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Teachings of the LDS Church

by: Daniel Weierbach, Assoc. Pastor

In the last newsletter, we looked at the history of the LDS prophet, Joseph Smith, and the foundation of the LDS church, seeing ties to the Freemasons and occult practices. In this article, I wish to specifically address the prophet, some of his exaggerated claims, the teachings found within his writings, as well as prophecies that were made.

During his tenure as prophet, Joseph Smith makes numerous outlandish statements. In Doctrine & Covenants (D&C) 132:61-62, Joseph claims that, by divine revelation, God had blessed polygamy, a subject in which the LDS church refers to as *plural marriage*. In order to strengthen their case in this D&C passage, the LDS church even taught that God had instructed Abram to take Hagar as a wife to conceive Ishmael, while waiting on the promised son. However, even with a superficial reading of the text of Genesis 16, we see that the idea of Hagar conceiving Abram's child is Sarai's idea, never does the Bible mention that God commanded, ordained, or even sanc-

tioned this action. In regards to this situation, we see that God's divine plan is actually recorded in Genesis 17:1-22, that Ishmael was not according to God's will, but rather God was to supernaturally intervene and allow Sarai to have a child when it would be medically, and physically, impossible. Furthermore, God reveals his plan for marriage is to be established between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24).

Promoting *plural marriage*, historical records indicate that Joseph Smith would go on to have over 30 wives during his lifetime.¹ One of the more notable wives of Joseph was a 14 year old girl by the name of Helen Mar Kimbal. Helen Mar Kimbal was presented with the idea of marrying Joseph Smith by her father, Herbert Kimbal, and Joseph Smith. At the time, Helen disagreed with the idea of plural marriage, or polygamy, but when she reflected on her father's love for her, and when Joseph Smith told her that she and her family, would be eternally saved if she married him,² she didn't see any reason

to say no with such high rewards in her mind. Joseph Smith essentially told this 14 year old girl that he could grant her, and her family, salvation *if* she married him.

However, one of the most egregious things that the founding prophet of the LDS church has stated would be late in Joseph Smith's life when so-called Mormon apostates were charging Joseph Smith of false teaching, mainly his doctrine on plural marriage. During an assembly, Joseph Smith addressed a group of dissenters by beginning to compare his time of persecution with that of the apostle Paul; Joseph Smith is on record as saying "I, like Paul, have been in perils, and oftener than anyone in this generation. As Paul boasted, I have suffered more than Paul did."³ This is certainly a great swelling of

Joseph Smith Claimed...

- ***Polygamy was instituted by God***
- ***Eternal salvation guaranteed by marriage to him***
- ***More accolades than Peter, Paul, and Jesus***
- ***The Book of Mormon is the most correct book in all the earth***

Does the Book of Mormon validate the Bible or contradict the Bible?

The Teachings of the LDS Church (continued)

by: Daniel Weierbach, Assoc. Pastor

words, but there is more. He goes on with his "boasting" when he states "I have more to boast of than ever any man had. I am the only man that has ever been able to keep a whole church together since the days of Adam. A large majority of the whole have stood by me. Neither Paul, Peter, nor Jesus ever did it. I boast that no man ever did such a work as I. The followers of Jesus ran away from Him; but the Latter-day Saints never ran away from me yet."³ Wow! There is only one other person I can think of that tries to exalt himself above God, and that is Satan, the father of lies! And yet LDS members are so deceived that they attempt to equate this statement with that of Paul's mention of boasting in 2 Corinthians 11-12, a poor exegete of the text indeed!

The history of the LDS church and the arrogance of its self-proclaimed "prophet" should be enough to discredit the religion as being from God, even when one looks into the teachings within their church along with contradictions within their pages, it is further revealed as a man-made product. First note that the LDS church places their scriptures (Book of Mormon, Doctrines & Covenants, and The Pearl of Great Price) alongside with the Bible. The LDS church teaches the Book of Mormon explains the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ and the purpose of this life on earth much clearer than the Bible.⁴ To the LDS church, the Bible is insufficient in its witness and application, contrary to what God states in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 that "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." In order to corroborate the Bible's claims, the LDS church states the Book of Mormon is another witness to validate the Bible and to Jesus. Joseph Smith even once said that the Book of Mormon is the most correct book in all the earth (History of the Church, 4:461).

Understanding the LDS stance on their scriptures, and Prophet Joseph Smith, I wish to run them through a two-part test to determine their inerrancy and infallibility. Test one will determine the prophetic accuracy of Joseph Smith while Test two will determine the accuracy of their scripture. Recall that God tells us if a prophet speaks in the name of God and it does not come to pass, he is determined to be a false prophet (Deuteronomy 18:21-22). In other words, one who speaks for God (i.e. a prophet of God such as Joseph Smith claims) must be 100% accurate, 100% of the time. How does the LDS prophet fare?

