacrifice and consecration necessary for such prayer; they shrink from the effort and struggle which will, as they suppose, make them unhappy. They have tried in the power of the flesh to conquer the flesh - a wholly impossible thing. They have endeavored by BeeIzebub to cast out BeeIzebub and this can never happen. It is Jesus alone who can subdue the flesh and the devil.

We have spoken of a struggle which will certainly result in disappointment and discouragement. This is the effort made in our own strength. But there is another struggle which will certainly lead to victory. The Scripture speaks of "the good fight of faith", that is to say, a fight which springs from and is carried on by faith. We must get right conceptions about faith and stand fast in our faith. Jesus Christ is ever the author and finisher of faith. It is when we come into right relationship with him that we can be sure of the help and power he bestows. Just, then, as earnestly as we must, in the first place, say: "Do not strive in your own strength; cast yourself at the feet of the Lord Jesus, and wait upon him in the sure confidence that he is with you, and works in you"; so do we, in the second place, say: "Strive in prayer; let faith fill your heart - so will you be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."

An illustration will help us to understand this. A devoted Christian woman who conducted a large Bible class with zeal and success once came in trouble to her minister. In her earlier years she had enjoyed much blessing in the inner chamber, in fellowship with the Lord and his word. But this had gradually been lost and, do what she would, she could not get right. The Lord had blessed her work, but the joy had gone out of her life. The minister asked what she had done to regain the lost blessedness. "I have done everything," said she, "that I can think of, but all in vain."

He then questioned her about her experience in connection with her conversion. She gave an immediate and clear answer: "At first I spared no pains in my attempt to become better, and to free myself from sin, but it was all useless. At last I began to understand that I must lay aside all my efforts, and simply trust the Lord Jesus to bestow on me his life and peace, and he did it."

"Why then," said the minister, "do you not try this again? As you go to your inner chamber, however cold and dark your heart may be, do not try in your own might to force yourself into the right attitude. Bow before him, and tell him that he sees in what a sad state you are that your only hope is in him. Trust him with a childlike trust to have mercy upon you, and wait upon him. In such a trust you are in a right relationship to him. You have nothing he has everything." Some time later she told the minister that his advice had helped her; she had learned that faith in the love of the Lord Jesus is the only method of getting into fellowship with God in prayer.

Do you not begin to see, my reader, that there are two kinds of warfare - the first when we seek to conquer prayerlessness in our

own strength. In that case, my advice to you is: "Give over your restlessness and effort; fall helpless at the feet of the Lord Jesus; he will speak the word, and your soul will live." If you have done this, then, second, comes the message: "This is but the beginning of everything. It will require deep earnestness, and the exercise of all your power, and a watchfulness of the entire heart - eager to detect the least backsliding. Above all, it will require a surrender to a life of self sacrifice that God really desires to see in us and which he will work out for us." *- more next week*

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Vicki Martin
 Cradle Roll 2: Lou Martin
 6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Rebekah White
 Cradle Roll 2: Nathaniel White
 Wed. Evening Service ---- Cradle Roll 1: LeAnna White
 Cradle Roll 2: Seth White

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of October 2, 2011

Sunday School ----- 17
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 35
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 27
 Wed. Eve., 10/05/11 Service ----- 22

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of October 2, 2010

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 907.00
 Insurance Fund ----- \$ 78.00
Total Received for Week of 10/02/11: \$ 985.00

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed to operate the church EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00

INSURANCE FUND REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER:

Monthly Requirement ----- \$ 273.08
 Amount Received during September, 2011 ----- \$ 92.00
Amount Short For Sept., 2011: - \$ 181.08

DEREK QUINNELLY'S ADDRESS -

All of our members are encouraged to write Derek Quinnelly, who is in Basic Training right now in the National Guard. Letters, pictures, newspaper clippings, etc., are allowed, but NO food or drink :



Pvt Quinnelly, Derek L.
1 Pft., A Company, 1st Bn, 13th Inf Regt
193rd BDE
Building 11000 Dixie Road
Fort Jackson, SC 29207-5020

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. *Admit that you are a sinner.*
2. *Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.*
3. *Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.*
4. *You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).*
5. *By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.*

Please Remember To Be Faithful to Give!



As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go **up**. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start **today - OK?** Thank you.

Church Directory

Todd W. White ----- Pastor
 Mickie Shatwell, Janell Diehl ----- Pianists
 Dickie Eberle ----- Greeter, Custodian
 Larry Mathews, Caryn Quinnelly, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers
 Larry & Mary Byars, Brian & Charity Crawford,
 Dwayne English, Lou & Vicki Martin, Don Diehl ----- Outreach
 Flowers ----- Hannah and Shirley White