Test One:

Prophecy #1: In the History of the Church, Vol 2, p189, it is reported that Jesus Christ's Second Advent would occur in 1891

Actuality #1: It is very much clear that Jesus had not yet returned

Prophecy #2: In Doctrines & Covenants chapter 84, Joseph Smith prophesied that New Jerusalem and the Mormon temple would be built in Missouri before his generation passed on.

Actuality #2: A few years after this prophecy was recorded, the Mormons were chased out of Missouri and remained in Utah, where they are to this day. Furthermore, there is no temple built, nor is New Jerusalem established in the state of Missouri...over 100 years after the passing of this prophecy.

Prophecy #3: In Doctrines & Covenants chapter 87, Joseph prophesied that *all* nations would be involved in the Civil War.

Actuality #3: History reveals that much of the world had no part in the American Civil War.

Test Two:

Claim #1 Alma 46:15, it is written that believers are called Christians because their belief that Christ would come. In the preface to this chapter, it is said to have been written around 73 B.C.

Contradiction #1: However, the Bible in Acts 11:26 clearly indicates that the disciples of Jesus Christ were first called Christians at Antioch, a few years after Jesus' crucifixion and ascension, sometime in the AD 30s.

Claim #2 Alma 7:10, it is prophesied that Jesus would be born in Jerusalem

Contradiction #2: This is entirely inaccurate as the Bible prophesied that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2) and the Bible records this fulfillment in the synoptic Gospels; furthermore, Bethlehem is miles away from Jerusalem.

Claim #3 2 Nephi 25:23, it states that one is saved by grace *after all that we do* [emphasis mine].

Contradiction #3: This is in disagreement with the Bible for in Ephesians 2:8-9 we read "For 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"

The Teachings of the LDS Church (continued)

by: Daniel Weierbach, Assoc. Pastor

So there you have it, the prophet and the scriptures both failed the tests historically and prophetically. What the LDS church has is not the word of God, given as another witness to Jesus Christ, but rather a work of a man, giving his testimony about the Jesus with whom he believes. Neither the Book of Mormon, Doctrines & Covenants, or Pearl of Great Price has any life-saving efficacy within its pages, but only a theology derived from a finite man. When we come to any other teachings that contradict the word of God, or claim to be another witness to, we must do as the Bereans and search out those things to determine whether they are so (Acts 17:11). And when we look into the claims of the LDS church, we find a fallible work by man. The only book given by God is the Holy Bible, which has always stood the test historically, scientifically, and prophetically. "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever." (Isaiah 40:8).

In light of all this remember that LDS members are sinners that Jesus Christ died for upon the cross, just like you and I. Unfortunately, they are being deceived by those transformed as ministers of righteousness (2 Corinthians 11:14-15) to believe in their works for eternal salvation, which will never atone for their sins. We must be ready, and willing, as led by the Spirit, to deliver them the gospel of grace through faith which leads to repentance and salvation. May the Lord use us to know His truth and preach His truth to a world seeking salvation by their own accord.

¹ http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/11/us/its-official-mormon-founder-had-up-to-40-wives.html?_r=0

² www.wivesofjosephsmith.org/26-HelenMarKimball.htm

³ *History of the Church, Volume 6, pp408-409, Address to Nauvoo Dissenters*

⁴ www.realifeanswers.org

"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."

1 Thessalonians 5:21



Self-Serving Wisdom

by: Lesa Nixon

Years ago, a coworker told me that she felt God was telling her to divorce her husband. She was tired of fighting with him, picking up after him, and they had grown apart. They no longer had shared interests. She told me she had met another man, and she felt like God had given her a sign to leave her husband.

I walked away from that conversation scratching my head. I thought to my young self, "Would God violate His own truth to accommodate someone's own hardship?"

As I have grown up, and grown in maturity with the Lord, I have found in my life the desire to "make" God's will fit into my plans and happiness. The trouble with this is my plans tend to be very selfish and self-serving at the core. In some way it benefits me. Whether it is better for my time, my happiness, my struggles, or my family, my emotions, my will is always self-serving in some way.

How many times do we allow selfish thinking and selfish ideas into our head when we feel overwhelmed with life? Sometimes we feel like things aren't fair, or we might feel like we have been stepped on. It's hard at times to remember that God is chipping away the rough spots and shining us up in the hardships of life as well as the good times of life. We must carefully guard our thinking and guard our hearts so we don't begin to believe the lies of selfish or self-serving thinking.

Self-Serving Wisdom (continued)

by: Lesa Nixon

The Bible says, "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." James 3:17

We need to make sure that our own wisdom does not get confused with godly wisdom. Our own wisdom is selfish, and self-serving. When things get too hard, we want to run away to a happy place. We bounce from thing to thing trying to find things to make us happy. The problem with that happy place is that it's not perfect, so more problems will rise up and we will have to keep running away to a different happy place. The only happy place that offers true hope is in the arms of Jesus Christ.

God's wisdom is pure, then peaceable, gentle and compliant. Full of the kind of mercy that offers complete and full forgiveness. It offers good and pleasant behaviors that are genuine and not plastic.

If we really walked in this truth it would change our relationships with our husbands, our kids, our parents, our brothers and sisters, our co-workers, and our friends. It would change our relationships with everyone. We would no longer be worried about ourselves and who is meeting our needs, but we would be focused on helping others, not taking things personal, having a gentle disposition, and offering complete forgiveness to those who wrong us. We would offer a genuine smile and genuine friendship instead of the plastic version that breaks when true pressure is applied.

Is this truth of God easy? Absolutely not! For this reason we must have help from Jesus Christ. We must understand and admit that we continually mess up, make mistakes, and sin. We can't live a perfect life. We can't go one day without a selfish thought of some kind. We need someone or something to save us from ourselves.

God knew we had this problem with sin and offered the perfect help by sending His perfect Son Jesus to rescue us from our sin.

I have started praying every morning that God would remind me in the moment, to choose His way and not my own where the temptation to sin and choice meet. When those persistent selfish thoughts invade my mind, instead, looking for ways to help or serve others, and push them out with God's Word, or kind thoughts. When someone irritates me and I'm tempted to lash out, speaking in a calm and controlled voice instead. When my life doesn't turn out like I had planned and I'm tempted to complain, instead, praising the Lord that He makes beauty from my ashes, and for the fact that He can take anything from my broken messy life and write a beautiful story when my heart is yielded to Him.

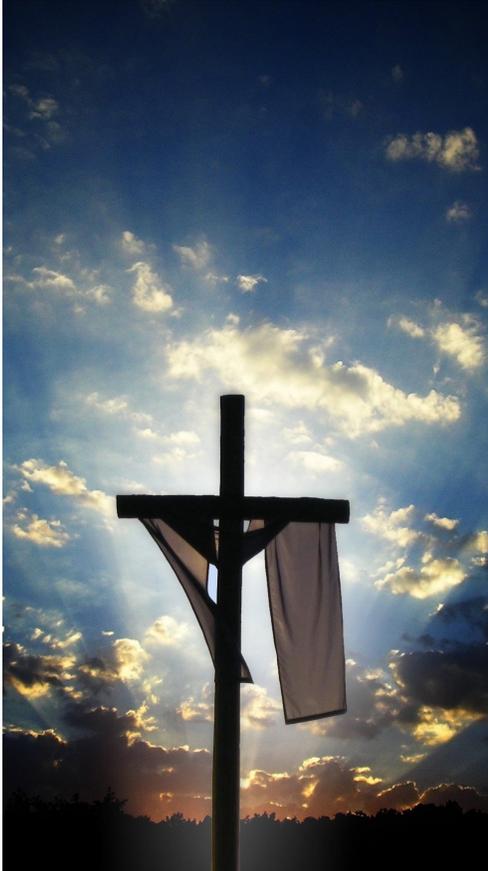
These things take a lot of courage. It's hard to humble ourselves and choose to do things God's way instead of our own. In the end, the most beautiful people we know are the ones who make the choice to listen, believe, and live God's Truth, and not their own.



"[God] can take anything from [your] broken messy life and write a beautiful story when [your] heart is yielded to Him."

"There are two kinds of people: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says 'All right, then, have it your way.'" (C.S. Lewis)

Be Sure Heaven is YOUR Home!



1. Recognize YOUR Condition: "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23)

No one is good enough to go to heaven on his/her own merit. No matter how much good we do, we still fall short.

2. Realize the PENALTY for Sin: "For the wages of sin is death..." (Romans 6:23)

Just as there are wages (payment) for good, there is punishment for wrong. The penalty for our sin is eternal death in a literal, real place called Hell.

3. Believe Jesus Christ Died for YOU: "But God commendeth His love for us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

Jesus Christ's great love for us was shown when He died on the cross to pay our debt.

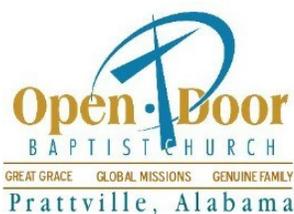
4. Trust Christ ALONE as Your Savior: "...But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

Everlasting life is a gift purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ and offered freely to ALL those who call upon Him by faith.

Let us help you word a prayer. (Realize it's not the words that save, but your genuine faith in Jesus Christ):

Pray: Dear Jesus, I know I'm a sinner. Please forgive me for my sins. I ask you Jesus to cleanse me from my sin and save my soul from hell. I'm trusting you alone for eternal life and to take me to heaven when I die. Thank you for your sacrifice on the cross for my salvation, Amen!

If you prayed that prayer, and sincerely meant it, please contact us here at Open Door.



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Sunday Worship Service @ 10:00 am
Sunday Night Growth Groups @ 6:00 pm
AWANA Wednesday Night @ 6:30 pm
Wednesday Night Bible Study & Prayer @ 7:00 pm

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C4C (Apologetics Ministry)
GO Program (Outreach Ministry)
Od Jobs (Resume Writing / Interview Ministry)
Od Men (Outdoor Ministry)
Od Women (Ladies Fellowship)